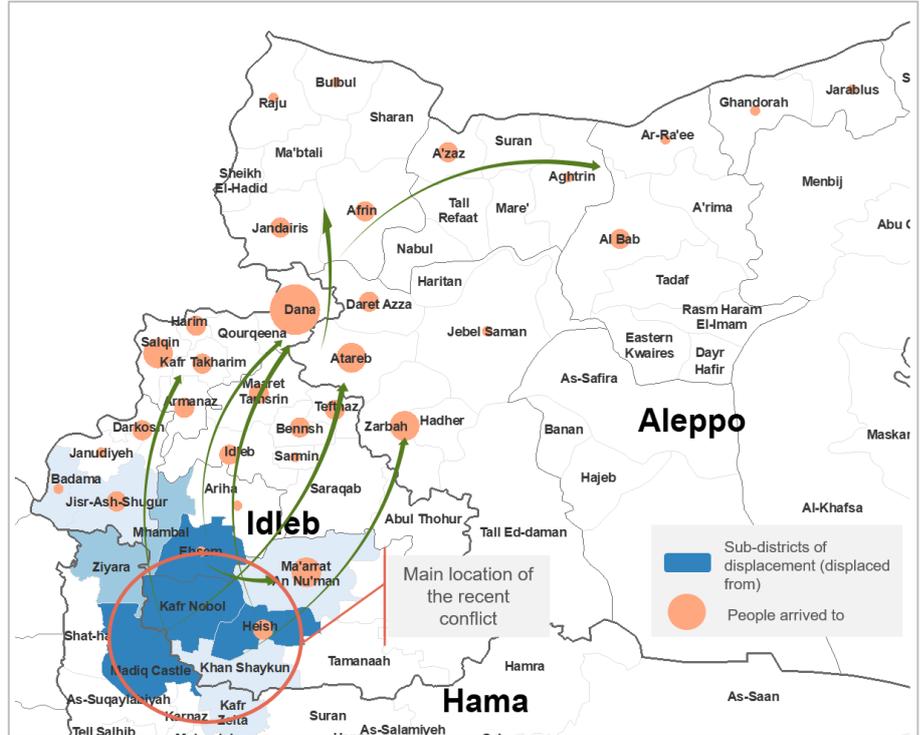


HIGHLIGHTS

- Due to the intensification of hostilities throughout northern Hama and southern Idlib governorates in the period between 29 April and 5 May 2019, over 150,000 people fled the area in search of safety. The protection of civilians remains the biggest concern.
- Shelling, airstrikes and active fighting in and around over 50 villages in northern rural Hama and southern Idlib caused destruction of at least 10 schools, leading to the suspension of education activities.
- Between 29 April and 6 May, at least twelve health facilities were hit by airstrikes in northern Hama and Idlib Governorates, damaging health infrastructure that provided essential health services to over 100,000 people.
- Between 28 April and 6 May, airstrikes and shelling caused at least 80 civilian fatalities and over 300 injuries. Three health workers with humanitarian organizations are among those reportedly killed by airstrikes.



SITUATION OVERVIEW

A recent intensification of violence and hostilities in north-western Syria is severely affecting communities in Idlib and Hama governorates. Since 28 April, there has been a marked increase in the number of airstrikes and shelling in northern Hama Governorate and southwestern Idlib Governorate reported, including the usage of barrel bombs. Areas particularly impacted include: Qasabiyah, Kafr Nobol, Badama, and Hbit communities in Idlib Governorate; and Kafr Nabutha, Latamna, Hawash, Hawija, Sehriyeh, Huweiz, and Madiq Castle communities in Hama Governorate.

Since April 28, local sources reported at least 80 civilians have been killed and many others injured. Between 4-5 May alone, 38 civilians were reportedly killed, and 100 civilians were injured. Three health aid workers were reportedly among those killed in Madiq Castle, Has and Kafr Nobol communities, while ten other health workers with humanitarian organizations were injured.

There are grave concerns over the impact this recent intensification of hostilities is having on the civilian population, civilian infrastructure and the provision of basic services. As of 6 May, at least 16 humanitarian partners have suspended their operations as a result of the violence. At least 6 food security partners, 3 health partners, 4 protection partners and 3 nutrition partners reported that they have suspended their activities in north-western Syria, with more reports of suspension coming at the time of reporting.

DISPLACEMENT

Developments in areas believed to be in or near the demilitarized zone has resulted in a new wave of displacement, as civilians flee towards areas they consider safer and away from the violence. Between 29 April and 5 May, 152,210

individuals (27,993 households) fled to communities in Aleppo and Idlib governorates. Of those, 138,000 are reported to be displaced within Idlib Governorate and about 10,000 to have moved into the Aleppo Governorate. Approximately 150,000 people already been displaced in the period between 1 February due to the recent escalation in conflict. An informal IDP settlement near an observation point in Shir Maghar village was affected by violence on 30 April. Another informal camp in Kansafra community was affected on 2 May, while an IDP camp in Tramla community was affected on 4 May.

EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Since the beginning of the recent escalation, several education facilities have been struck by airstrikes and shelling. On 30 April, a school in Qasabiyah community was damaged due to hostilities. On 2 May, three schools were hit by airstrikes in Kafr Nabutha, Hbit and Huweiz communities. On 3 May, four schools in Maar Tahroma community were affected. One school in Maar Tesin and another in Deir Sunbul communities were affected on 4 and 5 May consecutively.

The recent increase in hostilities is having a profound impact on education activities. In Idlib Governorate, education authorities suspended school activities in southern and eastern areas until further notice. Additionally, Idlib University suspended its activities on 4 May until 11 May.

HEALTH SERVICES

Medical facilities and health services have also been deeply affected following the recent increase in airstrikes and shelling in the area. On 29 April, the Latmana Hospital and the Madiq Castle Hospital, both in Hama Governorate, were put out of service. On 30 April, Hbit Health Centre in Idlib Governorate was rendered inoperable due to airstrikes. On 1 May, the Qastun Health Centre and the surgical unit at the Health Centre in Kafr Nabutha in Hama Governorate were affected by airstrikes. On 2 May, the Al Madiq Primary Health Care Centre was damaged due to hostilities. The health centre at the Rakaya Sijneh community was damaged on 3 May. On 5 May, Has Hospital and Kafr Nobol Hospital in Kafr Nobol district in Idlib Governorate; and Maghara Hospital in Kafr Zeita district in Hama Governorate were damaged due to airstrikes. On 6 May, the Al-Amal Orthopedic Hospital in Kansafra community in Idlib Governorate and Alzarbah PHC in Zarbah community in Aleppo Governorate were damaged due to airstrikes. All of these health facilities, collectively serving 112,000 people, continue to be out of service as of 6 May.

PROTECTION

Since 29 April, four protection partners reported the suspension or closure of programming due to the increase in conflict in southern Idlib and northern Hama. In total, eight static service points (community centers, women and girls safe spaces, child-friendly spaces and health facilities) are currently non-operational in Madiq Castle, Ehsem, Heish, Maarrat al Numan, Kafr Nobol and Ariha sub-districts, with three cluster members in Madiq Castle, Ehsem and Heish sub-districts reporting a direct impact and damage to their facilities from airstrikes and shelling. The cluster members in Madiq Castle, Ehsem, Heish, Maarrat al Numan and Kafr Nobol further reported that their protection teams had been displaced, alongside other community members.

As of 6 May, none of these centers are operational, meaning communities and individuals in need no longer have access to protection services, including psychosocial support and case management. On average, these centers and their mobile teams reach close to 600 women, men, girls and boys each month.

NEEDS

As the hostilities continue, the humanitarian impact will continue to take a toll on affected populations. Humanitarian partners continue to report on humanitarian needs and current response efforts, which will be compiled over the following days. However, a number of partners have already suspended their operations to keep their staff safe and many people providing services are being displaced. Humanitarian response is ongoing in areas affected by conflict in line with the readiness plan for northwest of Syria. Partners' ability to respond is, however, compromised by violence, as their staff are being displaced themselves, as they have to suspend operations to keep staff and beneficiaries safe, and as the infrastructure used to deliver service is being damaged or destroyed.

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