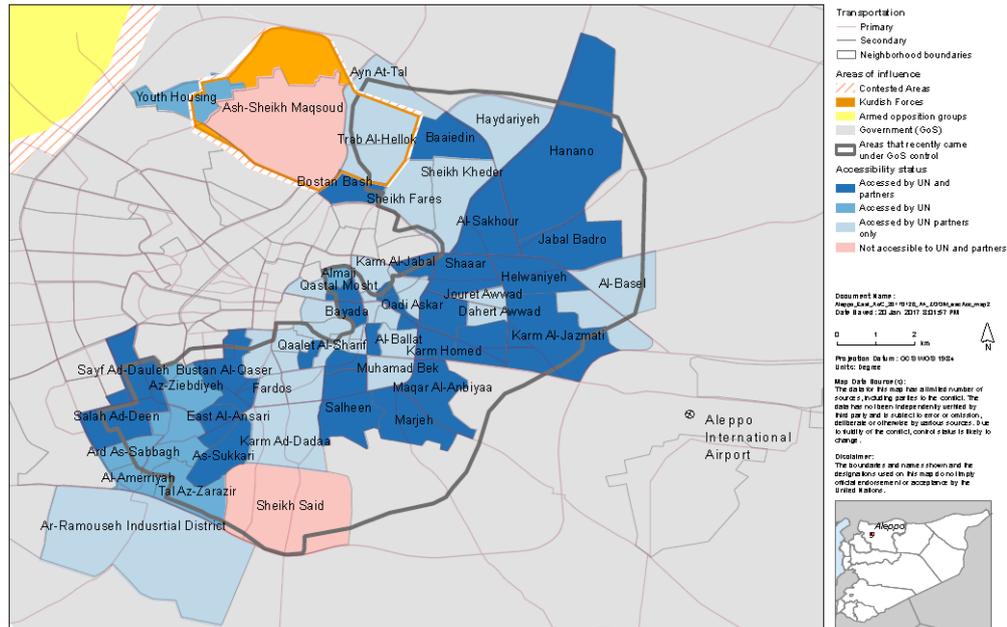




This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 12 January to 19 January 2017.

Highlights

- Since 14 January, an estimated 1.8 million people in Aleppo city and eastern rural Aleppo have been cut off from their main source of water supply following a technical failure in Al Khafse water station. The UN is supporting the response to the water crisis.
- More than 121,350 people originally from east Aleppo city have been officially registered in different locations. Of those, 65,345 remained or re-registered in east Aleppo, 50,929 are registered as sheltering in west Aleppo, and 5,077 remain in the Jibreen collective shelter.
- The UN have allocated US\$19 million from the Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF) to sustain immediate life-saving and early recovery assistance for tens of thousands of people in Aleppo.
- Many IDPs returning to their houses in east Aleppo discover their properties were looted. These families urgently need additional NFIs.



121,350

people who previously resided in east Aleppo have been registered as still living within Aleppo city



5,077

IDPs registered as still residing in Jibreen collective shelter in the absence of alternative options



1.8M

people are deprived from regular access to water due to a technical failure in Al Khafse water station



400,000

people reached through UN water trucking activities in response to the water crisis in Aleppo



Situational Overview

Since 14 January, an estimated 1.8 million people in Aleppo city and rural eastern Aleppo have been cut off from their main source of water supply following a technical failure at the Al Khafse water station located near Al-Bab city in eastern rural Aleppo, an area under ISIL control. Though the issue at hand can be technically fixed, ISIL is not allowing repair teams to access the water station for repair works.

In the interim, the Aleppo water authority is operating 90 wells that are providing access to water for almost one million people. In addition, the UN has installed 61 tanks and rehabilitated an additional 100 wells throughout the city. UNICEF continues their water trucking activities at the rate of 6 million liters per day, benefiting 400,000 people, in addition to supplying fuel for the operation of wells, and water purification materials. In addition, ICRC, SARC and other humanitarian actors installed 107 water tanks in various neighborhoods, conducted maintenance work for 122 wells, and provide additional water trucking services.

The security situation in Aleppo city remained comparatively calm during the reporting period, and only sporadic mortar incidents have been reported. In the meantime, an additional 10,000 individuals have been registered throughout the reporting period in both east and west Aleppo, bringing the total number of individuals who formerly resided in east Aleppo and who remain in Aleppo city to more than 121,350.

In east Aleppo, the neighborhoods of Hanano, Tariq Al-Bab and Al-Qaser continue to host the largest numbers of returnees, with respectively 16,500, 14,194 and 10,260 people. However, to date, no structural assessment for damaged buildings has been carried out in any of these neighbourhoods even though many of the buildings are structurally unsound and pose a severe threat to the population. A letter has been sent by the UN to the Governor's Office to launch structural assessments in priority areas, such as Hanano and surrounding neighborhoods. The UN and humanitarian partners stand ready to support local authorities in this capacity in the coming weeks.

In addition to damage to their houses, many IDPs have discovered upon their return that their properties were looted. These IDPs need additional support in the form of non-food items (NFIs) to enable them to rebuild their lives. Items distributed by the UN include mattresses, high thermal blankets, diapers, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, jerry cans, plastic sheets, sleeping mats, winter clothing kits, solar lamps, sleeping bags, thermal underwear, rubber boots, and carpet.

During field visits, UN staff members observed a significant number of female-headed households. Many of the women interviewed had lost their husbands or fathers for reasons including death, family separation, abandonment, and, in some cases, reported detention. Many of the children were found collecting water or queuing for fuel and hot meal distributions instead of attending school, and many of them reported having to provide for or assist in meeting their families' basic needs.

Limited transportation options also pose a serious challenge for residents of east Aleppo wishing to access services, assistance or income-generating opportunities. Currently, public transportation only serves Hanano, whereas residents in the remaining neighborhoods of east Aleppo must travel long distances on foot or use their scarce resources for private transportation.

Humanitarian Response in Aleppo city

The UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria has approved the allocation of US\$19 million from the Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF) to sustain immediate life-saving and early recovery assistance for tens of thousands of people in Aleppo.

The UN and its implementing partners have significantly scaled up operations to address the most urgent needs and pave the way to recovery efforts. The Syria Humanitarian Fund allocation is part of these efforts, and will finance immediate multi-sectoral assistance in all affected neighborhoods of east Aleppo, as well as collective shelters and other priority areas in Aleppo city where internally displaced people are staying. The funds will also provide residents of east Aleppo and displaced people with early recovery and livelihood interventions and support the rehabilitation of basic services and rubble removal to create the conditions for people to return to their homes.

In 2016, UN agencies and partners operating in Syria and cross-border disbursed more than US\$220 million for programmes and services to people in need in Aleppo city, which includes US\$14 million from the Syria Humanitarian Fund.

The Syrian Humanitarian Fund is a multi-donor humanitarian pooled fund which has disbursed US\$46 million in 2016 to UN agencies and international and national NGOs in Syria. It is managed by the OCHA Syria office in Damascus.



Shelter and NFIs

Needs

- A total of 5,077 IDPs continue to be hosted in Jibreen zone 1 and 2, yet departures seem to have stopped. Most IDPs cite severe damage to their houses as a reason to stay in Jibreen. Therefore, unless other neighbourhood collective shelter spaces are identified, Jibreen will remain in use until reconstruction solutions for the IDPs' houses are found. Inside Jibreen collective shelter, 86 rehabilitated housing units are still empty.
- In west Aleppo, a total of 50,929 IDPs have been registered. Modalities still have to be identified to support these IDPs and their host families, particularly in the priority neighbourhoods, such as Al-Midan, Al-Faed and Al-Zahraa.
- In east Aleppo, families are still moving back to their neighbourhoods where a total of 65,345 IDPs have been registered to date. Most live in damaged houses, scattered across various neighbourhoods. Masaken Hanano, Tariq Al-Bab and Al-Qaser still host the larger numbers of IDPs with respectively 16,500, 14,194 and 10,260 residents. To date, no structural assessment has been carried out in any of these neighbourhoods even though many of the buildings are structurally unsound and pose a severe threat to the population.
- Meetings with line departments, the Governor and the various sectors have taken place last week in order to identify the needs and capacities on the ground. Nevertheless, an inclusive inter-sector response is needed to plan the rehabilitation of these neighbourhoods in a sustainable manner.
- Shelter winterisation support is still needed throughout affected areas in both east and west Aleppo.
- Many areas in east Aleppo become increasingly accessible for need assessments, such as Hanano, Meshateeh, Tareek Bab, Shaar, Qaterji, and others. Field visits to the areas showed a high need for essential NFIs as most of the returnees discovered upon their return that their houses were looted.

Response

- In Jibreen zones 1 and 2, DRC has rehabilitated half of the 44 units in zone 1. UNHCR's shelter winterisation intervention has been completed in both zones. To date, 678 stoves and 500 boxes of expansion foam have been distributed in both zones, and 620 upper windows have been closed.
- In west Aleppo, DRC has completed 30 per cent of the rehabilitation of 176 rooms in four buildings in Al Shekh Taha, benefiting some 880 IDPs. The works are planned to be completed by mid-February.
- A letter has been sent to the Governor's Office to launch structural assessments in priority neighborhoods, such as Hanano and surrounding neighborhoods. Partner agencies stand ready to support MoLA in the coming weeks.
- During the reporting period, IOM reached 3,740 beneficiaries by distributing 65 elderly diapers, 198 hygiene kits, 538 mattresses, 662 plastic mats, 77 floor mats, 257 winter clothing kits in Al-Ansari, and Bustan Al-Qaser. UNHCR continued to distribute NFIs to the vulnerable families of east Aleppo and until 11 January, UNHCR had assisted 115,301 IDPs (24,381 families) in different locations across Aleppo. The distributed items included mattresses, high thermal blankets, diapers, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, jerry cans, plastic sheets, sleeping mats, winter clothing kits, solar lamps, sleeping bags, thermal underwear, rubber boots, and carpet.
- UNICEF's distribution of firewood in Jibreen is ongoing on a daily basis through Al-Ta'alouf NGO. A total of 5,000 kg is being distributed daily at a rate of 15 kg per family to cover the needs of 335 households.
- During the reporting period, two field missions were carried out to the seeds' factory collective shelter and the industrial halls at Jibreen to monitor the distribution of items and to carry out an assessment of needs.

Gaps and constraints

- Solution for families currently accommodated in Jibreen with no house to return to need to be discussed. These discussions also need to include a potential use of infrastructures, such as schools, in case IDPs are indeed to stay long term in Jibreen.
- Structural assessments and damage mapping urgently need to be carried out for all neighbourhoods. In this context, property and ownership disputes need to be resolved before shelter partners can intervene and assist in the rehabilitation of damaged houses.



General context

- Following last week's presentation by the Governor's Office on the needs in east Aleppo, the Department of Social Affairs, the Department of Civil Affairs and the Department of Education, in consultation with UNHCR, identified numerous facilities, including care centers (for persons with disabilities), alternative shelter arrangements (for emergency GBV cases), civil registry offices (to provide civil documentation for up to 2 million persons), and schools in need of urgent rehabilitation. Corresponding field assessments will commence in the coming days, to determine the scope of works required to restore these facilities and thereby enhance the protection response.
- As IDP returns to east Aleppo (from Latakia) have been observed, UN agencies have learned that these IDPs originate from hard-to-reach areas in rural Aleppo, and that until such time as they are able to return there, they are occupying vacant residences in Hanano, raising related HLP concerns.
- During field visits a significant percentage of households dependent on women and/or children have been observed. Many of the women interviewed are now without adult male relatives for reasons including death, family separation, abandonment, and, in some cases, reported detention. Many of the children, especially adolescents, had not enrolled yet in re-opened schools. Instead, they were found collecting water or queuing for fuel and hot meal distributions; many of them provide for or assist in meeting their families' basic needs.

Protection responses

- UNHCR partners continued to deliver services to people in need, notably on legal counseling and assistance, awareness raising, needs identification, psychosocial support, and continued to provide material assistance to vulnerable cases to mitigate risks.
- UNICEF and partners have identified 305 separated and unaccompanied children (UASC) since the onset of the east Aleppo crisis, in late November 2016. A total of 17 unaccompanied children were provided with emergency residential care. In the absence of a coordinated tracing system in Syria, with ad hoc efforts from UNICEF and partners, eight children placed in residential care have been reunified with their parents. Child Protection Units, created to coordinate the work of public services (DOSAL) and NGOs, have assigned case managers (social workers) to 150 UASC who have assessed the social needs of children and are developing individual care plans.
- During the reporting period, UNICEF and partners have reached 4,505 children and 2,025 adults through the risk education campaign in Jibreen and three other east Aleppo neighbourhoods (Suliman Alhalbi, Hanano and Almidan). Since the last week of November, UNICEF partners have reached 61,425 individuals with risk education. Moreover, UNICEF partners continue to provide information on explosive hazards to persons accessing the Aleppo Citadel as well.
- During the reporting period, 655 new children were enrolled into PSS. To date, 16,824 children and over 2,000 adults were reached by UNICEF partners with PSS and recreational activities. In addition, UNICEF partners conducted awareness activities on child rights and protecting children during the emergency (mitigation of child protection risks) for 215 new children, reaching in total over 17,215 individuals.
- UNFPA continues to support five static clinics, three mobile teams, one Women and Girls Safe Space (WGSS) and one mobile PSS team. During the reporting period a UNFPA partner provided GBV awareness raising

sessions and vocational training to 363 women in the Women and Girls Safe Space in Al Razi neighbourhood (162 IDP women and 201 from the host community, totaling to date 2,010). UNFPA partners provided general PSS and case management and referral for 14 GBV cases in Alrazi WGSS, totaling 58 beneficiaries to date. General PSS was provided for 180 beneficiaries in Jibreen, Al Midan, new Aleppo, Ashrafia, Martini, Ash Shahba, Al Zahra As Srian, Sef Al Dawla and in Al Eza'a through a partner's mobile teams, totaling 811 beneficiaries to date.

Gaps and constraints

- Limited transportation options remain a serious challenge for residents in east Aleppo to access services, assistance or income-generating opportunities. Currently, public transportation only serves Hanano, whereas residents in the remaining neighborhoods of east Aleppo must travel long distances on foot or use scarce resources for private transportation.



Food and Agriculture

Response

- Around 288,084 bread bundles were distributed in Jibreen, Al Mahalej, Hanano, Sheikh Maqsood, East/West Aleppo, Mshateyah, Tareeq Al Bab, Al Bayyadah, Furqan, Shahba'a, Sakhour, Kallaseh, Miridian, Mogambo, Ibn Khaldoon Hospital and Serian.
- Beginning from 14 January, neighborhoods in east Aleppo have been incorporated in the regular program of bread production, and a total amount of about 45 metric tons of wheat flour is to be dispatched daily to partners for production and distribution of bread bundles. Consequently, the frequency of bread distribution in east Aleppo neighborhoods will be reduced to two days per week.
- During the reporting period a total of 1,286 food rations were distributed so far to families hosted by their relatives and families in west Aleppo in Salah Al Deen, Martini and Al Azamyah neighborhoods. A total of 9,007 Ready to Eat Rations (RTEs) were distributed to returnees in east Aleppo, and to IDPs from east Aleppo who sought refuge in west Aleppo
- Four communal kitchens provided hot meals for 40,000 individuals in east and west Aleppo.

Gaps and Constraints:

- It is essential that the above interventions are sustained and expanded in scope. Hence, the overall sector strategy going forward seeks to continue providing immediate lifesaving assistance to meet the needs of IDPs and returnees with a two-pronged strategy by (a) addressing the immediate food needs, and (b) promoting livelihood activities to rapidly enhance household level food production and restore incomes.
- Comparing the current caseload with the available stocks (including ongoing activities), in terms of food assistance, there are no immediate gaps. WFP has a contingency stock of about 18,000 RTEs inside Aleppo city, sufficient to meet the needs of 98,000 people, as well as food rations for up to 85,000 people. Furthermore, 87 mt of mixed bulk food (pasta, tomato paste, lentils and canned beans) are available that can be used to support the communal kitchens. Other humanitarian actors indicated a stock position sufficient to support over 20,000 families with food.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs

- Since 14 January 2017, Al Khafse water pumping station stopped operating initially due to electric failure. Though the issues can technically be fixed, technical teams were not yet granted access to the station by ISIL who control the territory where the station is located.
- Due to the water cut from main source at Al Khafse station from Euphrates River the three pumping stations in Aleppo city (Sulaiman Alhalabi, Bab Alnerab and Tishreen) are also not functioning.
- Over 1.8 million people in the city and the eastern rural parts of Aleppo are currently without access to safe drinking water.

Response

- UNICEF continued emergency water trucking at daily rate of 6,000 cubic meters and the provision of fuel supply for operating almost 90 deep wells, which together benefit nearly 1 million people (400,000 people from water trucking and 600,000 people from public wells) in Aleppo city. UNICEF has maintained the installed water storage tanks in IDP shelters (Jibreen, Hanano, Alsakhour, Alsha'ar, Alhedarie, Enzarat, Almarjeh and Alhamdanya) and is planning to install additional water storage tanks of different capacities following a rapid assessment. In addition, support is being provided to repair water networks in several locations (Hanano, Salhin, Kadi Askar). On the sanitation front, UNICEF installed two additional prefabricated toilets in schools in the old city (Ali Darweesh and Mazraat Melhem). Furthermore, over 19,100 IDP families (95,500 people) benefitted from family hygiene kits provided by UNICEF and the remaining 11,000 kits are being distributed by local NGOs in different locations on a priority based on needs on the ground.
- SARC with support from PU continued water trucking in Ashrafieh neighborhood at a 250 m³/day capacity, benefiting over 20,000 people with a possibility to reach over 40,000 for a period of three months. PU has already delivered 500 tanks with 500 liters capacity to the SARC warehouse for installation purposes at the household level. An additional 15 prefabricated toilet blocks were also delivered.
- Oxfam continued to maintain seven underground water wells and installed four tanks 45,000 liters capacities in Sukary, Sakhour, Khaldie and Hamdanie. Oxfam has already delivered over 1,692 hygiene kits and the distribution of the remaining 1,800 is ongoing. Oxfam additionally committed to delivering over 10,200 hygiene kits to fill the immediate gap.
- Sector partners are ready to support the water authority for any worsening of the situation if water cuts were to continue for a prolonged period. Contingency planning as prepared earlier will be activated with a gradual increase on water trucking, groundwater wells production, and storage capacities enhancement.

Gaps and constraints

- The installation of prefabricated toilet blocks as committed by WASH partners needs to be accelerated by addressing the field bottlenecks. The recent water cuts from Al Khafse, if not resolved soon, will have a huge impact on the humanitarian partners in Aleppo who will need to re-direct resources back to the operationalization of the contingency plan operation.
- In addition, while continuing immediate life-saving interventions, WASH partners needs to conduct assessments to define short to medium term needs for supporting the government plan for sustainable services.



Response

- Essential health services continue to be provided by health sector partners in collective shelters, IDP locations, and neighborhoods with high numbers of newly returned.
- A total of 8,028 treatments have been provided through mobile and static clinics in coordination with five local NGOs.
- Mental health services were provided through two main facilities, reaching 860 beneficiaries and an additional 14 cases received mental health services through the mobile clinics.
- Five new shipments were delivered to ten health sector partners, containing 13 tons of lifesaving medicines, that can provide up to 60,339 treatments.
- A total of six IDPs from east Aleppo with limbs were referred to the prosthetics center for fitting prosthesis. Additionally, two patients were referred for physiotherapy, and 35 wheelchairs have been delivered to needed people.



Needs:

- Non-formal education through accelerated learning programmes or self-learning programmes are available to students who have missed several years of school.
- Many schools lack desks, as when IDPs moved to schools they used the school furniture as firewood. The prefabricated classrooms that were installed by UNICEF need furniture and scholastic materials too.
- There is a general lack of learning spaces and sanitation facilities as most of the schools are destroyed or damaged. The light rehabilitation of schools and installation of prefabricated classes need to be accelerated to mitigate overcrowding in class rooms.
- Advocacy and awareness raising is urgently needed to sensitize parents, teachers and authorities regarding the different modalities of alternative education for out-school-children, and those at risk of dropping out.

Response:

- An education rapid needs assessment was initiated on 15 January, led by the MoE to identify and update education needs and gaps for children and youth. A team comprising 16 enumerators from MoE, DoE, and UNICEF has collected data and information in schools and shelters in 44 neighborhoods in east Aleppo. The assessment was concluded on 19 January.
- UNICEF has provided 500 heaters to DoE to be distributed to schools next week.
- A total of 9,800 pre-school age children benefitted from non-formal education and 'edutainment' activities in established Community Learning Centres in Jibreen and Hanano managed by UNICEF partners.
- A total of 214 door-to-door visits were conducted, and 650 out-of-school children were referred to schools during a Back to Learning campaign in east Aleppo city.
- A cumulative total of 4,500 children have been enrolled in five primary schools in Hanano, Bayyada, Mayyasar, the old city, Sakhor, and Hulluk.
- A total 1,400 children have benefited from Self-Learning Programmes by SSSD, Fouad and EIEA in Hanano, Jibreen, As-Safira and other areas.
- The Education Sector has reached a total of 10,000 children and youth through the provision of teaching and learning supplies, ECCE services, provision of learning spaces, sanitation facilities, Self-Learning Programmes, Curriculum B and Back to Learning campaign.

Gaps and Constraints:

- The most vulnerable children including those with special needs are facing a significant challenge in accessing education services because of a shortage of functioning schools and a lack of protective learning environments due to damages on the schools' infrastructure.
- Displacement sites particularly in the Jibreen area do not have sufficient capacity to provide education services due to the influx of IDP children.
- Getting children back into school poses a major challenge, as many of them provide livelihood support to their families and have been out of school for several years.

**Early Recovery****Needs:**

- Finding alternative sources for power and heating in Jibreen and Hanano collective shelters is an urgent need due to the very low temperatures.
- Debris collection and removal are prominent needs to ease access, enable returns and to prevent deteriorating health conditions.
- There is a severe need for livelihood opportunities to help the affected population meet basic needs.

Response:

- During the reporting period, 45 workers collected about 25 m³ of debris from east Aleppo neighborhoods (Khan Alwazir main road, Al Oumaui mosque square, Al Kaltawieh mosque). So far, a total of 3,450 m³ of debris were removed.
- Some 40 workers collected and removed about 70 m³ of solid waste from Hanano and Jibreen collective shelters. Up till now, a total of 3,495 m³ of debris were removed.
- A total of 12 workers carried out maintenance work on the water network in east Aleppo (Shaar, Sakhour, Hellok)
- Some 10 workers carried out maintenance works, and 15 garbage bins that were distributed in eastern Aleppo.
- A total of 115 IDP workers have joined UNDP's productive workshops and ongoing basic infrastructure rehabilitation projects. The income generated from the provided job opportunities will contribute to meet the basic needs of the workers' families.

Gaps and Constraints:

- A thorough assessment is required to develop well designed interventions which shall support the return of IDPs to their homes. Basic services delivery, infrastructure rehabilitation and support to disrupted livelihoods are the main pillars that future interventions should take into consideration.
- A technical assessment of infrastructure conditions is required, along with support for livelihoods opportunities in affected areas.

Background on the crisis

Syria is one of the most complex and dynamic humanitarian crises in the world today. Since March 2011, over a quarter of a million Syrians have been killed and over one million have been injured. Half of all Syrians have been forced to leave their homes, and 6.3 million are internally displaced, making Syria the largest displacement crisis globally.

In 2016, an estimated 13.5 million people, including 6 million children, are in need of humanitarian assistance.

For further information, please contact:

Sebastian Trives, Head of OCHA Syria, trives@un.org

For more information, please visit www.unocha.org and www.reliefweb.int.