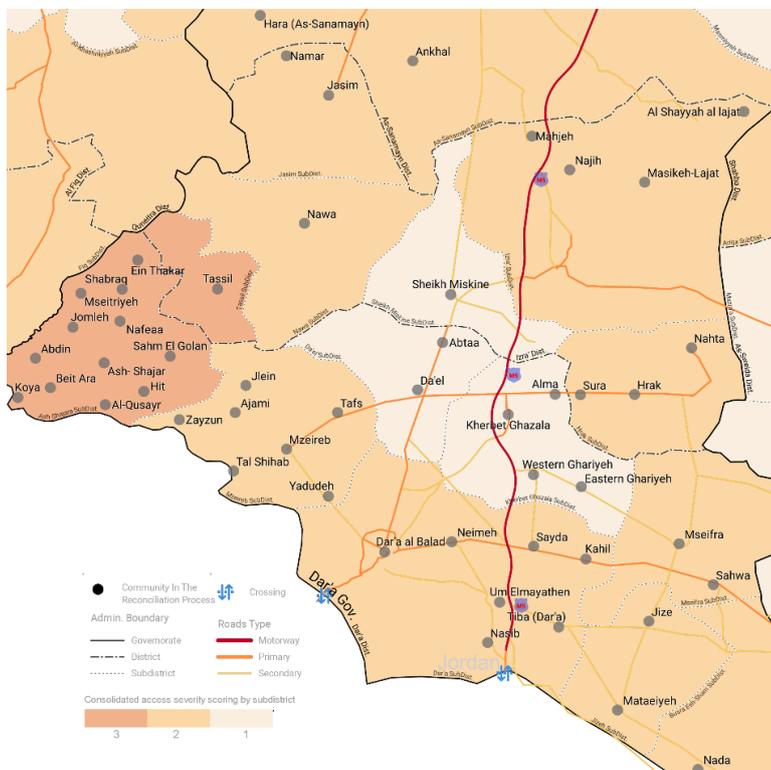


This report is produced by OCHA Syria in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from [21 September to 9 November 2021].

HIGHLIGHTS

- Since the 6 September ceasefire, the majority of the 38,000 people displaced, including 1,400 IDPs residing in shelters in Dar'a city, have reportedly returned to their homes.
- An estimated 3,700 people have not returned due to severe damage to their homes. Explosive hazards are also hampering returns and civilian movement.
- In Dar'a Al-Balad, approximately 1,198 residential buildings have been identified as damaged or destroyed, affecting approximately 18,000 people.
- The humanitarian community has scaled up life-saving and essential support, however increased funding is urgently required, particularly considering the large-scale destruction of homes and health risks associated with the imminent onset of the winter season.



Source: OCHA

The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Since the end of September, the humanitarian situation and access to Dar'a Al-Balad and towns in Dar'a have progressively improved with humanitarian partners mobilizing rapid sectoral assessments and resuming regular programming through partners. Civilian movement is also reported to have relatively normalized.

However, the widespread destruction of public infrastructure and residential housing, including apartment buildings, is a significant humanitarian concern ahead of the cold weather and rains anticipated for winter. Of those displaced during hostilities, an estimated 3,700 people continue to live in hosted arrangements with friends or family due to their homes being destroyed or badly damaged. Explosive hazard contamination remains a further deterrent to returns and civilian movement, although some families have reported being forced to return due to financial constraints.

Shelter sector assessments indicate that shelter support is a priority for residents in Dar'a Al-Balad with approximately 1,198 residential buildings in six neighborhoods identified as damaged or destroyed, affecting approximately 18,000 people. Of the buildings assessed, seven per cent were classified as destroyed and the rest as damaged. The neighborhoods of Alabbasiah and Ghernata have sustained the most damage. Of those surveyed, 43 per cent of moderately damaged buildings and 44 per cent of severely damaged buildings were in Alabbasiah. Approximately 35 per cent of moderately damaged buildings and 41 per cent of severely damaged buildings are in Ghernata. The recent destruction has compounded an already precarious housing

situation in Dar'a Governorate, given that 15 per cent of residential properties in Dar'a had already been declared uninhabitable prior to the escalation.

Reconciliation agreements have been reportedly reached in an estimated 51 communities across the governorate, 25 per cent of which are reported in areas in the Ash Shajarah sub-district in the north-west of the governorate. Between 14 and 21 October, road access was temporarily blocked to Al Hrak city and the towns of Al Sura, Al Jizah and Alma in eastern parts of the governorate due to disagreements over the conditions of the reconciliation process, however the situation was later reportedly resolved.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

As access was restored and security conditions stabilized, humanitarian partners resumed assistance to the affected area in September and October. Partners prioritized immediate assistance to support returnee families, noting the impact of widespread destruction to public and civilian infrastructure. Life-saving interventions included resumption of food distribution for the September and October cycles, necessary core relief items, rehabilitation of 100 apartments, health and nutrition services through fixed and mobile clinics and critical surgeries for children and women at private hospitals.

Humanitarian actors further assisted restoration of public services, including rehabilitation of three pumping stations in Al Ashari, the rehabilitation and equipping of the Dar'a Al-Balad bakery and the rehabilitation of 11 damaged schools, with students offered interim/temporary alternative learning facilities and services. Regular programming has also recommenced across other parts of the governorate; however, funding will be required to ensure critical services, including health, can continue and priority interventions to address damage to homes are completed before the onset of winter conditions.

Food Security

Needs and Gaps:

- Disruptions to the food supply chain during hostilities further elevated the price of essential food items in the local markets. In September 2021, WFP's standard reference food basket in Dar'a Al-Balad was recorded as SYP 225,169, 21 per cent higher than the national average and 15 per cent higher than the Dar'a Governorate average.
- The July and August General Food Assistance dispatches were halted due to the security situation and resumed in September, causing delays to the distribution cycle for the governorate.

930,880

People reached

Response:

- WFP has fast-tracked its distribution with cooperating partners in Dar'a to compensate for the delays in July and August.
- As of 8 November, an estimated 930,880 people have received food rations of the 1.4 million people targeted for the August to October cycles. Additionally, families with children aged six to 23 months received supplementary feeding products.
- Sector partners have dispatched a total of 1,740 food rations to further support the response.
- Dar'a Al-Balad bakery rehabilitation is expected to commence shortly. Wheat flour rations were temporarily reallocated to Tishreen bakery to cover the population's needs.

Health

Needs and Gaps:

- The dire and persistent lack of health services, essential health supplies and equipment in Dar'a National Hospital remain a major gap. Medicines continue to be in short supply or sold at high prices in the local market.
- Additional funding is required to sustain the health response, particularly critical surgeries.

18,718

Consultations and services provided

Response:

- UNFPA and its partners Syrian Family Planning Association (SFPA), the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and Syrian Society for Social Development (SSSD) continued to provide health services through static clinics, mobile teams and women and girls safe spaces (WGSS). Through these facilities UNFPA, in coordination with the Directorate of Health (DoH) provided integrated reproductive health and gender-based violence (RH/GBV) services including ante-natal, post-natal, and neo-natal care and family planning counselling. UNICEF and its partners Al-Birr Association, SFPA and the DoH are providing health services to returnees and host communities through fixed clinics and mobile medical teams (MMTs) in Dar'a Al-Balad, including outpatient consultations for 3,486 children, RH consultations for 919 women and support to critical surgeries for 28 women and children at private hospitals.
- WHO and its partners Nour Foundation and Al-Sham Association for Health continued to provide regular health services. Nour Foundation resumed operations at the primary healthcare center (PHC) in Dar'a Al-Balad in mid-September in addition to two MMTs in Da'el and Sheik Miskeen providing around 3,000 medical consultations on acute and chronic diseases, child health and gynecology and medications to 2,141 patients. Persons with disabilities were provided with 11 prothesis and 930 mental health and psycho-social support services (MHPSS). Al-Sham Association for Health continued operating three MMTs in Ash Shajarah, Hrak and Busra Al Sham sub-districts in Dar'a providing 6,017 medical consultations on child health, gynecology and internal diseases and distributed 2,577 medicines. WHO also supported a community initiative between Al-Birr, the Social Services Association, DoH and the Directorate of Social Affairs (DoSA) for two MMTs in rural Dar'a providing 2,221 medical consultations on child health, gynecology and internal diseases and 1,993 MHPSS services. Vaccination activities continued in collaboration with Dar'a DOH with 113 children vaccinated of 1,084 evaluated.
- Health education teams from UNICEF partners conducted a health awareness session for 2,440 people on hygiene promotion, breast cancer awareness and infectious disease control for COVID-19.
- Approximately three tons of medical supplies and equipment were provided by WHO to Dar'a National Hospital, Sheik Miskeen and Otaman primary health care centres and the tuberculosis centre, supporting 47,749 treatments and 110 trauma cases. Through the logistics cluster, UNFPA delivered 15 wheelchairs, 20 manual beds, 10 examination tables and 10 gynecological beds to Dar'a National Hospital. UNICEF dispatched 2,500 bottles of de-lice shampoo for further distribution. WHO is coordinating with Dar'a National Hospital for the provision and installation of an oxygen station.

 **Nutrition**
Response:

- UNICEF partners Al-Birr, SFPA and the DoH are providing nutrition interventions at the fixed health center and through an MMT in Dar'a Al-Balad, targeting returnees and the host community. UNICEF is supporting capacity building of Al Birr's health staff, particularly on nutrition interventions. Al Birr is distributing meals and food baskets from the host community to people in need in Dar'a Al-Balad.
- Since 21 September, UNICEF partners have screened 4,966 children under five years of age for malnutrition with the mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) test. Of them, 38 children were identified with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and admitted for treatment. A further 883 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) were screened for malnutrition and 58 admitted for treatment with MAM. In total, 6,199 PLW and children under 5 years old received nutrition items. 935 PLW received counseling on infant and young child feeding.

6,199

People reached

 **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**
Needs and Gaps:

- Several household water tanks require replacement after being damaged in hostilities, affecting the supply of potable water.

Response:

- ICRC and SARC completed the rehabilitation of WASH facilities in six schools in Dar'a Al-Balad and are

3,700

People reached

conducting maintenance on the main pumping line from Al Ashari pumping station which feeds Dar'a Al-Balad and other areas in the governorate affecting around 35,000 people.

- DRC are in the process of distributing 100 water tanks to families with members who have disabilities.
- NRC are distributing elderly diapers and are planning to distribute 300 water tanks and start a cash project in Dar'a Al-Balad.

Protection

Needs and Gaps:

- Some returnees have reported returned to their homes in Dar'a Al-Balad despite explosive hazard contamination as they cannot afford to pay for rental accommodation. So far, several explosive hazard related incidents have been reported, reinforcing the need for mine risk awareness and education.
- Dedicated psychosocial support is required for children who witnessed hostilities or suffer from displacement-related trauma.

1,209

People reached

Response:

- DRC reached 123 people with risk education sessions at the Dar'a Al-Mahatta community center. GOPA conducted 17 awareness sessions on mine risk education, bullying and early marriage for 250 beneficiaries and 11 recreational activities in child friendly spaces for 108 children. GoPA also delivered case management services for 12 children under Child Protection Services, as well as 38 awareness-raising sessions and 16 recreational activities for 500 beneficiaries under the psychosocial support program. In addition, under the psycho-social support programme, 20 case management and 20 home-based rehabilitation cases were supported. GOPA also assisted 216 beneficiaries with General In-kind Assistance and Medical In-Kind Assistance. The GOPA team are preparing for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign. SSSD plans to conduct recreational activities to promote mental health in Dar'a al Balad Girls School
- UNFPA continued providing regular GBV and RH services to returnees and host communities through SFPA's integrated mobile team which visit Dar'a Al-Balad, Dar'a city, Tariq al Sad, the Palestinian camp and other areas weekly since mid-September. Approximately 113 psycho-social support services have been provided to 69 beneficiaries through UNFPA. UNFPA continues to support a WGSS in Al Hrak and two in Dar'a city which have resumed all services, including vocational training, recreational activities, PSS and case management.

Education

Needs and Gaps:

- Of the 34 schools in Dar'a Al-Balad, 11 were functioning pre-hostilities and the rest had been rendered non-functional in previous hostilities. These 11 functional schools sustained various degrees of damage during the recent crisis and have been prioritized for light maintenance or rehabilitation. Approximately 5,000 students from these schools continue to attend other schools in Dar'a while rehabilitation is ongoing.
- Further funding is required to repair schools damaged in the hostilities.

2,380

Children reached

Response:

- So far, six schools which sustained minor damage were rehabilitated by the Directorate of Education (DoE), and four are being rehabilitated by UNICEF. One school was being rehabilitated by UNICEF prior to the hostilities but has since sustained severe damage and additional funding is required to resume the rehabilitation work.
- 4,670 students from 11 schools received packets of biscuits from St. Ephrem Patriarchy NGO and 500 students received school uniforms from Al Birr NGO.
- Emergency education initiatives, including non-formal education (NFE) are being implemented targeting 1,400 children who are out of school, partly because of ongoing rehabilitation at their schools. NFE programmes are being conducted by Al Birr at nine schools on weekends to offer a source of learning for

children affected by the crisis and provide a safe and positive learning environment while improving access to education.

Shelter and Non-Food Items

Needs and Gaps:

- According to an assessment by the Shelter sector, over 1,198 buildings were identified as requiring moderate to intensive reconstruction due to damage from hostilities. However, the sector only has resources to cover a fraction of with current funding.
- The sector planned on assessing damage in eight neighbourhoods in Dar'a Al-Balad, however, only six were evaluated, with Al Sad and Al Arba'een not covered due to a lack of partner capacity.
- The sector will advocate with donors for increased funding ahead of the winter season as the lack of safe housing will impact the health and safety of the population.

27,248

People reached

Response:

- DRC is in the process of rehabilitating 98 damaged houses in Dar'a Al-Balad, covering 490 people. The project is anticipated to be completed by the end of the year.
- UNRWA is conducting an NFI project in Dar'a city targeting 1,195 Palestine refugees for cash distribution.
- Should funding be secured, the Shelter sector has the capacity to rehabilitate 935 apartments in buildings with minor damage and for 2,074 apartments in buildings with moderate damage (85 per cent of those assessed as damaged).

GENERAL COORDINATION

Between 3 and 28 October, Shelter sector partners conducted a rapid damage assessment of six residential neighbourhoods in Dar'a Al-Balad: Al Karak, Al Yarmouk, Al Abbasiah, Al Bahar, Ghernata and Al Quneitra. Prior to the assessment, teams were trained on mine risk education due to the high explosive hazard contamination in the area. The assessment classified 1,198 buildings by the scale of damage from minor to severe, identified priority interventions, estimated funding needs and proposed advocacy messaging.

On 19 October, the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria visited Dar'a where he met with the Governor and visited several humanitarian activities and projects, including at Dar'a National Hospital and a UNICEF project in Dar'a Al-Mahatta for children with disabilities.

The Area Humanitarian Country Team, Inter-Sector Coordination group and the Humanitarian Country Team continue to monitor the situation and align inter-sector and agency operational plans through the joint response matrix to avoid duplication or major gaps in assistance. Sectors continue to liaise with relevant government counterparts on the sub-national level to harmonize programming.

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