



### Overview

Between 24 March and 3 September 2019, an estimated 18,787 people departed Rukban – 17,964 residents left in 26 batches towards Homs, while an estimated 823 residents left through unofficial routes. Those belonging to the former group have been temporarily accommodated in five collective shelters in Homs (Mahmoud Othman in Al-Qusour, Baraa Ibn Malek in Deir Baalba, and Abdul Rahman Shattoor, the Teachers Institute and Art Institute in Al Bayada) before making their way to destinations of choice, including areas of origin.

The majority of those departing Rukban have arrived in Industrial Hassya (2,850) and Shamsin (2,700) in southern Homs; Qaryatein (600), Forglous (620) and Mahin (600) in southeast Homs; Shin in western Homs, as well as some neighbourhoods in Homs city. The total number of families who settled in Homs governorate is currently 14,596 persons, while others have arrived in Hama (310), Lattakia (445) and Rural Damascus (320), among other locations in north-east Syria. According to field reports, those who have departed Rukban unofficially have been received in Al Bab (75) in Aleppo;

at Thawra and Tell Abyad (460) in Ar-Raqqa; Deir-ez-Zor and Almaydin (265) in Deir-ez-Zor and Mahmoudli camp (23) in Ar-Raqqa – noting that Mahmoudli camp also received an estimated 432 residents from Rukban who travelled through the collective centres in Homs.

The UN has also received information about 230 Bedouins, originally from the Rukban area, who recently departed with their livestock and reached the last government-managed checkpoint. As per agreement with the Government of Syria, the group was allocated an area with grazing lands between Dummer and the Syrian desert.



**18,787**  
People have left Rukban



**381**  
People remaining in the Shelters



**5**  
Shelters in Homs

<sup>1</sup>To date, residents departing Rukban have been recorded in 56 communities in 9 governorates: Aleppo, Al-Hassakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Rural Damascus and Tartous.



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# SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

## RUKBAN Humanitarian Update

As of 25 September 2019

### Humanitarian Situation in Rukban

As per a recent assessment mission conducted by the UN/Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) in August, an estimated 2,887 households (around 12,700 individuals) reside in Rukban within the 55km perimeter.

Humanitarian assistance has been provided to Rukban through three inter-agency convoys – the first arriving in November 2018, the second in February 2019 and the third in September 2019. The most recent convoy delivered food assistance covering requirements for one month to almost 3,000 families, as well as nutrition supplies. Assistance was provided directly to beneficiaries. Some 283 medical consultations were also carried out – with medicines provided by SARC, including for diabetes and heart problems – and three emergency cases referred for external treatment. Joint on-site monitoring conducted by UN and SARC through random spot checking of households receiving assistance found that 100 percent of respondents acknowledged receiving the full assistance packages related to food rations, wheat flour, date bars, high energy biscuits and nutri-butter. Distribution of hygiene and dignity kits for women remaining in the camp is also planned to take place in the coming period as per priority needs identified during the August inter-agency assessment mission and following completion of UN assisted departures. Currently, UN assisted departures are scheduled to start before the end of September 2019.

In the absence of regular humanitarian deliveries, conditions inside Rukban have deteriorated considerably since February this year. According to findings from the inter-agency assessment mission in August, food insecurity has now reached critical levels with the majority of the population reporting dependence on negative coping mechanisms to meet their needs. More than a third of households surveyed reported a reliance on family/community support to make ends meet, including money lending, while 8 per cent indicated that they had resorted to child labour. With livelihood opportunities inside Rukban at a bare minimum, a significant proportion of households are heavily in debt – with many struggling to find ways to pay back their loans – and having to adopt various consumption-based negative coping strategies as a result, including limiting or reducing the number of meals they eat a day and/or selling productive assets. Since the September convoy took place, however, the average price of the food basket in Rukban has reduced from 161 percent higher than the national average to 90 percent higher than the national average, highlighting the impact of the convoy and reinforcing the need for regular assistance to be provided to populations in Rukban.

Other top priority needs identified by residents included health services, with lack of access to medical care highlighted as one of the communities' greatest challenges. Medicine is scarce with very few trained healthcare professionals inside

Rukban, and only a limited number of health points. Overcrowding and long lines are not uncommon and only emergency cases can be evacuated across the Jordanian border for urgent treatment, some 12 kilometers from the camp.

While gasoline is available in Rukban, prices are much higher (2,000 SYP per liter) than the national average (600 SYP per liter), with people having to burn unsafe materials such as plastic, blankets, rubbish, old tires and personal belongings for heating and cooking purposes. At the same time, civil documentation remains a significant gap, as does legal aid. Currently, 3,112 Syrian national IDs are reported as needed by Rukban residents as well as 2,299 birth certificates and other types of documentation such as family booklets, marriage certificates, military booklet, among others. By and large, those who remain inside Rukban do not tend to travel to nearby areas inside the 55km perimeter due to fears for their safety.

In general, no restrictions of movement were reported inside Rukban, however some residents, namely women and girls, self-censor their movements – or do so at the request of male family members – to safeguard their security. Communities overwhelmingly expressed concern about the lack of employment opportunities to support their families. Employment and income

generation are a constant struggle for residents across all locations in Rukban with both men and women estimating that nearly 90 per cent of people cannot earn a living. To survive, residents reported a reliance on remittances and some very limited opportunities in construction work, while a number of men who were surveyed indicated that some youth and adult males had joined local armed groups to earn an income.



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# SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

## RUKBAN Humanitarian Update

As of 25 September 2019

### Humanitarian Situation in the Collective Shelters

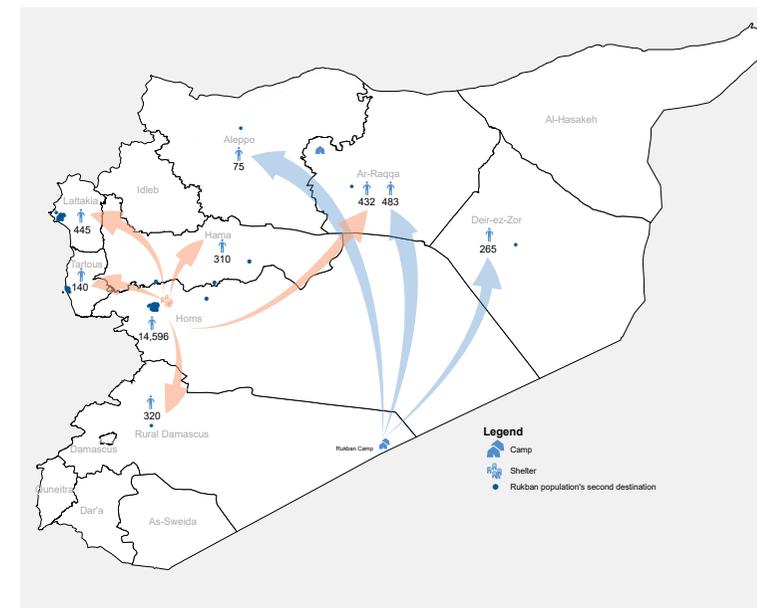
SARC with the support of UN agencies and other humanitarian actors are distributing relief assistance to people from Rukban upon arrival to the collective shelters. Assistance provided includes blankets, hygiene and dignity kits, nutrition bars and medical services. In the coming weeks, the UN plans to carry out its fourth visit to the shelters to monitor conditions as well as the distribution of assistance – all visits undertaken thus far have indicated that conditions in the shelter are adequate, despite some minor rehabilitation work being required.

At the same time, protection services, including case management and referrals have been taking place across the collective shelters with the support of the UN and INGOs through SARC. To date, families have been referred to community centres in Akrama, Aman and Sheen for further protection support, ranging from psychosocial support services, to legal and general counseling, and child protection and recreation, as well as vocational training and gender-based violence awareness.

Currently, 381 people remain in the collective shelters. Of these, 131 people have indicated that they plan to stay in the shelters as they have nowhere else to go, while 250 people are waiting to settle their security status with the authorities.

Once people have departed the shelters and returned to their area of choice, they continue to receive humanitarian assistance from SARC and the UN. Over the past few months, mobile clinics have attended to hundreds of cases, while almost 6,000 food parcels, 7,500 hygiene kits, 9,900 core relief items (plastic mats, blankets, mattresses, solar lamps and clothing kits), 100 shelter kits, 67 school kits and 11,000 cartons of Plumpy'Doz have been distributed to around 2,859 families, as of mid-September.

In addition, 4,166 people have received health care assistance through mobile clinics operated by SARC including 2,625 people who received support at the internal medicine clinic, 514 people at the gynecological clinic and 1,027 people at the pediatric clinic.



### Protection Monitoring in Areas of Second Destination

During August, two national NGOs conducted a protection-based needs assessment through focus group discussions covering 429 families (2,095 individuals) in areas of second destination in Mahin, Shin and in Al-Sakan Al-Shababi within Homs city. Overall, 872 individuals were identified with specific needs through these FGDs, with needs ranging from urgent medical cases, to persons suffering from disabilities, women headed households, as well as at risk elderly, women and children. At the same time, 299 people were identified as in need of civil documentation and 215 children were found not to be attending school. Further protection concerns identified by those in areas of second destination included: general feelings of insecurity related to a lack of street lights and broken doors/windows; public health concerns related to leishmaniasis; water quality and availability, as well as some cases of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Multiple services are being provided in response to these individuals in community centres in Homs. Thus far, protection actors have enrolled 16 children in rehabilitation courses; registered 18 children for medical services; engaged 47 individuals in child protection, psychosocial support and gender-based violence awareness sessions and provided recreational activities to 193 children.

UN team and partners will continue to remain in contact with the people who departed from Rukban to respond to their needs and concerns.

SEX & AGE BREAKDOWN OF PEOPLE REMAINING IN HOMS COLLECTIVE SHELTERS

	Males	Females	Children	Infants
<b>45</b> Abdul Rahman Shattoor Al Bayada	26	5	12	2
<b>79</b> Baraa Ibn Malek Deir Baalba	46	9	19	5
<b>89</b> Institute of Arts Al Bayada	58	9	20	2
<b>64</b> Mahmoud Othman Al- Qusour	36	9	15	4
<b>104</b> Teachers Institute Al Bayada	69	16	15	4