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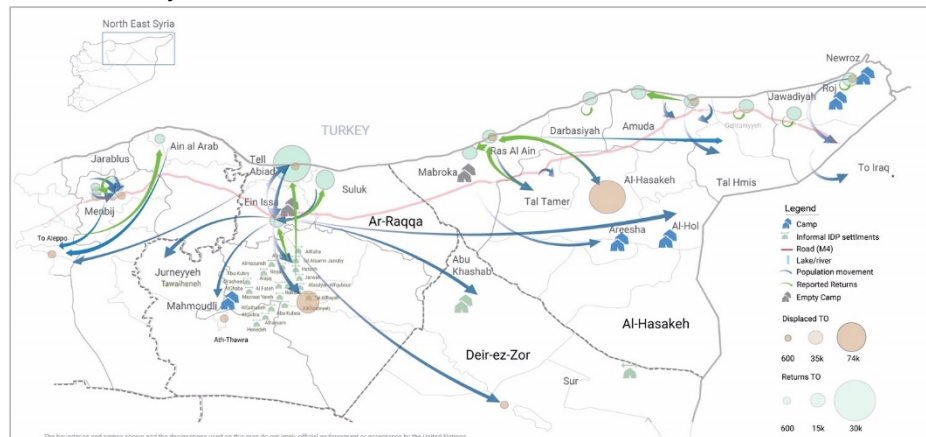
FIGURES

| | |
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| People in need of humanitarian assistance | 11.1 M |
| People in acute need of humanitarian assistance | 4.7M |
| Internally displaced people (as of July 2019) | 6.1M |
| Population Movements (January – September 2019) | 1.265M |
| Returnees (As of September 2019) | 341,247 |

Source 2019 PMR

Response Efforts Increase in North-east Syria

The UN and its partners are working to address the needs of hundreds of thousands of people recently impacted by last month's military escalation in north-east Syria.



Since Turkey's military offensive began on 9 October, more than 190,000 women, children and men have been displaced. As of 12 November, more than 74,000 people remain displaced, including from Al-Hasakeh (48,134), Ar-Raqqa (19,471) and Aleppo (6,776) governorates. More than 14,000 people have reportedly fled to Iraq.

The fighting has seen civilian casualties in both Syria and Turkey, damage to and closure of critical infrastructure, including health and water treatment facilities, as well as significant forced displacement. At least 92 civilians have been killed in north-west and north-east Syria during these latest hostilities, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Of particular concern are threats to civilians and critical infrastructure, forced displacement of civilians within or outside Syria, the potential negative impact on essential services and livelihoods, as well as the obstruction of access for humanitarian assistance and protection services.

Of those displaced, over 57,000 are currently staying with relatives or in host communities in Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor governorates, with those remaining staying in 91 active collective shelters in Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa.

HRP 2019 FUNDING

3.29 billion requested (US\$)

1.73 billion received (US\$)

52.4% funded

Source OCHA FTS on 14 November 2019

The latest violence compounds an already dire humanitarian situation in the north-east. Prior to 9 October, of the three million people living in the area, 1.8 million were already in need of humanitarian assistance, including over 900,000 in acute need. More than 710,000 of those living in the area were already internally displaced.

In response to the latest crisis, humanitarian partners operating in the area continue to assist people in need where access is possible; prioritizing support to the newly displaced, maintaining existing support to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in camps and informal settlements, and delivering essential services such as water and health. In order for all humanitarian actors across all modalities to deliver life-saving assistance to all people in need in north-east Syria, the UN continues to urge that all parties, and those with influence over them, to enable safe, sustained and unhindered access.

Of note, the UN recently advocated for partners to have safe access to restore service to the Alouk water station, which nearly half a million Syrians in Al-Hasakeh are dependent on for their daily water supply. The station had been damaged by hostilities and despite several attempts, repair teams were unable to reach Alouk due to ongoing clashes in the area. While thousands of litres of water were trucked in daily to the affected area, and to other locations in the north-east as an interim solution, the UN and partners prioritized the repair of Alouk to ensure an ongoing, reliable and safe water supply to communities in Al-Hasakeh. On 9 November, after extensive advocacy efforts and thanks to the collaboration of all parties on the ground, teams safely traveled to Alouk, resulting in water pumping to Al-Hasakeh for the first time in nearly two weeks. Unfortunately, just days later the electricity line to the station was damaged again in hostilities, cutting water to Al-Hasakeh for the third time, underscoring the consistent need for safe, regular humanitarian access.

In the health sector, the Syrian Ministry of Health, with support from humanitarian partners, recently completed an emergency immunization campaign in the north-east. Nearly 8,500 children under five years of age were vaccinated in Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Aleppo governorates. Among other initiatives, health partners also reached over 7,000 IDP women – of whom more than 2,000 were pregnant - with essential reproductive health services.

Across other sectors, over 400,000 people, including host communities, have been provided with food assistance. In the collective shelters alone, partners have distributed more than 2,000 kg of bread. Protection partners are also working across community centers, women and girls' safe spaces, collective shelters, in communities and in camps to provide support, including recreational activities for children, Gender-based violence (GBV) prevention sessions, case management and general/medical in-kind assistance for persons with special protection needs. IDPs are also being assisted with legal awareness and counselling sessions, including assistance to be issued or retrieve identification documents and certificates. With the colder months fast approaching, humanitarian partners have made winter preparations a priority, with over 135,000 people in camps, collective shelters and host communities assisted with core and winter NFIs.

While these examples represent only a small, impactful portion of the ongoing response in the north-east, the latest crisis has resulted in new humanitarian

needs emerging. In order to meet immediate gaps in the existing operation, US\$123.9 million is needed to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance to up to 400,000 people until the end of 2019, as outlined in the UN's recent response plan.

Prior to the latest crisis, 1.25 million people were being reached each month in north-east Syria, including 850,000 people in Syria Democratic Forces (SDF)-controlled areas. Of the latter, approximately 60 per cent were being reached from Damascus and Aleppo, with the rest through cross-border operations from Iraq (via Peshkabour and Al Yarubiyah).

Focus on Winterization in North-west Syria

With winter fast approaching, the needs of millions of women, children and men in north-west Syria impacted by over six months of violence look set to multiply.

Needs in the region are already considerable across all sectors, including shelter, food and non-food items, water and sanitation, health, education and protection. Many local communities are struggling to cope.



Credit: © Violet Syria/ Media team

Since the end of April, over 400,000 women, children and men have been displaced by the

violence in north-west Syria, many of them multiple times, and over 1,000 have lost their lives, many of them children. Of the 2.8 million Syrians in need of humanitarian assistance in the area, 76 per cent are women and children.

Colder temperatures, compounded by the risk of flooding, will bring additional hardship to thousands of Syrians in need across the region. Those displaced sheltering in tents and other informal dwellings will be further exposed to severe protection and other risks, including respiratory tract infections and other illnesses associated with cold weather.

The situation has been aggravated by heavy rains and floods in northern Syria that occurred at the end of December 2018, and again at the beginning of January, and in March this year.

Access to health services remains limited, which in turn increases the vulnerability of the displaced populations, particularly children, women and the elderly suffering from chronic diseases, including asthma.

The UN has a detailed operational plan in place targeting over one million people acutely affected through the end of the year, however, resources are limited. Continued donor support is urgently needed to maintain current levels of response, but also to scale up operations to meet the expected life-saving needs across the north-west in the coming months.

An estimated US\$269.7 million is needed under the North-west Readiness Plan for cross border operations. In recent months, emergency stocks have been depleted and resources diverted from existing projects to meet the needs of people affected by the increased conflict from the end of April until now.

The funding would be used to cover emergency needs such as food, shelter, upgrading new informal IDP sites and the extension of the existing IDP sites, winterization needs such as fuel and insulation, providing basic WASH services, and helping provide education, health and protection services.

Of the total funding requirements, an estimated US\$25 million is urgently needed to provide winterization assistance, which includes fuel, stoves, clothes, thermal blankets (in-kind, cash or vouchers), insulation for tents, school heating, and similar measures to mitigate cold weather. Winterization assistance ideally would be provided before December, which normally sees first winter storms and snowfall.

Violence in North-west Takes Toll on Education

Ongoing violence in north-west Syria since the end of April could result in hundreds of thousands of children missing out on their education this year.

Some 60 schools alone have reportedly been damaged or otherwise affected by airstrikes and shelling in the north-west, while a total of 94 schools have been used as shelters by IDPs as a result of the ongoing violence.



In late September, the school year began in Idleb and western Aleppo governorates after a delay of three weeks due to the challenges posed by large-scale displacement in the north-west.

According to the humanitarian community, an estimated 150,000 school-aged children are currently in immediate need of education services, while one NGO estimates that only half of all existing 1,200 schools are currently functional, and can only provide education to less than half of the 650,000 school-aged children. In particular, post-elementary level education has important gaps, which increases the vulnerability of children at a critical age.

The devastating effects of the violence has severely limited the humanitarian community's ability to respond. The majority of those displaced are currently settled in over-crowded areas in northern Idleb Governorate where the provision of humanitarian services is already overstretched, making it all the more challenging to address the education needs of arriving school-aged children.

For instance, schools inside and outside of camps face a number of burdens as they attempt to admit arriving children within their existing means, resulting in overcrowded classrooms. As a result of an increased number of students, there is also an acute shortage of school supplies, books, and

learning equipment, as well as trained and qualified teachers, and partners are struggling to cope.

While the humanitarian community is working to address these shortages - including by creating temporary learning spaces in areas with high demand, as well as repairing schools which have been damaged - further resources are urgently need.

An additional US\$30.3 million is now needed to respond to the education and psychosocial needs of 150,000 of the most recent IDP children and 6,000 education personnel. Locations in north-west Syria that have increasingly higher population densities, including camps and informal settlements (due to past current IDP flows) will be prioritized in an effort to accommodate the additional students and to provide quality education services for attending student remains stable.

According to experts, conflict impedes a child's education in a number of ways. Identifying the age of children can be difficult because many of them do not have identification papers. Ascertaining the levels of students is also complicated as many of them did not have the opportunity to attend school consistently. For instance, the previous school year was cut short in many locations in southern Idleb when violence escalated in late April, resulting in the suspension of classes and cancellation of final exams.

Finally, children from both host communities and the displaced population carry the psychological scars of the ongoing violence. Integrating psycho-social support into education activities is another important priority for the humanitarian actors providing education services in north-west Syria. When schools are damaged or budgets tight, basic activities such as paying a teacher's salary or heating a school over the cold winter months is another obstacle affecting a child's schooling.

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