Deir Al-Zour is located in the eastern part of Syria on the Syrian-Iraqi border and is considered the capital of the eastern region.

The Euphrates River passes through it and divides it into two areas:
- The western region is located west of the Euphrates River and extends towards the desert of Sham and is called the Shamia area.
- The eastern region is located east of the river and extends north and north-east and is called the Jazeera area.

Deir Al-Zour is about 33,000 km in size and is the second largest governorate in the Syrian Arab Republic. It has a population of 1,600,000 people, mainly in rural areas, where the rural population confirm the vast majority of the total population in Deir El-Zour.

Deir Al-Zour is administratively divided into three districts (Deir Al-Zour, Al-Mayadin, Al-Bu Kamal), 11 districts and 128 villages.

Most of the people of Deir al-Zour belong to different clans and tribes. The tribal structure is one of the most difficult social structures in the province, despite the fact that it was exposed to more cracks during the Syrian war years.

Deir al-Zour was one of the first cities to participate in peaceful demonstrations against the Assad regime in March 2011.

It was one of the first provinces to witness direct armed confrontations between the Free Syrian Army and the regime's forces since early 2012.

Deir al-Zour remained under the control of the Free Army, With the exception of the military airport and a number of neighbourhoods of Deir Al-Zour (Al-Jouret-Al-Qusour-Hrabesh), until mid-2014, where the terrorist organization so called Islamic state "IS" after bloody battles could control all areas that were under the control of the Free Army and remained areas controlled by the regime intact.
Today, three years after the Islamic state's control over most parts of the province, the situation seems catastrophic at all levels in areas under the control of the terrorist organization so called Islamic state "IS".

Education has been completely inhibited by the "IS". The IS has tried to impose its own educational system and curricula, but failed because of the reluctance of people to send their children to these schools, forced the IS close all schools.

The health sector suffers from a severe shortage of medical personnel, equipment and medicines, which has been reflected in the reality of health as epidemics began to spread in the province and recorded dozens of cases of poliomyelitis and cases of typhoid and cases of cholera.

The situation was complicated by the difficulty of accessing accurate information and assessing the situation accurately, due to the limitation which were imposed by the IS.
The food security sector has been almost paralyzed due to the decline in the cultivation of strategic agricultural crops such as wheat, sugar beet and cotton in addition to seasonal crops. This is due to the severe shortage of seeds and fertilizers in addition to the financial fees imposed by the organization on farmers, those conditions forced lots of farmer to stop farming.

The same scene is repeated in the field of livestock breeding, where this sector is suffering from the high prices of feed and veterinary medicines. This has been reflected in the economic cycle of the whole province, where agriculture is the pillar of the local economy of this province.

In areas under the control of Assad Regime, the situation is worse.
These areas have been classified since March 2015 as besieged areas after the IS imposed a siege on them and prevented the entry and exit of goods and individuals. The source of supplies is limited to airdrops. However, the Assad regime continued to practice repression and human rights violations in these areas.

The regime's military officers took control of the material dumped by the United Nations from the air as an aid, and trafficked by some of his local merchants.
The regime also forced civilians to join the army and take them to compulsory military service.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

Three sources of information were adopted to produce this report.

Primary sources: 11 researchers of the team of "Alameen" on the ground who were distributed on the ground as follows:
Deir Al-Zour was divided into nine geographical regions and covering these areas with researchers.

- Deir al-Zour city under the control of the regime: one researcher.
- Deir al-Zour city under the control of the organization: one researcher.
- Northern Deir Az Zawr (Al - Hasakah): one researcher.
- Deir Ezzor Western countryside (Shamia): one researcher.
- Deir Ez - Zour western countryside (Jazeera): one researcher.
- City of Al-Mayadin: one researcher.
- Albuqmal City: one researcher.
- Eastern countryside (Shamia): 2 researchers
- Eastern countryside (Jazeera): 2 researchers

These researchers randomized the population to reach access rates for the services. These samples included **200 samples for each researcher**.

As for the health and education files, the count was accurate for each educational institution and health.

**Secondary sources** of information:

1. Certificates of newly exiled from Deir Al - Zour governorate.
2. The former workers in the local councils in the governorate of Deir al-Zour, from whom we were able to reach them.

**Third Sources:**

- These are the official statistics published by the official Syrian authorities
- Statistics of local authorities in areas controlled by armed opposition factions
- Official statistics of international organisations.
SERVICE AND LIVING CONDITIONS:

Today the population of Deir Ezzor is about 1 million. About 20% of them are displaced, 80000 reside in besieged neighbourhoods under regime control, which means that more than half the population of Deir al-Zour has been displaced outside the province, either to other areas of Syria or abroad in Turkey, Lebanon and Europe.

The percentage of females to males is 56% compared to 44%.

Before the control of the IS, the service file in the province was managed by the local councils, which succeeded to some extent in providing basic services (water and electricity) for the population free of charge in addition to promising attempts to launch development projects on the whole area of the province.

The IS, with the beginning of its control, stopped the work of the local councils and prosecuted its members on charges of infidelity and apostasy, and entrusted the services of the so-called Islamic Public Service Provider.
With the entry of the IS its fourth year as a single dominant force in the province of Deir al-Zour, the population has halved compared to the actual population in mid-2014, when the IS controlled the province. The number of inhabitants continues to decline in both in Deir Alzour in both areas, whether the IS or the Assad regime controlled areas.

The population in the regime areas has decreased from 300,000 at the beginning of 2015 to about 80,000 currently, due to the suffocating siege imposed by the IS, the scarcity of foodstuffs, the decline of medical services, and inhuman practices by the Assad regime.

The population in the control areas of the IS fell from 1 million people in mid-2014 to about 700,000 currently, due to the practices of IS and its imposition in the public life of people, and imposed for fees and levies, and stopped the cycle of the economy almost completely.

The estimated number of displaced from Deir al-Zour governorate is more than 500,000 displaced persons and refugees, distributed in different areas inside and outside Syria. The following table shows the main areas in which IDPs are present and their distribution rates.
Health Sector:

The health sector suffers from many problems, where Deir Al-Zour was considered a neglected and marginalized province even before the Syrian revolution and indicate.

Statistics of the Syrian Ministry of Health that the number of government hospitals in Deir al-Zor before the revolution was 7 government hospitals, three of them for women and Children and four general hospitals including various medical specialties, in addition to 19 hospitals affiliated to the private sector, these hospitals were distributed mainly in the centres of Deir Al-Zour, Al-Mayadin and Abu Kamal, and one private hospital and one governmental hospital in the area of Al-Ashara, while the vast areas of the countryside of Deir Al-Zour and the north-east (Al-Hasaka line) remained without hospitals.

With the outbreak of armed conflict in the province, the health infrastructure has suffered a lot of destruction. Most of the hospitals have gone out of service and established primitive field clinics to provide medical services to citizens.

Only the Assad hospital and the Military Hospital MH (Which provides services mainly to the fighters of the Assad regime and its militias) in side Deir Alzour city, in the area under controll of Assad regime, which still Serviceable among all the governmental hospitals in Deir Alzour province.

Those 2 Hospitals are still providing medical service to the population there in partnership with three primary health care centres and lack of medical facilities for cadres, medicines and medical equipment.

In the IS controlled areas all government hospitals have been out of service, with the exception of Al-Ashra hospital due to the ongoing clashes in the province for five years and the targeting of the Syrian regime, Russian aviation and the International Alliance of Hospitals.

The number of hospitals affected about 16 hospitals 10 of which were completely destroyed and 6 of them were partially destroyed.
Health Sector:

The worsening of the medical situation is that the organization stops the work of various medical organisations, and prevented them from dealing with medical relief organizations and donors, which led to the closure of many medical facilities (hospitals - health centers) because of the lack of financial resources necessary for the continuation of work.

The Health Bureau of the Islamic State, which belongs to the IS, also imposed fees on entering the field hospitals (considered as state hospitals), and seized a number of private hospitals, citing multiple charges including the public interest and accusing the owners of those hospitals of infidelity and apostasy.

Currently there are 11 private hospitals in Deir El-Zour governorate, mostly with modest facilities and specific specialties, 9 semi-free field hospitals, and six hospitals affiliated with the Islamic State Organization, which provide services only to their loyal citizens.

According to the statistics of the Unified Medical Office in Deir al-Zour:
- 3 MRI are currently in service
- 6 CT devices are currently in service
- 3 dialysis centres have a total of only 18 kidney wash machines serving more than 120 renal failure patients.

None of the operating hospitals contain an oxygen generator for the hospital.

The number of doctors in the control areas of the state organization has dropped to less than 70 specialist doctors and 80 resident physicians.

Parallel to the collapse of the health sector and the migration of medical personnel has spread epidemics and diseases until the extinct long ago.

The World Health Organization (WHO) announced in May that two cases of non-wild poliovirus had been confirmed before the number rose to five in June.
Health Sector:

This coincided with the expectations of the spread of epidemics in Iraq and the lack of restrictions on the movement of individuals between the areas of control of the IS in both countries, especially after the establishment of the so-called mandate of the Euphrates, which includes the Syrian Abu Kamel and the Iraqi part of Alkaem, to emphasize the universality of the organization and overcome the national boundaries drawn, the transmission of epidemics and diseases between the two countries with easy movement of individuals.

The IS has suspended routine vaccine and vaccine campaigns carried out by the national vaccine team under the supervision of the World Health Organization since mid-2016 for security reasons as alleged by the IS.

The increase in the number of people infected with tumours without knowing a real or approximate number of these as a result of the continuous handling of crude oil, according to the testimony of a gynaecologist in the region of Khasham, he witnessed in his private clinic and in the hospitals of the city of the fields three cases of birth of mutilated embryos (caused by genetic mutations caused by exposure to oil substances, he believes).

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[Diagram showing the number of hospitals in 2011 and 2017, with breakdowns for government, private sector, and IS control areas.]
Deir Al-Zour governorate is one of the developing governorates that lacks many basic services, especially in the education sector. There is a shortage of schools and teaching staff, low enrolment rates, high drop-out rates and illiteracy rates especially in rural areas.

According to the statistics of Directorate of Education Deir al-Zor in 2011, the total number of schools in Deir al-Zour governorate reached:

1114 schools:
- 100 high schools.
- 1014 primary and secondary education schools.

The number of students in that year was about 350,000 students at various stages.

In addition, Deir Al-Zour governorate contains 32 vocational secondary schools, which are mainly distributed in Deir Ez-Zour, Al-Mazadin and Abu Kamal.
Education:

Dozens of schools have been damaged as a result of targeting by air and rocket-propelled grenades over the past years:
- 79 targeted schools reached.
- 24 out of service altogether.
- 300 schools were used as shelter for displaced persons.
- 54 schools have been used as headquarters for the (Hesba)-the Islamic police- and the General Islamic Services Authority by the IS.

In order to highlight the reality of current education in the province, it is necessary to talk about the reality of education within the areas of control of the regime and areas under control of the IS.

Regime Control Zones:

It includes nine secondary schools and thirty primary education schools with its first and second classes in addition to vocational industrial secondary schools.

These schools receive a total of 33,000 students, and these schools are overcrowded in grades so that some of the classrooms can accommodate 80 students, and lack of methods of explanation and explanation and computers.
- 5 schools include virtual computer halls.
- Only 2 schools have actual labs.

Children in schools do not receive classes for drawing, music and sports education.

Assad regime recruited students, especially secondary school students in the National Defense Army, so that some students receive his education while carrying his individual weapon next to him and go to his military battalion immediately after the end of school hours.
IS Control Zones:

There is a real educational disaster due to the complete cessation of education from June 2015.

The Education Bureau of the IS initially proposed the creation of new approaches that differed from those of the Assad regime.

Before they completely shut down schools, stop education altogether, and limit education to mosques and kateeb mosques that teach Arabic and the Holy Quran.

The IS recruited children from school students in special camps in their age groups named after the (Ashbal Alkhillafa).

The duration of stay in the camp is 3 months during which the child receives military training, jurisprudence and legitimacy lessons and then pays him for military, religious or security work according to his inclination and orientation.

These children are considered a great asset for the IS, as they are the most motivated and prepared for sacrifice.

The proportion of students currently enrolled in the IS's control areas is less than 1% and all are in primary educational stage.

They are secretly taught in secret in the form of small groups in student homes or individually by a group of teachers or volunteers to teach.

The children targeted by this secret education receive their education in Arabic, mathematics, science and English.
The besieged neighborhoods are experiencing total power outages and the population relies on power generators, which have also stopped functioning almost a year ago, almost entirely because of the shortage of fuel after the siege by the IS.

In the IS control area, the oil field (Alomar) is the main source of electricity after the cessation of the gas plant (Conco) for work because of repeated targeting by the Syrian regime and the International Alliance aircraft.

62% of the population lives in areas where electricity is **completely absent**, depends on the feeding of electricity on the huge generators, which distributes electricity to the unit (Ampere) homes against the amount of money paid in advance according to the number of (Amperes) that the subscriber wants to obtain.

36% of the population lives in areas that rely on electricity supply mainly on **generators** and partly on the maintenance of the regular electricity coming from the (Alomar) oil field, (hours of operation of the electricity for 4 hours break).

2% of the population lives in areas that rely mainly on electricity supply (usually always available with exception in emergency situations) whom are residents of areas close to the Omar field as well as residents living in neighborhoods where the IS's headquarters are located.
The population suffers from tragic conditions in terms of access to water, despite availability, as the Euphrates River penetrates Deir al-Zour, but the power outages stopped the pumping turbines and stations and contributed significantly to the pollution of drinking water.

Most of the population currently rely mainly on the untreated river water as a source of drinking water, which is why many diseases spread as we will see during the study of health reality.

The water sources in Deir Alzor are:

1. **The regular water network**: It is located in the areas controlled by the Assad regime and the centers of Deir al-Zour, Al-Mayadin, Abu Kamal and some areas near the river, which considered as the main source of water for about 18% of the population and an auxiliary source for 33%.

2. **Groundwater**: where people, especially in the countryside to repair old wells or dig new wells. Almost all houses in the countryside of Deir Al - Zour have currently a well to extract water and is considered as the main source of water for 44% of the population.

3. **Mobile water tanks**: which sells water to the people in exchange for the amount of money and the source of this water is the Euphrates River (water used for drinking is the river water without any treatment), it is the main source of water for 38% of the population.

The average per capita water supply in Deir Ezzor is 60 liters per day, a very small share based on the fact that it is the city that runs through the country’s largest rivers.
SERVICES:

TRANSPORTATION:

With the control of the IS on almost all parts of the province and the siege of the remaining part of it, the movement of transport outside the territory of the IS has become very difficult and needs to permission called (permittion to move) from Hesba (religious poice) with limited time, and the traveler to comply with these conditions otherwise the property or money, Will be taken from the IS.

Now, the transition from the area under control of IS to any other area outside it is very difficult and a threat to life in a serious way, rather than being financially expensive. Abu Khashab desert road is the preferred destination for smugglers to get out of the IS control areas.

As for the movement outside the areas under control of the regime, it passes through two possibilities.

The first is to obtain permission from the commander of the Eastern Military Region, which is considered a customary ruler of Deir al-Zour, which authorizes the holder to move by plane from Deir al-Zour military airport to Damascus or Hasaka, the cost of this permission is in the range from 1500-3000 $ per person.

The second route passes through the escape by rural road outside the areas under control of the regime and hand over the fugitive itself to the nearest IS barrier and this shows his owner to arrest and undergo legitimate courses (if not accused of other charges by the IS).

The move between villages and towns under the control of IS is easier than its predecessors, but it is not available to all citiyens, because the person needs to a permission from (Hesba), with a reason such as (medical, visit..etc).

As days progress, it becomes more difficult, because of the destruction of bridges on the banks of the Euphrates River by the international coalition forces last year and the restriction of transport between regions on both sides of the river on boats that have drowned dozens of people since the middle of last year.
CONCLUSION:

Even before the end of the Battle of Raqqa, several forces are racing to control places of strategic positioning that give them preference in battle of the elimination of IS in its last strongholds in Deir al-Zour governorate, and we will discuss in detail the possible scenarios in a special report will be issued soon in an attempt To help plan a response to the expected displacement movements at the start of fighting to avoid humanitarian crises similar to those in the battle of Mosul.

And the most important thing is to spare civilians and divert them from the battles, where the victims of them on a daily basis and they pay the biggest price.
Deir Al-Zour .. The Forgotten City

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