



المنسق المقيم للأمم المتحدة
United Nations Resident Coordinator

Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria Expresses Concerns About Ongoing Fighting in Idleb and Its Impact on Civilians

The humanitarian situation in Idleb, North Western Syria, is deteriorating. The fighting, which escalated on 24 March, between the Government of Syria (GoS) and Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) has led to numerous civilian deaths and injuries, and to the displacement of some 30,000 people. Further hostilities have been reported in the vicinity of Idleb including the villages of Foha and Kafraya, whose population of 20,000 people are reportedly surrounded by NSAGs.

The UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria, Yacoub El Hillo, said "I am gravely concerned by the ongoing fighting taking place in Idleb governorate and its possible impact on hundreds of thousands of civilians. I appeal to all parties to this conflict to adhere to their obligations to protect civilians and all humanitarian personnel under International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law."

The situation in Idleb is becoming increasingly dire, with electricity shortages and closure of schools and hospitals. Limited commercial supplies are available, but many shops have closed. Most of Idleb's population, which is estimated at 500,000 people, has remained in the city. However, should the fighting continue to intensify, the United Nations and partners are worried that large scale displacement could take place towards neighbouring governorates and across the border to Turkey.

Humanitarian actors in Syria and Turkey have jointly pre-positioned stocks such as food, medical supplies, non-food-items including blankets and other household supplies, in addition to water and sanitation support. Inside Syria, humanitarian actors including national partners are providing life-saving assistance in areas of increased hostilities and to areas that have begun to receive internally displaced people.

As the conflict in Syria enters its fifth year, the Syrian people continue to bear the brunt of this crisis. "I appeal to all parties to de-escalate hostilities and to allow humanitarian actors to deliver urgently needed life-saving help, which can offer some reprieve from the daily suffering Syrians face. While humanitarian actors continue to scale-up assistance, their efforts cannot be a substitute for a political solution to the crisis in Syria" said El Hillo.

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