



This report is produced by the OCHA Syria Crisis offices with the contribution of all sectors in the hubs and at the Whole of Syria (WoS) level. It covers the period from 1-30 September 2017. The next report will be issued on or around 30 October.

## Highlights

- Up to 7,000 civilians remain trapped in Ar-Raqqa city and face increasingly deteriorating humanitarian conditions and protection concerns. Despite the risks of exposure to mines, snipers and military operations, some civilians have fled. *\*\* The UN is aware of reports – at time of issuing - that the Syria Democratic Forces (SDF) have reportedly taken control of Raqqa city, with the last remaining civilians evacuated over the past few days. The UN is not able to verify first-hand the situation in the city due to lack of access.*
- Displacements from and within Deir-ez-Zor Governorate continued due to heavy fighting and airstrikes. An estimated 63,902 people have been displaced from 1 September to 8 October.
- The overall protection situation for civilians remains of high concern across north-eastern Syria, with ISIL reportedly actively preventing civilians attempting to flee the area.
- Large influxes of IDPs from Deir-ez-Zor Governorate are straining existing capacities and services in IDP sites resulting in increased protection needs.

**150,652**

people displaced from Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor governorates between 1 July – 8 October



**261,784**

people reached with food assistance from 1 – 30 September in Ar-Raqqa, Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh and Deir-ez-Zor governorates



**156,392**

children 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) reached with nutrition support



**15,486**

hygiene kits distributed benefiting more than 74,000 people across various IDP sites



## Situation Overview

### Ar-Raqqa Governorate

Throughout September, hostilities between the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) including shelling, sniping and intensive airstrikes, continued to result in civilian deaths, widespread destruction, and deteriorating humanitarian conditions for civilians remaining in Ar-Raqqa city. As of 30 September, the SDF is estimated to control approximately 80 per cent of the city, while ISIL remains in control of less than 20 per cent of the city. More than 80 per cent of the city is estimated to be uninhabitable as a result of the destruction. However, in late September small numbers of returnees started to arrive and some basic services were restored to a few neighborhoods, including the delivery of limited amounts of humanitarian assistance inside the city.

Major protection concerns remain for the estimated 7,000 people remaining in three ISIL-controlled neighborhoods of Ar-Raqqa city. Following SDF advancement on the civilian-populated neighborhoods, those civilians unable to escape across front lines have been moving further north within the city to areas perceived to be less dangerous. Civilians continue to face significant protection risks resulting from intensified airstrikes, landmines, and sniper attacks, significantly limiting freedom of movement of civilians within these neighborhoods. Furthermore, initial reports indicate that ISIL is exacerbating freedom of movement restrictions by imposing a penalty of 100,000 SYP (\$465 USD) fine for each person trying to exit ISIL areas and forcing her/him to return to her/his home area.

Local sources continue to report shortages of healthcare, safe drinking water and basic commodities, which have reportedly led to several deaths. Supplies of flour and rice are largely depleted and there is almost no availability of meat in the city. Only one bakery is reportedly functioning in the central districts of Ar-Raqqa city. ISIL is reportedly providing limited food assistance, while some civilians are seeking to purchase food on credit. Civilians remaining in the city are largely depending on food stocks left behind by those who have already fled to the countryside. The situation has resulted in several reports of unverified cases of malnutrition. Public health concerns in Ar-Raqqa city are amplified by reports of water-borne diseases, the presence of unburied corpses, and the lack of access to healthcare. As of 15 September, ISIL had reportedly restored limited services at the Ar-Raqqa National Hospital,

which was destroyed by an airstrike on 3 August. However, the hospital remains inaccessible to civilians, with the lack of diesel and severe shortage of medical supplies further limiting its functionality.

Despite the continued clashes in and around Ar-Raqqa city, local sources reported some limited movement back to the city. Following a period of four months of displacement, about 700 families arrived to the Al-Yarmouk neighborhood in south-western and south-eastern outskirts of Ar-Raqqa city, after being released from IDP camps in SDF-controlled areas. Returns to the area remain unsafe. Returnees are considered to be most vulnerable, as returning to the city is the option of last resort. Initial reports indicate that access to water, electricity, or healthcare services is extremely limited in the area. The nearest healthcare facility is located seven kilometers (km) away, in Hawi Elhawa. Another 115 families reportedly arrived to the Al-Ma'moun neighborhood in south-eastern Ar-Raqqa city in late September.

On 19 September, local authorities distributed approximately 700 food baskets containing beans, oil, rice, and wheat in western Ar-Raqqa city. Each food basket supports a five-person household for 30 days, cumulatively reaching an estimated 3,500 people. These distributions represent the first humanitarian assistance to reach Ar-Raqqa city since November 2016. On 27 September, the main water station in Ar-Raqqa resumed operations following repairs and the delivery of diesel after more than five months. Despite some technical and electrical issues, unavailability of diesel was the main factor affecting the full operation of the station. However, local authorities are now providing 2,000 liters of diesel on daily basis to sustain the supply of clean water.

The International Coalition continues to carry out heavy airstrikes concentrated on the city center and its vicinity. On 7 September, local sources reported that the last operational private hospital and Abu Thar Al-Ghafari school in Ar-Raqqa city were destroyed by airstrikes. On 8 September, airstrikes on Ar-Raqqa city reportedly hit the Al-Sharakseh mosque in the Al-Amin neighborhood claiming the lives of at least eleven civilians, including three children. On 13 September, 11 civilians, mostly women and children, were killed following an airstrike in Al-Bado area in Ar-Raqqa city. On 23 September, airstrikes on the Al-Wahda neighborhood reportedly killed 13 people and injured many others. On 24 September, seven civilians were killed, including one woman and two children, due to shelling in Mathlum village. On the same day, four more civilians were injured due to an airstrike on Muhasan village. On 26 September, local sources reported 21 people were killed due to airstrikes on a building in Al-Badou neighbourhood in Ar-Raqqa city. On 27 September, airstrikes on Ar-Raqqa city reportedly hit residential areas in Al-Hadiqa Al-Baydaa, killing about 35 people and injuring scores of people. On 29 September, unconfirmed sources reported that airstrikes killed nine civilians in the stadium area in Ar-Raqqa city.

### Deir-ez-Zor Governorate

On 5 September, the Government of Syria (GoS) Ministry of Defense announced the Syrian armed forces had broken the three-year-long ISIL-imposed siege on the GoS-held parts of Deir-ez-Zor city that had affected 93,500 people. On 7 September, the UN was officially informed by the GoS that road access to some of the besieged areas of Deir-ez-Zor city had been reopened. Medical cases in a critical condition were transported outside the city to receive adequate treatment.

On 8 September, SARC delivered the first of nine humanitarian aid convoys that reached Deir-ez-Zor city by land during the reporting period. Convoys delivered food, health supplies, shelter supplies, hygiene kits, medicines, and other relief supplies. Following the commercial and humanitarian deliveries, prices for basic food commodities in Deir-ez-Zor have since stabilized.

The breaking of the ISIL-imposed siege on Deir-ez-Zor city has only resulted in a shift in access conditions within the city, while control patterns of the city remain similar. While humanitarian convoys have since been delivered to the city, the wider area still remains a front line, with ongoing hostilities and continued ISIL presence in some parts of the city. In practice this means that the availability of food items in the GoS-controlled areas of the city has improved significantly; however, ISIL continues to shell these areas, cutting access lines and putting civilian lives at risk as hostilities between the GoS and allied forces and ISIL continue in the vicinity of the city.

Meanwhile, clashes continued between the GOS forces and ISIL in the countryside of Deir-ez-Zor city and its vicinity in areas east of the city and near the western banks of the Euphrates River, as well as on the western banks of the river. Initial reports indicate that "normal life" returned to Harabish and Al-Qusour neighborhoods in the western part of the city, however ISIL continues to target the area. In Deir-ez-Zor city, local sources reported that ISIL ordered civilians residing in neighbourhoods under its control to leave to the countryside, amidst reports of a potential GoS attack on Al-Hwiqa neighbourhood.

On 28 September, ISIL fighters attacked GoS forces in Deir ez-Zor's western countryside approximately 52 km south of Deir-ez-Zor city resulting in the cut-off of the Palmyra – Deir-ez-Zor highway. Consequently, aid deliveries through this road, which has been used to deliver supplies since the beginning of the month have been temporarily suspended. In addition, SDF forces also launched an offensive into Deir-ez-Zor from the north, putting the two forces in close proximity.

Concerns remain for the safety and protection of civilians, civilian infrastructure and humanitarian actors across Deir-ez-Zor governorate, as the wider area is still a front line and parts of eastern and northern rural Deir-ez-Zor remain ISIL-controlled. Extensive IED contamination in the area, however, is expected to hinder IDPs from fleeing the SDF-ISIL frontlines. On 20 September, GoS forces reportedly opened corridors in Deir-ez-Zor for those wishing to leave areas where ISIL fighters are positioned. Government authorities called on locals in ISIL-held areas to head to the nearest GoS military point for assistance.

Daily reports of multiple civilian casualties and injuries due to airstrikes and shelling highlight an alarming trend of increasing numbers of civilian casualties. On 14 September, local sources reported that airstrikes on an informal settlement hosting IDPs in Jdid Ekeidat town, 20 kilometers south of Deir ez-Zor city, reportedly killed 120 people, including 100 children. On 15 September, 12 people including nine children were reportedly killed in Khasham town by air strikes. On 21 September, mortar shelling on Deir-ez-Zor city hit a SARC bread distribution site, killing six civilians and injuring 26 others. On 28 September, an estimated 21 civilians were killed, the majority of whom are women and children after airstrikes in Al Mayadin village. On 29 September, 15 civilians were killed and 13 injured when 50 families tried to flee Jdidet Bikara from Jdidet Bikara to Basira area due to the airstrikes on the area. On 30 September, about 11 civilians were killed and 15 injured in Bu Kamal and one woman was killed on the airstrike in Aljala'a town in Deir-ez-Zor governorate. On the same day, nine people were killed and more than 20 injured in Baqras town and 15 injuries were recorded among civilians following airstrikes in Zbara town.

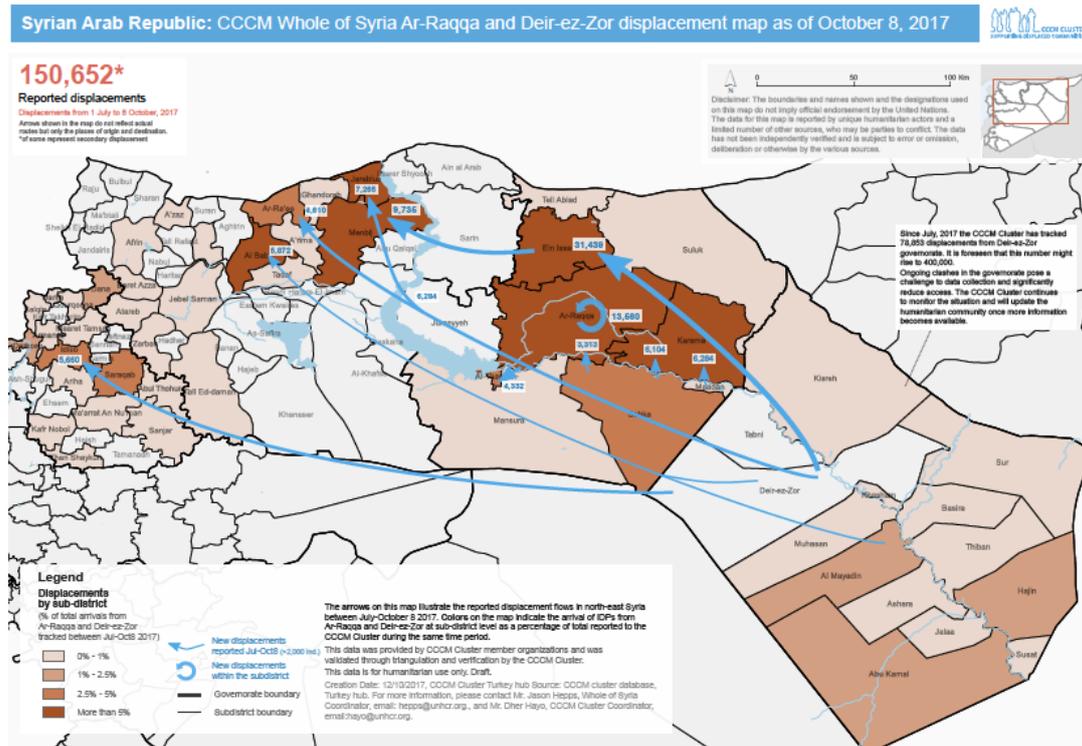


## Displacement Trends

### Deir-ez-Zor Displacement

Displacements in northeast Syria continue to increase. The total number of displacements (some may be secondary) from Deir-ez-Zor Governorate tracked by the CCCM cluster from 1 September to 8 October has reached 63,902 individuals. IDPs coming from Deir-ez-Zor governorate to areas under SDF-control are currently received at three checkpoints, namely in Abu Khashab and Malha receiving points, and to a lesser degree also in the Rajm Slebi receiving point. IDPs stay on average for one to two days until their security screening has been completed, after which most new arrivals are directed to camps in SDF-controlled areas. While humanitarian partners are doing their best to respond to the increased needs in the camps, IDPs at gathering points are also in need of further assistance.

Three main patterns of displacement in Deir-ez-Zor governorate have been identified: the largest northwards to Al-Hasakeh governorate, with smaller numbers north-westwards to Ar-Raqqa governorate and to north-western Syria and internally within Deir-ez-Zor. Although Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa are the first locations of displacement from Deir-ez-Zor, travel onwards to elsewhere in Syria is common, as it is reportedly difficult to obtain the sponsorship required to remain in host communities in Al-Hasakeh governorate, and many do not want to stay in the transit camps available. Routes and destinations have been heavily influenced by movement restrictions and security concerns.



Information obtained through consultations with IDPs and sources on the ground continued to depict an alarming picture of the protection situation for the up to 7,000 civilians trapped in Ar-Raqqa city. Amidst destruction and deprivation, civilians have been compelled to gather in areas still controlled by ISIL, which steadily reduce over time. This makes them more exposed to incessant aerial strikes conducted on densely populated areas of the city and to the consequences of urban warfare, leading to human suffering and losses. In parallel, the intensification of hostilities in Deir-ez-Zor governorate has generated severe displacement within and outside the governorate, as civilians flee conduct of hostilities and the compulsory conscription campaign implemented by ISIL in the areas they control. Airstrikes by various parties to the conflict have reportedly hit a number of residential areas in Eastern Deir-ez-Zor governorate (Al-Mayadin, Khasham, Jdidet Bikara, Lower Baqras, Zbara, Tabiyeh, Shamiyeh) as well as other areas from where population were fleeing, with correlated effects on civilian casualties. Protection needs in Deir-ez-Zor, after several years of siege and absence of humanitarian presence, remain to be fully assessed by the UN as no approval has been yet received by the Syrian Government to deploy a UN mission. First visits were conducted by a national protection actor and have provided an initial overview of needs.

Restrictions on freedom of movement in IDP sites persist at different degrees, while local security and administrative authorities faced challenges to implement security processes in face of the intense flows of new arrivals. In certain locations (e.g. Areesheh/ Bahra), it was reported that new personnel in charge of screening had been deployed to respond to increased influxes of populations and also to potentially to carry out more thorough screening process of newly arrived IDPs (e.g. men of fighting age who allegedly fled ISIL-controlled areas to avoid conscription underwent prolonged screenings). Not only is the security screening for single men coming from Der-Ez-Zor more extensive; it is also reported that single men coming from former ISIL-controlled areas are not allowed to leave, while wives of men undergoing security screening are reportedly not always allowed to have access to humanitarian assistance. Meanwhile, some improvement has been reported in the conduct of more systematic gender sensitive screening procedures. Dedicated tents for separate screening of female populations have been requested by the site administration and are being provided.

## Ar-Raqqa Displacement

The total number of displacements from Ar-Raqqa Governorate tracked by the CCCM cluster from 1 September to 8 October is 10,190 individuals. Daily displacement from Ar-Raqqa city continues due to heavy airstrikes and fierce fighting. Civilians exiting the city risk exposure to mines, snipers and retaliatory measures by ISIL, and remain subject to restrictions of freedom of movement once they reach SDF-controlled areas. Field reports indicate that on 9 September about 170 people fled the ISIL-controlled Al-Amin neighbourhood in Ar-Raqqa city to the SDF-controlled New Bridge area. Following a security screening, the SDF reportedly allowed IDPs to move to farms as well as to the western countryside. On 24 September, some 48 families displaced from Ar-Raqqa city to the western countryside due to ongoing fighting and dire humanitarian conditions. On 26 September, about 180 families reportedly displaced from the Al-Ma'moun neighborhood to Al-Hamrat and Karama areas. On 27 September only, about 200 people reportedly fled Ar-Raqqa city to the countryside. IDPs continue to risk death and injury from landmines scattered throughout former ISIL-controlled areas. A young man from Al Ratla village in the eastern countryside of Ar-Raqqa

governorate was killed by a landmine explosion while he was travelling in the area. As well, a man was killed in a landmine explosion planted by ISIL, in Al-Tayyar area at the outskirts of Ar Raqqa city, also two citizens were killed in a landmine explosion in Ar Raqqa city during their attempt to exit ISIL-controlled areas.

### Situation in IDP sites

IDPs from Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor governorates continue to be accommodated in a number of camps in Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hassakeh governorates. The situation remains fluid and the number of IDPs fluctuates from day to day. The humanitarian community continues to raise protection concerns and to advocate for the freedom of movement of IDPs with respective local authorities. Mabrouka, Ain Issa, Al Hole and Areesheh sites continue to absorb IDPs, however, given the combined capacity of the sites/camps, population stability is reliant on on-going departures toward Aleppo and Damascus. The ability to accommodate new IDP arrivals depends on local capacity to facilitate the rapid expansion of the Areesheh and Ain Issa IDP sites as well as the Al Hol and Mabrouka camps; the steady departure of IDPs from the sites to host communities; and the scale up of humanitarian services in IDP sites in northeastern Syria. The fluidity of the situation in the camps necessitates regular coordination and communication among humanitarian actors. Winterization is also a significant priority.

### Main IDP sites

<b>Al Hol Camp</b>	
Population	20,500 people, including 19,190 Iraqi refugees and approximately 1,310 IDPs.
Response	Partners continue to provide multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance. Throughout September, the fifth phase of camp expansion remained underway.
Gaps	Emergency latrines and additional water tanks required.
Key Concerns	The return of refugees to Iraq is currently on hold. Government of Iraq (GoI) and local authorities are working to determine which border crossing refugees will use to return.

<b>Ain Issa Site</b>	
Population	14,977 IDPs, far exceeding the site's 8,700-person capacity. Movements into and out of the camp continues to be fluid.
Response	Partners continue to provide multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance.
Gaps	Emergency latrines required.
Key Concerns	Emergency shelters were set up outside the camp to accommodate a large influx of IDPs from Deir-ez-Zor governorate. This is a temporary measure to accommodate new IDP arrivals until a secondary site is prepared.

<b>Mabrouka Site</b>	
Population	15,100 IDPs, far exceeding its 7,200-person capacity due to a significant influx of IDPs from Deir-ez-Zor governorate
Response	Partners continue to provide multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance.
Gaps	Latrine maintenance, scaling up of cleaning activities, waste containers, health screening at arrival and medical referrals
Key Concerns	Fluid population movements challenge the effective delivery of humanitarian aid. UNHCR continues proactive efforts to decongest the site with the goal of facilitating increased departures from the site.

<b>Areesh (Bahra) Transit Site</b>	
Population	15,626 IDPs, mainly from Deir-ez-Zor governorate. Maximum capacity of site is 19,000 people.
Response	Increased services are available in the camp across all sectors, including the establishment of additional health and ambulatory services, the launch of a solid waste management campaign, the installation of emergency latrines and showers, as well as food distribution plan. New IDP arrivals receive relief items and a tent assignment.
Gaps	Provision of food assistance for new IDP arrivals
Key Concerns	The humanitarian situation is dire at the Al-Malha reception area, where IDP arrivals to Areesh await security screening and registration. One local NGO and the Kurdish Red Crescent are present. Main needs include health services, ready-to-eat rations and baby formula.

<b>Tuwayhinah IDP site</b>	
Population	4,150 IDPs, majority of whom are from Hama and Aleppo governorates.

Response	Humanitarian partners raised concerns regarding the site' remote location in a flood-prone area. Partners agreed to maintain minimal, life-saving assistance at the site to minimize the risk of creating a pull factor.
Gaps	An assessment conducted on 23 September identified significant food, health, protection, shelter, and WASH needs. Many IDPs remaining at the site lack identification documentation due to loss or ISIL confiscation prior to arrival.
Key Concerns	The camp is managed by Kurdish military members. Reports indicate that military personnel have responded with gunfire when IDPs have requested authorization to depart the site.

<b>Tabqa city</b>	
Population	Approximately 90,000 IDPs, majority from Ar-Raqqa Governorate
Response	There are currently 43 collective shelters in the city and 20 shelters located in surrounding areas. Humanitarian assistance to IDPs residing in collective centers in Tabqa and surrounding areas remains limited to the provision of food vouchers and food baskets, basic WASH services, and solid waste disposal collection.
Gaps	Access to healthcare remains a major gap. Patients with diabetes, hypertension and other chronic illnesses are unable to obtain needed life-saving essential medicines. Access to health facilities is limited due to insecurity and damages to some health facilities.
Key Concerns	In late September, the local authorities moved some 500 IDPs families staying in 22 schools used as collective shelters to the Sports city in Tabqa and requested humanitarian actors to support the new site.

### **IDP Makeshift Sites**

Displacement within the wider Ar-Raqqa governorate also continues. Over the past two months five makeshift IDP gathering sites were established within a 60km-radius of Tabqa, house some 360 IDP families, mainly from eastern rural Ar-Raqqa governorate. IDPs have not received any humanitarian assistance and instead purchase food from nearby towns and depend on unsafe water from the Euphrates river. All make-shift gathering sites urgently need to be supplied with food rations, mattresses, tents, and medicines while vaccination campaigns have also been requested. The sites can safely be accessed from Qamishli. The five makeshift IDP sites include:

<b>Krein</b>	Located about 15 km west of Tabqa city, it includes 50 IDP families from Debsi Afnan village. No humanitarian assistance has so far been provided in this location. IDPs depend on unsafe water from the Euphrates river and they travel to Tabqa city to buy food.
<b>Mansura</b>	Located about eight km east of Mansura town, it includes 90 IDP families who originated from the Ar-Raqqa eastern countryside. They have resided in the area for approximately two months, but have not yet received humanitarian assistance. The IDPs depend on Euphrates river to collect unsafe water and travel to Mansura to buy food.
<b>Kisret Elsheikh Jomaa</b>	Located about 30 km east of Tabqa city and 140 km south of Tel Abiad, it includes 40 IDP families who originated from the eastern countryside of Ar-Raqqa governorate. The IDPs have resided in the area for about two months, but have not yet received humanitarian assistance. The IDPs depend on Euphrates river to collect unsafe water and travel to Mansura to buy food.
<b>Kisret Srour</b>	Located about 59 km east of Tabqa city and about 172 km south of Tel Abiad, it includes 110 IDP families who originate from the eastern countryside of Ar-Raqqa governorate. They have resided in the area for about two months, but they have not received any humanitarian assistance. The IDPs depend on Euphrates river to collect unsafe water and travel to Ratla town (5 km away) to buy food.
<b>Oweija Hamad Ellassaf</b>	Located about 61 km east of Tabqa city and about 175 km south of Tell Abiad, it includes 70 families who originate from the eastern countryside of Ar-Raqqa governorate. They have resided in the area for about two months, and received food assistance. The IDPs depend on Euphrates river to collect unsafe water and travel to Ratla to buy food.



## Access

During the month of September, UN agencies transported humanitarian supplies by road to Qamishli via 76 trucks (UNHCR 3, UNICEF 4, WHO 3, WFP 66) in 36 batches from Damascus, Tartous, Lattakia and Homs. During the same period, UN agencies transported humanitarian supplies by road to Deir-ez-Zor via 21 trucks (UNHCR 5, UNFPA 2, UNICEF 6, WFP 5, WHO 3) in five batches from Damascus, Lattakia and Homs.

Despite sustained UN deliveries to Deir-ez-Zor city, needs in Deir-ez-Zor remain to be fully assessed by the UN as no approval has been yet received by the Syrian Government to deploy a UN mission.

## Humanitarian Response



### Protection

#### Key Developments and Needs

Displacements have continued to take place in the wake of steady advances of SDF in Ar-Raqqa city and the break of a three-year siege in Deir-ez-Zor by Syrian governmental forces. As a result, massive influxes of population were registered in major IDP sites (Ain Issa, Areeshah, Mabrouka), particularly from the areas of Deir-Ez-Zor that were mainly exposed to intense air and ground military operations conducted by several parties to the conflict. These influxes put a strain on existing capacities and services in IDP sites and lead to increased protection needs.

While more fluidity of movement out of IDP sites has been noted (e.g. Ain Issa), situation still varies depending on the site, the profile of the individuals/families and the destination of the population. Exit procedures were suspended during Eid in Mabrouka (1-5 September), as well as in Areeshah during the last week of September due to the turnover of the security teams. In parallel, the delays in returning civil documentation previously confiscated from IDPs continue to hold up departures.

Numerous groups of IDP population have been able to leave the IDP sites, by air but also largely by road, when choosing Damascus or Aleppo Governorates as their onward destinations. The sponsorship system however continued to regulate IDP movement to destinations generally controlled by SDF in Hassakeh and Raqqa Governorates (Tal Abyad, Kobani, Suluk, Ras al Ain) as well as Tabqa or Manbij. Some derogations to the sponsorship system were adopted in Ain Issa for IDPs heading west of Ar-Raqqa Governorate and other SDF-controlled areas, however, once families reached those locations, local authorities still asked for sponsorship. It was reported that some families ultimately had to return to the IDP site. When applied, sponsorship seems to be implemented in accordance with strict requirements, specifying that the sponsor be a relative of first grade, requiring the presentation of a residency notification from the “*Commun*” (the neighborhood’s council), an approval and stamp by the Council, by the *Assayish* (Police/ Law enforcement) and finally by the so-called “*Interior Committee*”. Additional barriers are mentioned, such as the fact that the relative must be known by the Self-Administration and the ability to present valid identification documents. In those conditions, smuggling is a measure of last resort for IDPs, sometimes with the complicity or acquiescence of local law enforcement actors. Cases are reported in both Ain Issa and Areeshah sites, with fees ranging from US \$1,500-2,000 (Ain Issa) or between \$580 and \$1,400 USD (Areeshah). Lack of information on movement procedures for IDPs leaving Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa city makes them vulnerable to exploitation. Some smugglers reportedly require high fees, informing IDPs that they will have to go through IDP sites once payment has been completed.

While the majority of IDPs still present in sites are there as a result of movement restrictions, there are groups of IDPs indicating that they stay voluntarily, to remain close to their area of origin and be able to return as soon as possible (e.g. in Ain Issa). A rapid assessment was conducted during the month of September by UNHCR in Ain Issa and consulted approximately 150 households from Ar-Raqqa governorate and Ar-Raqqa city in particular. Findings indicated that the majority of families has been residing in the camp for approximately 4 months, lacked the financial ability to live outside the camp; and that their houses had been destroyed or severely damaged in their areas of origin. Approximately 60 per cent of the surveyed families desired to return as soon as possible, while 10 per cent expressed they would consider staying in the camp. The rest was still evaluating the situation. The main condition for return that was highlighted was the clearance of unexploded ordnance, immediately followed by the availability of shelter and the improvement of the security situation. All these conditions were mentioned simultaneously in many cases. Regarding needs in the camp, relief items, health and education were cited as the primary needs, along protection-related interventions such as psychosocial support and support to retrieve documentation.

Capacities of camp administration to preserve and sort the civil documentation confiscated from IDPs remain challenged. Loads of unsorted documents arrive to IDP sites from checkpoints, not necessarily keeping up with IDP movements or while IDPs might have been directed to another location. In addition, according to available information, the lack of civil documentation is also reportedly caused by ISIL’s practice of confiscating documents if rules had been broken in Ar-Raqqa city and loss/destruction during displacement. There is no access to marriage and registration of birth for IDPs in sites (e.g. Ain Issa). A first mission conducted by a national protection NGO into the city of Deir-Ez-Zor has revealed a significant need for civil status documentation issuing or replacement, high need for technical equipment to be provided to resume activities, and highlighted that an array of civil events that remained unregistered during the period of siege now need to be regularized. The possibility to waive the increased

fees that have been introduced by law at the beginning of the year should be considered by the governmental authorities now controlling the city.

Unconfirmed reports of arrests and detentions of male of fighting age suspected of affiliation with ISIL continue to be reported, although protection actors only have access to anecdotal information provided by secondary sources and have not been able to directly contact the families of the detainees. The capacity to follow-up on these cases is still insufficient, in the absence of actors with the required mandate and expertise and adds to the absence of a clear legal framework. Cases of family separation are prevalent in Ain Issa site, while cases of unaccompanied and separated children in need of emergency interim care support and protection are reported.

While in some IDP sites the situation of movement appears to have stabilized, the situation in Areesheh site continued to be of concern, with arrivals exceeding departures and with significant number of vulnerable cases identified, including civilians injured by airstrikes, significant numbers of widows and unaccompanied or separated children, pregnant women, with episodes of birth en route and critical health consequences for the young mother. Due to the overcrowding in the site, episodes of children getting lost or separated has been reported and protection actors will be working on key safety messages.

In addition, overcrowding of IDP sites and lack of privacy leads women and girls to be exposed to risks of verbal, physical and sexual exploitation and harassment. Needs for sanitary and hygiene items for women and girls has been highlighted, especially in view of latest displacements from Deir-ez-Zor. The absence of female gynecologist in mobile clinics (e.g. Ain Issa) is identified as an obstacle to access medical assistance. Overall, overcrowding fuels frustrations of IDPs and led to incidents in Mabrouka site.

### Ongoing and Planned Response

In main IDP sites of Ar-Raqqa and Hassakeh governorates, new influxes of population put further strain on already constrained capacities. Protection partners (UN and NES INGOs) active on the ground, continue to regularly consult with the population to better understand their primary needs, identify the most vulnerable cases in need for immediate attention and understand intentions on movement and return. A NES INGO conducted 46 protection monitoring visits in Areesheh, Hol and Ain Issa camps as well as in non-camp locations in Ar-Raqqa in September with 408 individuals (137 women, 139 men and 132 children) resulting in two protection monitoring reports and 17 referrals to protection and health organizations and service providers. Through UNHCR partners, a system of identification of IDPs, for assistance purpose, is taking shape in all major sites.

Coordination amongst protection actors remains critical in each site to organize a proper system of emergency referral, at least while families are present in these sites. UNICEF and UNHCR have intensified their dialogue and cooperation to set up systems improving identification, immediate support and referral and case management for child protection cases, including unaccompanied and separated children. A service mapping initiative continues to be updated and shared by a NES INGO, and mapping out of services is ongoing. A NES INGO started child protection case management services in September, receiving a total of twelve cases through Tal Abyad sub-district. However, despite the initial attempt, individual referral and case management is one of the most challenging interventions in the current environment, due to the limited capacity of protection actors, the constant new arrivals and the fluidity of movements.

UNHCR teams and NES INGO protection actors maintained their presence in the IDP sites, particularly Ain Issa, Areesheh and Mabrouka. UNHCR has intensified its efforts in supporting the site administration in sorting out and assembling civil documentation by family, with additional teams to increase the speediness of the process and decrease the time spent by families in the sites before departing. Despite these efforts, loss of civil documentation in this process is still frequent.

A national UNHCR partner has been allowed for the first time to conduct a mission to Deir-Ez-Zor city, specifically focused on assessing the situation of the population and the need for legal counseling related to civil documentation. During five days of work across the city and semi-urban neighborhoods (Al Tabb, Al Joura, Al Harabesh, Mursheida, Al Qusour), including some areas formerly under ISIL control, numerous mukhtars and administrative authorities were consulted, consultations conducted and support brought to the population in terms of counseling, administrative and Court procedures. More than 1,100 consultations were provided and some 350 administrative procedures (registration of civil events) were completed.

UNICEF and its national partners continue to provide child protection services to children displaced from Raqqa and Deir Ez Zor, through a network of child friendly centres and mobile teams in different sites<sup>1</sup>. In addition, UNICEF is planning to expand child protection services in Tabqa, Mansoura cities and surrounding villages/towns, Al- Twehina and in Areesheh site. A NES INGO also expanded its network of child friendly spaces in Ras al Ain and Tabqa over the reporting period, providing PSS, recreational activities and awareness-raising with children, caregivers and local

<sup>1</sup> See last update - in Ain Issa and Mabrouka sites, as well as in Ain Issa town, Tal Abyad town, Suluk and Journiyah  
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)  
Coordination Saves Lives | [www.unocha.org](http://www.unocha.org)

service providers. During the first two weeks of September, UNICEF partners provided PSS and awareness activities to more than 1,500 children. In addition, 34 additional separated children were identified, included ten in Journiyah. UNICEF partner are conducting initial assessments on the situation of these children to assess their protection and family situation and determine appropriate response. UNICEF supported Mine Risk Education activities, through NGO partners, and reached approx. 2,450 children and care-givers during the reporting period. In a context of possible spontaneous return to areas of origin, MRE interventions are all the more critical.

During the reporting period, UNFPA through its national GBV partners working in Mabrouka site carried out weekly GBV awareness sessions. Group initiatives through UNFPA youth program (e.g. garbage collection and hygiene campaign) in Mabrouka and Areesheh sites, as well as some youth sport activities in Mabrouka camp to support psychosocial well-being of youth. In coordination with UNFPA Country office GBV unit, UNFPA Qamishli organized a series of GBV trainings in Qamishli, attended by seven UNFPA GBV and RH partners working in the IDP sites and host community, via mobile teams and mobile clinics and static WGSS<sup>2</sup> and health clinics. The training aimed at strengthening the capacity for GBV response in the current scenario of IDP sites and in hosting communities. Participants were mainly social workers, organization coordinators and case managers, who received GBV basic training and specific case management training for WGSS staff.

The humanitarian mine action response in Ar-Raqqa governorate is increasing in capacity over the coming weeks. An Integrated mine action response is currently being deployed, including contamination survey and marking, clearance of explosive hazards as well as Risk Education. Clearance teams will be responding to hazardous areas identified by humanitarian partners, local communities and local authorities across accessible areas of Raqqa Governorate, where active hostilities have ceased. Clearance will be prioritized in coordination with the wider humanitarian community to improve safe access to critical infrastructure and improve safety for civilians and humanitarian workers. Contamination surveys will be conducted to map contamination and to mark dangerous areas for future clearance. Risk Education will be delivered to vulnerable populations, including IDPs in the surrounding area to improve knowledge of the local population of the local threats.

Impact of advocacy efforts conducted by the Protection sector, through civil-military coordination mechanisms, on the implementation of protection-sensitive measures during screening procedures and the discontinuation of sponsorship will need to be monitored and assessed.

## Key Gaps and Challenges

Fluidity, scale and pace of displacements and related protection needs continue to outstrip protection capacities on the ground. While UN agencies and NES INGO partners consolidate their presence and dedicate additional resources, the limited availability of national partners remains a challenges. In addition, capacities of local authorities to implement security processes and perform camp management is still limited, making the delivery of protection services in camps and local communities almost exclusively dependent on humanitarian protection actors. The significant influx of new arrivals in September and shifting of IDP to Mabrouka camp demonstrated an absence of service providers, particularly those providing needed WASH facilities and child protection services in the camp. Given the operational context, certain types of protection interventions, especially individual interventions or case management represent a significant challenge, despite current efforts to improve coordination and referrals.

The last update of the NES response plan, which integrated anticipated expansion of activities in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, highlights a significant funding gap. The ability to operate also depends on the availability of partners on the ground and other legal and bureaucratic aspects. In areas taken from ISIL, concerns linked to the safety and the security of humanitarian workers in relation to explosive hazards contamination as well as the level and timeliness of access that will be granted by authorities, particularly to conduct needs assessments, will be key.



## Food Security and Agriculture

### Response

Throughout September 2017, the Food Security Sector (FSS) through 9 of its partners from Syria (WFP) and NES/Iraq Cross-Border Hub (8 INGOs) have distributed various types of food assistance (food baskets, ready to eat rations, food vouchers, cash grants and bread) to an estimated 261,784 beneficiaries across northeast Syria affected by the ongoing Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor displacements. Assistance has reached IDPs and Host Communities located in the governorates of Ar-Raqqa, Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh and Deir-ez-Zor as follows:

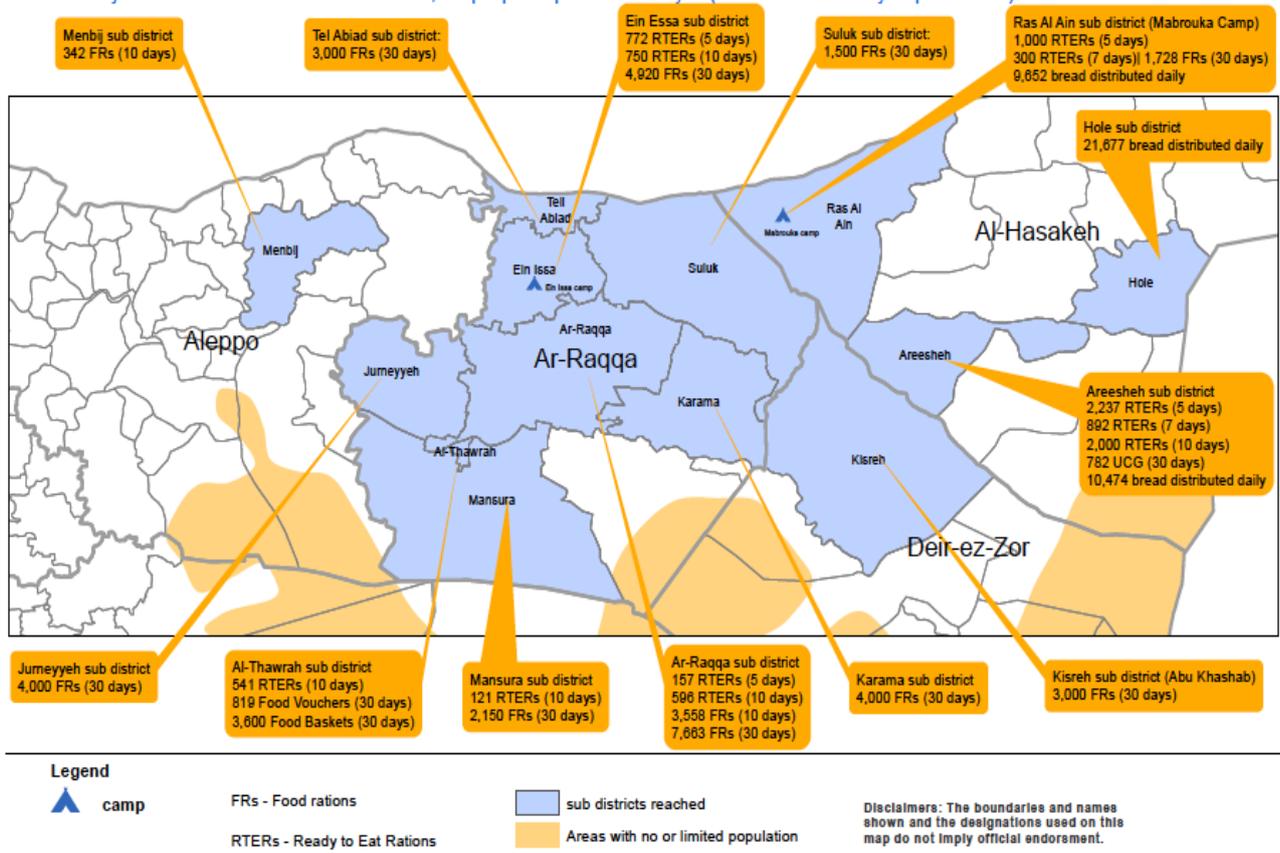
<sup>2</sup> Women and Girls Safe Spaces

- 4,166 ready-to-eat-rations (RTERs) covering food needs for five days for a family of five were distributed to 20,236 beneficiaries.
- 1,192 RTERs covering food needs for seven days for a family of six were distributed to 7,152 beneficiaries.
- 3,658 RTERs covering food needs for ten days for a family of six were distributed to 20,718 beneficiaries.
- 4,250 Dry Food Rations covering food needs for ten days for a family of six were distributed to 26,004 beneficiaries.
- 35,561 Regular Food Baskets covering food needs for a month for a family of five or six were distributed to 178,068 beneficiaries.
- 782 Unconditional Cash Grants covering food needs for a month for a family of six were distributed to 4,692 beneficiaries.
- 819 Food Vouchers covering food needs for a month for a family of six were distributed to 4,914 beneficiaries.
- A total of 41,803 individuals received bread daily throughout the month.

**Syrian Arab Republic: Ar - Raqqa Resonse by Food Security Sector Partners - September 2017**



**Food Sector Overall Reach by sub district: 261,784 people**  
 Response Type: 4,166 RTERs (5 days) | 1,192 RTERs (7 days) | 3,934 RTERs (10 days) | 3,900 FRs (10 days) | 35,561 FRs (30 days) | 819 FVs (30 days) | 782 UCGs (30 days) | 41,803 bread distributed daily  
 CCCM NE Syria IDP movements of 6th October 58,996 people displaced in NE Syria (with some secondary displacements)



In Ar-Raqqa Governorate, a total of 197,540 beneficiaries were reached in September in Tall Abyad, Suluk, Ain Issa, Jumeyyeh, Ath-Thawrah, Mansoura, Karama and Ar-Raqqa sub-districts with food assistance as per the following modalities:

- 929 RTERs covering food needs for five days for a family of five or six were distributed to 4,802 beneficiaries by WFP and one cross-border partner.
- 3,558 dry food rations covering food needs for ten days for a household of six were distributed to 22,110 beneficiaries by one cross-border partner.
- 2,008 RTERs covering food needs for ten days for a family of six were distributed to 11,286 beneficiaries by two cross-border partners.
- 30,833 regular food baskets covering food needs for a month for a family of five or six were distributed to 154,428 beneficiaries by WFP (30,570) and one cross-border partner (263).
- 819 food vouchers covering food needs for a month for a family of six were distributed to 4,914 beneficiaries.

In Al-Hasakeh Governorate, a total of 47,192 beneficiaries were reached in September in Ras Al-Ayn Al-Hol and Areesh sub-districts respectively in Mabruka, Al-Hol and Areesh Camps, and Areesh surroundings, with food assistance as per the following modalities:

- 3,237 RTERs covering food needs for five days for a family of five were distributed to 15,434 beneficiaries by one cross-border partner and WFP (1000), respectively in Areesheh and Mabruka Camps.
- 1,192 RTERs covering food needs for seven days for a family of six were distributed to 7,152 beneficiaries by two cross-border partners in both Areesheh and Mabrouka Camp.
- 1,650 RTERs covering food needs for ten days for a family of six were distributed to 9,432 beneficiaries by two cross-border partners in Areesheh Camp.
- 782 unconditional cash grants covering food needs for a month for a family of six were distributed to 4,692 beneficiaries by one cross-border partner in Areesheh Surroundings for host communities.
- 1,728 regular food baskets covering food needs for a month for a family of six were distributed to 8,640 beneficiaries by WFP in Mabruka Camp.
- A total of about 9,484 individuals received bread daily throughout the month in Areesheh Camp by cross-border partner.
- A total of about 9,652 individuals received bread daily throughout the month in Mabruka Camp by cross-border partner.
- A total of about 21,677 individuals received bread daily throughout the month in Al-Hol Camp by cross-border partner.

In Aleppo Governorate, a total of 2,052 beneficiaries were reached in September in Menbij sub-district with food assistance as per the following modalities:

- 304 dry food rations covering food needs for ten days for a family of six were distributed to 1,824 beneficiaries by one cross-border partner.
- 38 unconditional cash grants covering food need for a month for a family of six were distributed to 228 beneficiaries by one cross-border partner.

In Deir-ez-Zor Governorate, a total of 15,000 beneficiaries were reached in September in Kisreh Sub-District in Abu Khashab and Mkman with 3,000 regular food baskets covering food needs for a month for a family of five were distributed to 15,000 beneficiaries by WFP.

## October Plan

Nine FSS partners (WFP from Syria hub and 8 INGOs from NES/Iraq cross-border hub) have prepositioned various types of food assistance modalities across northeastern Syria (RTERs, general food rations (GFRs) food vouchers; and cash grants) to cover food needs for a total of 434,356 beneficiaries. Additionally, two “micro plans” for both Areesheh and Twehina Transit Camps are being updated to ensure maximum and regular coverage of IDPs arriving and residing in these camps with specific allocations, including back-up responders for new influxes of IDPs. Similar close field coordination mechanisms are being put in place for Tabqa and Mansoura city and surrounding villages. Partners continue to heavily preposition stocks in order to respond at scale to the extreme fluidity of the situation related to the ongoing offensive in Deir-ez-Zor.

## Gaps

The October plan shows that the sector through its partners is able to address some of the gaps identified in September in relation to access, needs and geographical areas (such as inclusion of Areesheh Camp and expansion in some critical villages around Ar-Raqqa city). The plans for October as submitted by partners are sufficient to meet the projected caseload, but efforts will be ongoing as new areas for responding will emerge.

The use of cash-based response modality, such as food vouchers and cash grants continues to be used in the October Response Plan by some partners, which demonstrates the readiness of the FSS partners to adapt their response to the fluid environment based on the most appropriate modalities and the most feasible way to reach the affected people, as per sector recommendations. In addition, local procurement and market-based approaches - wherever feasible - are increasing in northeastern Syria and are well handled by partners.

Some of the main gaps/challenges identified by the Food Security Sector are:

- Coverage of Menbij district – in informal settlements and host communities.
- Coverage of increasing needs in Tabqa City and surroundings due to large IDPs influxes and heavy strain on host communities already greatly affected by the conflict.
- Coverage of villages around Raqqa City (north, south, east and west), that have not been either sufficiently or regularly covered or reached at all, due to security risks and large presence of IEDs, UXO and ERWs.
- Accessing Al-Malha Checkpoints assessed as highly unsafe where increasing numbers of IDPs are arriving daily. The Sector, in coordination with OCHA and other Sectors, is strongly advocating for IDPs screening/reception/transit centers to be located in secured and safe areas for both humanitarian actors and IDPs in order to ensure an adequate, timely and consistent response.

- The delivery of humanitarian assistance continues to be highly challenging in Twehina informal camp due to the complete absence of a formal and civilian camp management, hindering beneficiaries' identification process, including new arrivals and departures and leading to an increasingly unsafe environment with high protection concerns.



## Nutrition

### Key Developments

Nutrition screening for children under five years old through mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) measurement continues in the Areesheh, Mabrouka, Twehina and Al Hole camps to identify acutely malnourished children. 5,224 children were screened for acute malnutrition with 309 (5.9%) identified with acute malnutrition. Of those, 77 (1.5%) have severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 232 (4.4%) have moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). Also, 2,422 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) were screened for acute malnutrition with 88 (3.4%) identified as acutely malnourished.

Nutrition surveillance data<sup>3</sup> with MUAC measurement, that began in July 2017 via sentinel sites in health facilities, indicated the following results in August data from seven health facilities in three sub-districts of Ar Raqqa Governorate (Suluk, Ain Issa and Tell Abyiad Sub-Districts) accessible from 135 communities:

- Ain Issa Sub-District: 795 children measured - GAM 25.4% and SAM 5.0%;
- Tell Abyiad Sub-District: 1,870 children measured – GAM 9.9% and SAM 2.6%;
- Suluk Sub-District: 757 children measured with MUAC – GAM 4.3% and SAM 1.4%.

The results indicate a possible critical nutritional situation in Ain Issa and a poor nutritional situation in Tell Abyiad. Accordingly, the sector is working to establish a response to investigate further and address this situation.

As the escalation and operations continue in Deir-ez-Zor, new waves of IDPs started to arrive in Hassakeh particularly in Areesheh camp which is currently exceeding its capacity. This adds pressure on existing humanitarian needs. As the operation continues, more IDPs are expected to arrive and thus warranting that services should be scaled up.

Due to increased military offensive on the east of Euphrates River, many makeshift camps were created, this includes Abu Khashab, Rayan, Kherbt tamer and Malha makeshift camps, in which very limited humanitarian assistance exist.

### Response

In September, 156,392 children 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women were reached with nutrition support in the camps (formal and makeshift) of Areesheh, Mabrouka, Karama, Ain Issa, Jurneyyeh, Shaddadi, Suluk, Abu Khashab, Malha, Rayan, Kherbt Tamer, Tell Abiad, Al-Thawra and Twihina by nutrition partners with support of UNICEF and WFP. From this number, 36,392 were reached with lipid based nutrient supplements (LNS), Multiple micronutrient supplements, and/or high energy biscuits, while 120,000 mothers were counselled on infant and young child feeding practices (IYCF) via individual and group sessions. 392 cases (PLW and children under five) identified with acute malnutrition in the camps were supported with therapeutic and supplementary nutrition supplies. 5,449 PLW and children 6 – 59 months were reached in the villages of Ar-Raqqa and Ain Issa sub-districts (outside of IDP camps) with high energy biscuits. Key nutrition and hygiene messages (through printed papers and awareness sessions) accompanied the distribution of these supplements in these villages.

The Qamishli sub-sector continues to undertake a regular coordination of the response between sector partners in order to ensure complementarity. The sub-sector team with the support of UNICEF carried out field visits during the reporting period to IDP camps as part of strengthening nutrition response and identify gaps to address. The Qamishli sub-sector monitors the delivery of the nutrition response providing technical support to implementing partners in carrying out regular nutritional screening for new arrivals at camp reception and providing management of malnutrition cases, provision of nutrient supplements among children under five and pregnant and lactating women and follow-up on promotion and counselling of optimal breastfeeding as well as exploring new opportunities and partnerships to expand the services.

As part of the sub-sector response plan, a mapping exercise is underway. Tell Abiad Hospital is identified as a potential location to set up a community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) centre while other

<sup>3</sup> Limitations of the Nutrition Surveillance data is that it is facility based and not representative. Children are visiting clinics for sick visits of vaccinations so they may have a better or poorer nutritional status than a representative sample from the community. The age distribution of children attending clinics is not representative of the community as children under the age of 12 months often make up the majority of child admissions due to vaccinations and routine check-ups.

locations are being explored. CMAM/IYCF training is planned for partners supporting the response in Tell Abiad and Ain Issa. The nutrition sector is closely coordinating the identification of needs and the response with WoS. The sector is also working on replenishing stocks of nutrition supplies in Qamishli as additional preventive and therapeutic supplies are received to help strengthen the response in Hassakeh, Ar Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor governorates.

## Key Gaps and Challenges

Access to Raqqa city still remains a challenge for partners to deliver and maintain regular and comprehensive nutrition services. As well, it has proved difficult for people in Ar-Raqqa city to access services.

The movement of IDPs in/out of the camps (particularly in Areesheh and Malha makeshift transit camp) is a challenge for the management of acute malnutrition and follow up. The fluid movement of IDPs in informal settlements outside of Ain Issa camp also poses challenges for identification of new arrivals and avoidance of duplication of assistance.

Distribution of breast milk substitutes (BMS) in Ain Issa camp is posing a huge challenge to efforts in promoting optimal feeding practices for children under 2 years of age. The nutrition sector strongly urges partners engaged in the distribution of BMS to respect the International Code of BMS and the joint statement on protecting and promoting optimal breastfeeding practices.

The host community is overburdened in some areas of northeastern Syria. There is a lack of adequate medical facilities/mobile units within some of these host communities to provide services as well as clear data outside of camps on needs in order to prioritize activities. Since there is almost no tracking of the movements or follow up of people when they leave the camps, the process becomes very complex to provide a global and harmonized response.



## Shelter NFI

### Response

#### Ain Issa camp

Partners installed emergency tents across the road, including NFI support, for around 500 people as an interim solution to a large influx of IDPs, while the expansion site is approved. During the reporting period, 800 tents, 324 NFI kits, 300 new arrival kits and 300 hygiene kits (HKs) were installed or distributed in this overflow site by partners. In the main camp, approximately 265 mattresses, 265 blankets, 92 kitchen sets, 129 jerry cans, 265 sleeping mats, 92 plastic sheets and 93 solar lamps were distributed. One rub hall was installed, and work continued to plan the long-term extension.

#### Mabrouka camp

During the reporting period, 1,991 mattresses, 2,549 blankets, 1,189 kitchen sets, 1,308 jerry cans, 1,859 sleeping mats, 796 plastic sheets, 777 hygiene kits, and 777 solar lamps were distributed. An additional 126 tents were installed.

#### Areesha camp

During the reporting period, approximately 5,565 mattresses, 6,338 blankets, 2,020 kitchen sets, 3,083 jerry cans, 6,326 sleeping mats, 1,881 plastic sheets, 2,217 solar lamps, 732 fans, and 306 tents were installed. Site preparation was completed for reception and management area. An additional 87 Communal tented kitchens were installed, and fencing and road lighting works were ongoing. One partner distributed cash for winter distributed to 120 households, targeting host communities outside the camp.

#### Twayhina

An estimated 6,200 IDPs in this location lack access to basic services. During the reporting period, 472 tents and 458 NFI Kits were distributed.

#### Tabqa

UNICEF distributed 3,000 summer clothing kits to children.

#### Mansoura

UNICEF distributed 400 summer clothing kits to children.

#### Other

- Cash for shelter rehabilitation was distributed to 500 households in Tal Barak town (Qamishli countryside)
- Cash for winter was distributed to 109 households in Ras Al Ain city.
- Approximately 47 tents and 60 NFI kits were distributed in Rajem Al Byad village.

- An estimated 80 tents, 20 NFI kits, 151 HKs, 157 light NFI Kits to IDPs in tented settlement and collective centres in Mazra'et Al Rashid village.
- 150 tents were distributed in Mazare'e Tishrine.
- 65 tents were distributed in Hazimeh.
- 101 NFI Kits and 101 HKs were distributed in Jurneyyeh villages.
- 64 NFI Kits and 22 HKs were distributed in Menbij.



## WASH

### Key Developments

Ongoing fighting in Deir Ez-Zor led to a high influx of IDPs in Areesha and Mabrouka camps in Hassakeh governorate. Due to limited basic services in Areesha, authorities have directed IDPs to move to Mabrouka camp which is now hosting over 15,500 IDPs. The WASH sector with flexible support from UNICEF is leading action and ensuring minimum immediate lifesaving WASH needs and services are delivered to the IDPs sheltered in the temporary shelters and transitional camps, however in some areas gaps remain significant mainly due to limited access.

### Response

In Mabrouka camp, daily water trucking by UNICEF is ongoing at the rate of 310,000 liters per day (~20 l/p/day) and emergency water trucking at a rate of 90,000 liters per day. Construction of 100 concrete toilets and 100 concrete showers is ongoing. The current progress stands at 75 per cent and expected to complete in early October. Emergency water storage capacity in the camp has been extended by 120 m<sup>3</sup>. An additional 25 garbage bins have been provided by UNICEF. Construction of the sewage system network is in the final stage with latrines connections to the main sewer ongoing. During the reporting period, UNICEF distributed monthly hygiene supplies, while WASH partners distributed approximately 4,000 hygiene kits and conducted hygiene promotion sessions.

In Ain Issa camp, emergency water storage capacity has been extended by UNICEF and WASH partners by approximately 250 cubic meters. Construction of 100 concrete toilets and 100 concrete showers is ongoing and expected to complete in early October. An additional 25 garbage bins were provided by UNICEF. Construction of the sewage system network is ongoing and current progress stands at 95 per cent. Approximately 2,000 female hygiene kits (FHK) were distributed by UNICEF. WASH facilities cleaning, camp cleaning, garbage disposal and desludging services by WASH partners are ongoing.

In Areesha (Bahra) camp, water trucking quantities have varied depends on camp population. Installation of 200 emergency latrines and 148 emergency showers is completed. Cleaning services are provided. Monthly hygiene supplies distribution are ongoing and during the reporting period 5,075 FHKs, 3,600 women sanitary napkins, 1,800 baby diapers (UNICEF) were distributed.

In Al-Hole camp, water trucking is ongoing 350,000 liters/day. During the reporting period, the following WASH supplies were distributed: 1,461 FHKs, 1,774 jerry cans, 4,816 women sanitary napkins, 38,396 bars of soap, 4,911 washing powder, and 5,094 baby diapers. The construction of 3,300 meters of sewerage network in south part of Phase 1 of the camp will be completed in late October 2017. The installation of 100 emergency toilets and 48 emergency showers is completed, while the installation of 264 concrete toilets and 264 concrete showers is progressing and will be completed in early October. In phase 3 of the camp, construction of 7,300 meters of sewerage networks is completed and water storage capacity was increased by 198 cubic meters. In phase 4 of the camp, construction of 7,800 meters of sewerage network was started and will be completed in late October 2017. Installation of 148 emergency latrines and 68 emergency showers is completed in Phase 5.

WASH partners are providing water trucking services in several host communities/informal settlements in Ar-Raqqa governorate. Partners provided vector control spraying in almost 150 communities in Tell Abiad, Ras al Ain, Manbij, At-Thawra and Ain Al Arab districts. Several water stations have been under rehabilitation by WASH partners during the reporting period (Al Mahmoudali, Al Tabqah main water station, Al Dilawia, Um Edam, Beer Kafri, Al Sharaiaa, Al Kharabat, Al Kornesh, Al Shamali). UNICEF distributed 2,200 FHKs in Tabqa City targeting returnees. An additional 750 FHKs were distributed in Twihinia informal settlement by UNICEF. Approximately 400 FHKs, 300 baby diapers and 600 women sanitary napkins were distributed by UNICEF in Aba Khashab. Furthermore, 540,000 pills of aqua tabs were dispatched to the Ar-Raqqa governorate Ministry of Health (MoH) to be distributed through the polio campaign.

### Gaps and Challenges

Regular operation and maintenance of installed WASH facilities continues to be a challenge due to lack of clear accountability of camp coordination and camp management mechanism in all IDPs temporary shelters.

## Education

### Response

As part of the Back to Learning (BTL) campaign in Ar-Raqqa, a total of 4,700 school-age IDP/returnee children (2,573 boys and 2,127 girls) have benefited from the provision of school bags and stationery sets distributed by UNICEF and Al Birr Wa Al Ihsan NGO in Ath-Thawrah (Tabqa) city during the month of September. With this result, a total of 40,583 school-age children have benefited from educational support in Ar-Raqqa governorate since April 2017.

UNICEF delivered school bags and stationery sets as well as risk education awareness magazines to Directorate of Education (DoE) of Deir-ez-Zor on 11 September, which will benefit up to 10,000 school age children in Deir-ez-Zor for the first time in years after the siege has been broken in early September, 7,500 children benefited from the support. According to the DoE of Deir-ez-Zor, 15,000 children aged 5-17 are enrolled in 27 functioning schools in Deir-ez-Zor city.

UNICEF and DoE Ar-Raqqa conducted an education assessment for Mansura, Sabka, and Maadan sub-districts in late September. Out of an estimated 4,000 school age children currently residing in the areas, 1,500 children are back in school to date in Mansura (Debsi Afnan and surrounding areas) and Sabka after having missed out a few years of schooling. DoE Ar-Raqqa estimates up to 17,000 school age children may return to the areas by the end of 2017, if security continues to improve.

### Gaps

With increased population displacement from/within Deir-ez-Zor in addition to Ar-Raqqa, access to education opportunities is a primary concern for school age IDP children, whether they are in transit camps, in informal settlements, or hosted by communities. Majority of children who have returned to their home towns in newly accessible areas of Ar-Raqqa have limited access to schools/learning opportunities.

While education needs are ever increasing among IDP/returnee school age children over a vast geographically scattered area, the limited capacity of education partners in the region pose a great challenge on education sector in providing timely education-in-emergency support to children. Education partners in Al Hasakeh, that have been playing a major role in response across the region, are stretched thin. Furthermore, the limited resources i.e. qualified teaching staff or teaching and learning materials including textbooks are major issues to be addressed.

### October Plans

UNICEF and its partners will continue BTL campaign in newly accessible areas of Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor through the provision of school bags and stationery sets. BTL community mobilization activities will also continue during October to encourage children to resume schooling, which includes dialogue with community leaders, door to door family visit, recreational activities, and risk education. UNICEF and GOPA are planning to open temporary learning spaces for school age children in Ain Issa and Mabrouka camps. Areesheh camp will be added upon the approval of the concerned authorities.

## Logistics

### Response

During the month of September, UN agencies transported humanitarian supplies by road to Qamishli via 76 trucks (UNHCR 3, UNICEF 4, WHO 3, WFP 66) in 36 batches from Damascus, Tartous, Lattakia and Homs.

During the same period, UN agencies transported humanitarian supplies by road to Deir-ez-Zor via 21 trucks (UNHCR 5, UNFPA 2, UNICEF 6, WFP 5, WHO 3) in five batches from Damascus, Lattakia and Homs. As part of the inter-agency delivery of humanitarian assistance to Deir-ez-Zor that took place on 27 September and was coordinated by the Logistics Cluster, SARC, OCHA and humanitarian agencies 32 trucks from UN agencies were dispatched to Deir-ez-Zor city (UNHCR 21, UNICEF 7, WFP 2, on WFP contracted trucks: IOM 1 and UNFPA 1) in addition to SARC and ICRC trucks.

The Logistics Cluster continues to provide logistics coordination and information management to identify gaps and bottlenecks and avoid duplication of efforts. Furthermore, no-cost-to-user land transport for humanitarian supplies to both Qamishli and Deir-ez-Zor is available for requesting organization.

## Gaps and Constraints

The process of obtaining all necessary approvals results in long lead times. Due to unavailability of sufficient storage space, the offloading of the trucks that took part in the inter-agency delivery of humanitarian assistance to Deir-ez-Zor city has taken over one week. The main road access which connects Homs and Deir-ez-Zor has also become insecure due to ongoing clashes over the last week of September.



## Cross-Cutting Operational Challenges

Humanitarian actors face significant challenges in responding to needs in North-East Syria. Key challenges include:

- **Access and insecurity:** Access to vulnerable communities, particularly in and around Ar-Raqqa city, remain challenging due to insecurity and active hostilities.
- **High levels of explosive hazards contamination:** The contamination level in newly-seized areas is considered very high, particularly in Ar-Raqqa City and in Deir-ez-Zor roads, towns and large population centers. This poses a threat both to civilian populations as well as to humanitarian actors aiming to assist them. A mechanism to demarcate and declare areas cleared and safe for humanitarian actors and the population continues to be necessary.
- **Policy environment:** Humanitarian actors also face challenges related to the policies being implemented by local authorities with regards to IDP management particularly those affecting freedom of movement. These policies are contributing to the deteriorating humanitarian situation and hampering humanitarian actors' ability to engage beyond life -saving support in certain settings.
- **Scalability:** The scalability of the supply line remains limited and unpredictable. Increasing population displacements and humanitarian needs will further strain current capacities and require a scale up of supplies, humanitarian partners and reach. The availability of certain supplies – such as life-saving trauma kits - has been particularly hard hit because of access issues.
- **Funding limitations:** Additional funding is still required to increase reception capacities in key sites and the number of people that can be assisted monthly with basic goods and services.

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