

## OCHA Syria | Flash Update #8

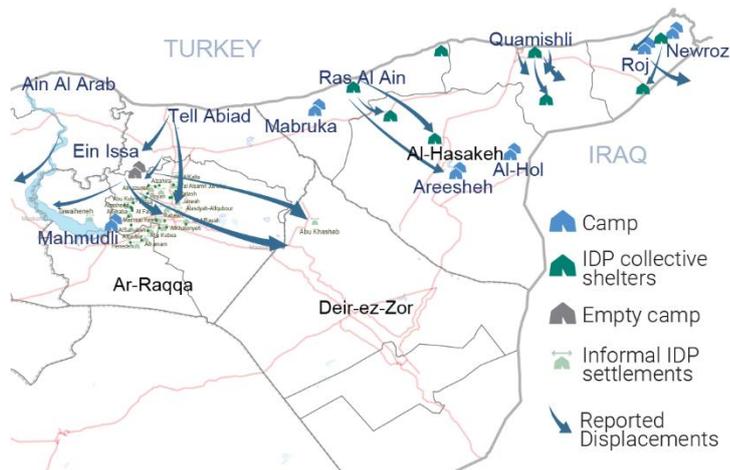
Humanitarian impact of the military operation in northeastern Syria  
19-20 October 2019



*\*This update is compiled with inputs from different sources, reflecting developments as they unfold and/or as they are reported to OCHA Syria. The situation on the ground is fluid and volatile. While striving to be as comprehensive as possible, information in this update, especially with regards to numbers of displaced people and civilian casualties, is susceptible to revisions as further information becomes available.*

### Highlights

- Despite the announcement of a 5-day pause in fighting on the evening of 18 October, hostilities continued to be reported in Ras al-Ain, amidst accusations from both sides that the terms of the truce have yet to be delivered.
- On 19 October, local responders evacuated 30 injured people and 4 bodies from Ras al-Ain to Roj Hospital in Tel Tamr and Farman Hospital in Qamishli city, Al-Hassakeh governorate; a further 15 wounded and 17 bodies were evacuated on 20 October in addition to five families, including women and children.
- Efforts are ongoing to relocate the remaining 14 families (83 individuals) currently stranded in Mabruka camp, now under control of the Turkish-affiliated forces; families have received food assistance and relocation to Areesha camp is expected to take place in the coming days.
- The mission to repair Allouk water station, that serves over 400,000 people in Al-Hasakeh city, was successful with water and electricity restored to the affected population on 19 October. The water station will continue to need to be refueled over the coming days and weeks. Water will take a few days to reach all neighbourhoods
- More than 176,400 people, including around 74,000 children, have been displaced from Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Aleppo governorates; to date, 18,500 people have returned to their places of origin – 2,500 to Qamishli city in Al-Hasakeh and 16,000 to Tel Abiad in Ar-Raqqa governorate.
- Overall, 55 collective shelters in Al-Hasakeh Governorate are accommodating 10,768 people (2,224 families) – seven collective shelters, six in Tal Tamr and one in Ras Al-Ain, are now empty. Mapping of assessment and response activities in collective shelters is ongoing and further information will be available in the coming days.
- As of 20 October, 3,122 people have crossed into Iraq through the informal points nearby Sahela and Alwaleed villages.



### Contextual developments

Four days into the 120-hour ceasefire, the situation is reportedly calm in most areas, although intermittent clashes continue to be reported in Ras Al Ain city. On 20 October, the Syrian Democratic Front (SDF) announced the withdrawal of their forces from Ras al-Ain leaving Turkish armed elements in control

On 20 October, skirmishes were reported between the SDF and the Syrian National Army in Arida village in northern Raqqa governorate. No advancement was witnessed from any side. The ceasefire is supposed to end on 22 October. It is still not clear if the military activities in NES will resume in the coming days, however, some partners are anticipating possible confrontations in eastern Ras Al Ain, around Tell Abiad and around M4.

### Humanitarian impact

Despite challenges, humanitarian partners continue to assist people in need where access is possible. The priority remains supporting those newly-displaced in collective shelters and in host communities, as well as maintaining support to IDPs in camps and informal settlements / sites. A number of partners are scaling up assistance in response, with the Food Security Sector planning on providing blanket food rations to up to 580,000 people in Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh governorates in October, while essential services such as health and water are also being provided. Winterization efforts have also begun with distributions already completed at Mahmoudli and Al Roj camps, and further distributions planned for the coming days.

## Ras al-Ain

On 21 October a Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) team will proceed to the city to determine whether any civilians remain and if there is a need for further evacuations. Seven ambulances and two buses are on standby to support as necessary.

## Mabruka

On 20 October partners confirmed that the 14 remaining families (83 individuals) in Mabrouka wished to be relocated to Areesha camp. Two commercial trucks have been on standby to transport the families. Relocation is planned for the coming days once confirmation of safe passage is obtained. Hostilities are still taking place in some areas along the road and concerns over the presence of unexploded ordinance persist.

## Allouk Water Station

On 19 October, SARC in cooperation with technical teams from the Electricity and Water Supply departments from Al-Hasakeh city completed the second phase of maintenance works for Allouk water station in Ras al-Ain district, Al-Hasakeh governorate. Allouk water station – which provides safe access to water for over 400,000 people in Al-Hasakeh including some of the major camps in the area – was out of service as a result of repeated shelling from hostilities.

Water is now flowing and has reached some neighborhoods in Al-Hasakeh city as well as Tel Tamr. Full water supply to all neighborhoods and surrounding areas is expected in the coming days. Electricity has also been restored, in areas such as Ras al-Ain. Preparations continue to return to Allouk to finalize the necessary repairs and resume water services. Meanwhile, UNICEF has procured 16,000 litres of fuel to run the backup generators of the station to securing water supply for affected communities.

## Population movements

As of 20 October, a total of 194,919 population movements have been recorded: 176,419 people have been displaced from Al Hassakeh (111,588), Ar-Raqqa (48,371) and Aleppo governorates (16,460), while 18,500 people have returned to their areas of origin in Qamishli and Ar-Raqqa.

Of the 3,122 people who have now crossed into Iraq, 2,942 people are being accommodated in Bardarash camp, Duhok. The primary needs of new arrivals include water and healthcare, ranging from psychological first aid to hygiene kits.

As of 20 October, food security partners have assisted some 217,900 people with food assistance across Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa governorates, including some 98,800 people with ready-to-eat-rations (RTEs), and 119,000 people with general good rations (GFA). Plans are to reach 580,000 people by the end of the month. WFP has GFA food rations sufficient for 473,400 people, and RTEs sufficient for 132,000 people currently either in stock or in transit to north-eastern Syria.

## Stocks and supply lines

Parts of the strategic M4 highway remain closed, requiring aid be transported through alternate routes. Stocks of food and medicine, as well as necessary pipelines for bringing aid into the area and referral pathways to move those in need to adequate care facilities, are in place to meet many of the immediate needs.

## Sector Response

*\*With information available at the time of reporting, i.e. inputs not fully capturing all planned and ongoing response, nor all needs and gaps, on the ground.*



### Needs and gaps

- Despite the announcement of a pause in the offensive, reports of shelling in Ras Al Ain and its neighbourhoods have continued. The protection situation of IDPs and the civilian population remains a critical concern and a permanent end to hostilities is needed. There are immediate concerns for the civilian population remaining in Tell Abiad, Ein Issa, Tel Tamr, Ras Al Ain and Malikiyah. It remains imperative that civilians are protected from direct attacks and the effects of hostilities, allowed to move in safety and voluntarily to safe places, with special protection afforded to children, including those formerly and or allegedly to be associated with armed forces or armed groups (CA-FAAG).
- There are reports of people returning from Qamishli town to their villages in surrounding areas. Some families displaced from Darbasiyah are reported to have started returning.

- Protection partners continue to advocate for the return of confiscated personal identification documentation and freedom of movement out of camps to locations of choice. This includes the 58 families in Mahmoudli (displaced from Ein Issa Camp) wanting to leave, and the 14 families remaining in Mabruka.
- In Raqqa, advocacy for unimpeded access for humanitarian actors and solutions is ongoing for the 27 unaccompanied children in an interim center managed by local authorities.
- Overcrowding in Areesha camp and lack of privacy continue to exacerbate protection risks and pose challenges for protection partners to implement protection activities such as case management, psychological support services and awareness sessions.

## Response

- Protection assessments, advocacy and response highlighted in Flash Update #7 are ongoing, including assistance, referrals and case management for the most vulnerable identified so far following the initial rapid assessments including women at risk, unaccompanied elderly in need of support, persons with disabilities, persons with serious medical conditions and children at risk.
- Protection partners are planning to commence more comprehensive protection assessments in the coming days, starting with the 35 collective shelters in Al-AI-Hasakeh.
- Gender-based violence, child protection and other protection partners continue provision of needed services in shelters and facilities targeting IDPs, most vulnerable groups and affected population in the host communities.



## Food Security

### Needs and gaps

- Gaps identified thus far include households hosting displaced population in need of immediate response in Menbij, Ain al-Arab, Kobani; Al-Hasakeh in urban areas in Mabada, Tal Tamr, Al-Hasakeh and Jawadiyeh, and in Tell Abiad, Ras al-Ain and Ein Issa.
- Currently, access challenges persist in Menbij, Ain al-Arab and Kobani sub-districts and Ein Issa and Ar-Raqqa city.

### Response

- One INGO continues to provide bread in 26 collective centres in Hasakeh reaching 5,477 people (1,073 HH) daily. INGOs are distributing RTEs in 11 schools in Hasakeh and Tal Tamr to more than 500 households as well as packs of biscuits, juice and water bottle in 2 collective centers at Hassakeh and Tal Tamer to 1,616 people (322 HH).
- The UN continues its response, dispatching food, including RTEs to IDPs in collective shelters, as well as monthly GFA food rations to host communities. As of 20 October the UN has assisted some 217,900 people with food assistance across Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa governorates, including some 98,800 people with RTEs, and 119,000 people with GFA food rations. Deliveries and distribution of UN food assistance continues around the clock as of the time of writing.
- The UN also continues to provide assistance to the population of the IDP camps of north-eastern where possible. Food deliveries are underway to the Twaihina and Mahmoudli IDP camps (Ar-Raqqa governorate) and distributions are set to commence as soon as the food arrives. Distributions in the Areesha IDP camp were ongoing as of the afternoon of 20 October to the entire camp population, including recent arrivals evacuated from Mabrouka IDP camp. Food distributions in the Roj IDP camp (Al-Hasakeh governorate) remain delayed due to the security situation, but will commence as soon as the situation permits.
- Some 400 families (approximately 2,000 people) have arrived at the Mahmoudli IDP camp from Ein Issa and other areas of Ar-Raqqa governorate close to the Turkish border. The new arrivals are currently being registered, and WFP is sending ready-to-eat rations (RTEs) sufficient for some 2,000 people to address their immediate food needs before enrolling them in its monthly general food assistance (GFA) programme.
- In Al-Hol camp (Al-Hasakeh governorate), the UN remains unable to resume distribution in the foreigners Annex as access remains restricted due to security concerns. The UN continues to liaise with camp management and camp administration to resume distributions as soon as possible. The UN has food rations sufficient for the entire Annex population of some 10,000 people in place at the Al-Hol camp warehouse, and stands ready to commence distributions as soon as permitted. The UN was last able to reach the Annex in early September, when they provided food sufficient for one month to the Annex population. The UN continues to advocate for a speedy resolution, including access to distribute food, given the potential food security implications for the families sheltering there.
- More than 4,100 people have fled into Iraq as of 20 October. The UN in Iraq is assisting the arrivals as they arrive to the northern Iraqi Kurdistan Region, and has assisted some 3,100 people in the Bardarash camp to date.
- A five-person surge team is set to deploy from the WFP Country Office in Damascus to the WFP Qamishli Field Office today, 21 October, to support the ongoing response.

## Capacity

- As of 20 October, the UN has GFA food rations sufficient for some 478,900 people, and RTEs sufficient for some 132,000 people currently either in stock or in transit to north-eastern Syria.
- Large parts of the strategic M4 highway remains closed, and WFP's transporters are using alternate routes.
- Five INGOs are providing food assistance to displaced people in NES, 4 INGO partners have RTEs stock with capacity of 3,500 RTEs and stock in pipeline for 9,000 RTEs to receive within 10 – 14 days. On October 20, two INGO are continuing RTEs distributions in Hasakeh and Tal Tamer. One INGO is distributing 50 RTEs in Jurneyah Sub-district and another INGO is continue distributing refreshment boxes (biscuits, juice, water and tissues). Another INGOs resume cash for food assistance in Raqqa city, Another INGOs is looking to resume soon the food voucher assistance for more than 7,000 HHs,
- Two INGOs have conducted an RNA assessment in Raqqa city to provide RTEs and food vouchers. Coordination between the FSS sector, RCC and Food partners to support displaced people in Raqqa city continue.



## Needs and gaps

- Need to establish disease surveillance (EWARS) at the collective shelters and provide training on surveillance system.
- Need to establish more Trauma Stabilization Points and referral pathways.
- Need to assess the health situation in locations where IDPs are residing.
- Limited vaccination coverage due to poor access to some locations in northeast Syria.
- Limited number of qualified health human resources (less than 10 health workers per 10,000 population).
- Limited delivery of health services due to low capacity of health facilities as most are only partially functioning.
- Funding requirement of close to US \$5.5 million.

## Response

- A specialized center for malnutrition cases with complications is functional and supported in Al-Hikmah hospital in Al-Hasakeh, receiving all referrals across northeast Syria. In addition, another three centers are in Al-Tabqa hospital, Qamishli hospital and Deir-Ez-Zor hospital (Al-Asad hospital) and receiving complicated malnutrition cases for in-patient care.
- Since 10 October, over 24,500 people have been reached with some form of health assistance:
  - A total of 3,660 patients were reached by mobile clinics in Al-Hasakeh and Tal Tamr collective shelters;
  - Over 2,130 patients received medical treatment and consultations in Abu Khashab camp, in addition to support provided to 106 mental health cases (MHPSS);
  - Over 3,287 patients received medical treatment and consultations in Ar-Raqqa city and rural areas, including Maddan, Al-Kasrat and Al-Karama;
  - An estimated 3,880 primary health care services were provided through the ongoing health facilities in Al-Hasakeh city and rural areas;
- 60,000 bottles of water (1.5L) and 1,000 jerry cans (25L) were delivered to 7 health facilities in Al-Hasakeh on 17 October, benefiting 123 health care workers and 56,370 patients in Al-Hasakeh National Hospital, Al-Loloa, the tuberculosis center, Al-Nassrah, Al-Nashwah, Al-Salhyah, and Tal Hajar.
- Mobile teams in two IDPs camps in Menbij delivered over 1,250 health services in the reporting period.
- In the camps, the following support has been provided:
  - Al Hol: over 8,521 medical services were provided, including medical consultations, medications, trauma care and secondary health care as well as over 300 MHPSS services;
  - Mahmoudli: over 1,500 IDPs benefitted from the provision of health services, including reproductive health;
  - Areesha: over 1,650 IDPs accessed and obtained health services, including pediatric, gynecological and internal health care.
  - Al Roj: no access for health actors within Syria during the reporting period.
- The assessments of Al-Hasakeh National Hospital, Al Tabqa National Hospital and Menbij National Hospital were finalised. Tal Tamr hospital and Qamishli National Hospital will be assessed over the course of the week.

## Capacity

- A total of 40 tons of medical supplies were airlifted from Damascus to Qamishli between 15 and 17 October. The items are enough to cover 102,445 treatment and 620 trauma cases and will be distributed to supported hospitals and health centers in Al-Hasakeh, rural Ar-Raqqa and rural Deir-ez-Zor.

- A shipment of female dignity kits, which is sufficient for 10,782 women in addition to 2,100 male dignity kits, and 1,000 adolescent kits and 55,000 sanitary napkins has been partially dispatched – preparations are ongoing to dispatch the remaining amount.
- There are 3,000 cartons of biscuits, 715 cartons of plumpy sup, 325 cartoons of plumpy nut, 35,000 bags of powder and 1,500 pregnant bags to cover about 40,000 children and women for one cycle.
- More than 15 national/local health sectors partners are supporting the response in the northeast.



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

### Needs and gaps

- In the initial phase of this response, partners are utilizing available resources (funds, supplies etc.) that were earmarked for other interventions. These resources will need to be replenished. Financial resources are needed for restoration / installation of water supply systems; water trucking, water quality consumables, emergency installation and maintenance of communal water tanks, fill any WASH NFI gaps, solid waste management and installation of latrines. Gaps in operational real time data, information for timely planning and response are also an issue.

### Response

- Delivery of the water (60,000 bottles of water (1.5L) and 1,000 jerry cans (25L) to 7 DOH healthcare facilities (namely Al- Hasakeh National Hospital, Al-loloa, TB center, Al- Nassrah, Al- Nashwah, Al- Salhyah, and Tal Hajar) completed. This provision will serve 123 health care workers and approximately 56,370 patients with safe drinking water for one month (30 days).
- Sector partner conducted water quality monitoring in camps and communities. In this regard: 10 shelters in Al-Hasakeh city were visited and 10 tanks were tested. Among them 2 tanks in Khasman school in Halima Al-Saadi were contaminated. The results were shared with the administration and use of water from Shammka was recommended. 10 shelters in Safiya and 2 shelters in Al-Hasakeh were visited. The total of 12 samples from water tanks in each shelter was collected and tested by ATP. No contamination was found in all the samples.
- Water trucking (total volume being delivered: 115 m3) is being undertaken to three IDPs shelters (namely Ghebesh village, Naif Al Salem collective shelters, and Sife Al Dawla), and inside Tel Tamer sub-district with 50 m3 per day (total volume being delivered: 250 m3), benefiting about 2500 people.
- Rehabilitation of sanitation facilities in IDP shelters is ongoing, so far in 6 IDP centers namely: Andalus, Muthana, Shaban Al Jabban, Ismael Toqan, Mahmoud Darweesh, Mazen Al Hussain.)
- Cleaning and disinfection of WASH facilities in 38 school, benefiting 7,051 IDPs.
- Distribution of 2,685 family hygiene kits (n Hassakeh and Tel Tamer shelters), packs of tissues, Aquatabs, garbage bins and baby diapers in 9 IPD shelters (namely Sfaya1, Sfaya 2, Barzan, Zaidiya, Naem Alleji, Andalius, Muthana, Shaban Al jabban, Said Ali) benefiting approx. 10,080 individuals in Hassakhe (2 centers in Tel Taweel, 2 centers in Sfaya, 2 centers in Twena and 3 centers in Tel Tamer).
- Distributed aqua tabs in 9 IDP shelters (same centers as above): 345 Brochures and conducted visits to 170 families. The Aqua tab is for a period of one month.
- Solid waste management: Distributed 14 garbage bins in 4 shelters benefiting 1200 IDPs.
- Chlorination: Sector partner provided 20,000 chlorine tablets (NaDCC 1.67g) for disinfection of water in the trucks delivering water to 33 shelters in Al-Hasakeh. This will benefit 6 250 IDPs (1343 HHs) for one month.
- Household water treatment: Provided aqua tabs in 9 IDP shelters (same centers as above): 245 Sachets, distribution of 345 Brochures and conducted visits to 170 families. The aqua tab is for one month.
- In Al Hol camp, three sector partners deliver, on average, approx. 1,289m3 of drinking water per day to the 68,530-resident population. In addition to this, sector partners are also undertaking latrines cleaning, garbage collection, additional to operating two ROs water units in Hol camp. Besides the suspension of desludging of sewerage from septic tanks by a NES sector partner, no other critical WASH gap is noted from the camp.
- In Areesha, sector partners provide, on average, 410m3 of drinking water per day to the resident population of the camp (which also includes the additional population of Mabrouka camp). Sector partner has also started collection and disposal of garbage in Areesha old site, along with maintenance of water tanks and desludging of filled septic tanks.
- In Mahmoudli camp, plans were finalized for the installation of 12 prefabricated latrines units for the new arrivals from Ein Issa camp. In Al Roj camp, WASH services continue being provided by a NES sector partner. WASH services, and for a camp population of 1825 individuals, are provided by a NES sector partner in Roj camp.

## Capacity

- All the Qamishli-based actors are operational on the ground. With respect to supplies, a total of 20,522 family hygiene kits (17,722 kits in Qamishli and 2,800 kits in Aleppo) have been delivered by sector partner. The procurement of an additional 52000 kits is in progress.
- A sector partner has delivered 25MT of calcium hypochlorite and 200MT for water treatment purposes to Qamishli, and another sector partner recently delivered 45MT of liquid chlorine to Raqqa.
- Three sector partners have either active Long-Term Agreements (LTAs) or Logframe Work Agreements for emergency water trucking, construction of emergency latrines and showers, installation of water tanks, operation and maintenance of WASH facilities and construction / desludging of septic pits. Specifically, and for one sector partner, the capacity and scope of the LTA can cover / scale up interventions in all three governorates very quickly to install critical facilities. In addition, partners have some capacities for emergency solid waste management and water quality monitoring.



## Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

### Needs and gaps

- As of 20 October, an estimated 176,419 people have been displaced or 35,284 families. It is estimated that 40% or 14,114 households are in need of NFIs including the populations living in camps and collective shelters.
- An estimated 20% of the displaced are in need of tents or emergency shelter kits including new arrivals to the camps.
- There is concern regarding the gap in heaters and heating fuel, particularly for the camps as some NGOs had confirmed distribution. Many NGOs have reduced activities or relocated staff. Historically, it has been difficult for Damascus-based agencies to receive approval for fuel distributions.
- While the camps and areas of Hasakeh are expected to be covered with NFIs, there are concerns regarding gaps in other areas including Raqqa, Tal Tamr and areas that are harder to reach based on the security situation.
- Overcrowding remains a serious concern in Areesha camp and continues to exacerbate protection, health and sanitation risks while posing challenges for all actors to implement activities and provide services. At the same time local authorities have indicated that they would not support possible expansion.

### Response

- Winter distributions were completed in Al Roj and Mahmoudli camps and are ongoing in Al Hol camp; in Areesha camp, distributions will start on 21 October. Distributions will cover an estimated 92,000 new arrivals and camp residents.
- NFI distributions are also ongoing in urban areas and collective shelters in Al-Hasakeh, Mabada and distributions are expected to restart in Tal Tamr after being suspended due to security operations. To date, an estimated 3,564 HH or 17,820 individuals have received assistance.
- There has been coordination between Shelter/NFI and Food Security in sharing locations of communal shelters, to help guide distributions of both RTE and NFI as well as possible installation of communal kitchens.
- Twenty-one collective centers in Al-Hasakeh, which host over 3,500 individuals, have been assessed for shelter repairs including water network repairs, basic maintenance. Contractors started in 7 locations; and partners have committed to repairing the others. Shelter Assessments for 4 collective shelters in Tal Tamr were completed.

## Capacity

- As of now in Qamishli there are an estimated NFI supply for 16,000 households with partners. There are also an estimated 5,000 kits available in Aleppo for possible response, as well as additional blankets.
- For tents, INGO and UN partners have 4,410 are prepositioned in Qamishli and 1,000 in Aleppo; an additional 4,960 are in the pipeline. Around 1,000 Emergency shelter kits are en route to Qamishli as well.
- Logistical slowdowns at the Tabqa checkpoint had delayed trucks with supplies towards Qamishli. As of 20 October, 38 trucks carrying NFI and supplies have arrived to Qamishli; nine are still waiting the Tabqa checkpoint.
- Access may be the main factor limiting shelter repairs and capacity for shelter response.



## Logistics

- On 19 and 20 October, four logistics partners dispatched a total of 1,623 m3 of relief items for transport from Qamishli.
- The WFP-led Logistics Cluster is supporting humanitarian actors with ongoing assessments and information sharing mechanisms, including coordination meetings, to address key logistics gaps and needs.

- The Logistics Cluster is currently facilitating access to storage in Qamishli. From 13 to 19 October, the Cluster facilitated the reception of 187 m3 of humanitarian cargo.
- The Logistics Cluster is facilitating access to road transport services from Qamishli warehouses to destination in support of the immediate response in the northeast.
- WFP is supporting humanitarian organisations with road transport to Ar-Raqqa on a cost recovery basis.

**For further information, please contact:**

**Andrew Hyslop**, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, [hyslop@un.org](mailto:hyslop@un.org), +1 9172447401

**Hedinn Halldorsson**, Spokesperson, OCHA Syria [hedinn.halldorsson@un.org](mailto:hedinn.halldorsson@un.org) +963 953 300 078

For more information, please visit <https://www.unocha.org/syria>