The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to coordinate the global emergency response to save lives and protect people in humanitarian crises. We advocate for effective and principled humanitarian action by all, for all.

This report is produced by OCHA Syria in collaboration with humanitarian partners.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hostilities have subsided in the southern neighbourhoods of Al-Hasakeh city. As of 26 January, an estimated 5,000 people were stranded in the area of hostilities in Ghweiran and Al Zouhour neighbourhoods and up to 45,000 people remained displaced across Al-Hasakeh city and neighbouring areas.

- On 24 January, a complete lockdown was announced for Al-Hasakeh city and a partial curfew for the rest of Al-Hasakeh Governorate from 18:00hrs to 06:00hrs with no movement allowed between cities and towns.

- Humanitarian access is curtailed at displacement camps in and around Al-Hasakeh, including Al Hol camp, which hosts over 57,000 people. Only water, bread and fuel deliveries are permitted into camps and no trucks are allowed beyond the entrance by the de facto authorities. Humanitarian movement is also largely prohibited till 31 January in other parts of Al-Hasakeh governorate.

- Humanitarian partners are focusing on increasing response in all locations where access is permissible. In addition, humanitarian partners are advocating for movement of 34 trucks carrying humanitarian shipments stranded en-route from Ar Raqqa to the UN logistics warehouses in Qamishli.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 24 January, Al-Hasakeh city was placed under a complete lockdown and movement between cities and towns in the governorate was banned by the de facto authorities. A partial curfew was imposed in other areas of the governorate from 18:00hrs to 06:00hrs. On the same day, local authorities ordered residents in the southern neighbourhoods of Housh Al Baer and Al Sakan al shababi areas to relocate to safer areas. There is a complete ban on movement in Al-Hasakeh city, including a one-week suspension on humanitarian assistance in Al-Hasakeh city until 31 January.

The lockdown has affected humanitarian response in IDP camps, including Al Hol camp, with over 57,000 people. Additionally, Areeasha, Al Roj, Mahmoudli, Newroz, Al Tal’aa and Tweineh camps are also affected by the new measures. All humanitarian activities inside the camps have been suspended with only critical supplies such as bread, potable water and fuel allowed inside the camp. Trucks carrying assistance have been stopped at the entrance and are driven into the camp by camp administration officials. Approximately 47 people from Ain Issa villages, which are also in the frontline of hostilities, were reportedly not allowed to enter the camp due to overcrowding, and camp authorities wanting to discourage new arrivals.

As of 25 January, intense hostilities continued to be reported in the vicinity of Al-Sina’a Prison, including airstrikes and heavy gun fire. An estimated 1,000 families (5,000 people) living in the worst-affected
neighbourhoods of Ghweiran and Al Zouhour were facing rapidly diminishing food and water supplies without access to basic services. These families have appealed to humanitarian partners and authorities to help evacuate them to safer areas. The lockdown in Al-Hasakeh has also affected commercial and public transport, with shortages in essential food and household items reported in local markets.

Approximately 9,000 families (45,000 people) continue to be displaced in Al-Hasakeh city and neighbouring areas with about 3,000 families taking refuge in the GoS-controlled area in Al-Hasakeh city centre and about 6,000 families displaced to other neighbourhoods. Humanitarian partners have confirmed at least seven temporary collective shelters are hosting 523 families (2,615 people); four are in the GoS-controlled neighbourhoods of Al Mal'ab Al Baladi (Al Bal restaurant), Aradi Habbo (Walid Nawfal School), Wasta/Al Suq (Bab Al Harah center and Al Himah Center) and three in neighbourhoods controlled by local authorities of Tal Hajar (Musab Ibn Umair mosque), Salhiyeh (Al-Mustaf mosque) and Al Tala’e’ (Al Dakhil mosque). Partners are reporting a high proportion of women and children at the collective centres as well as vulnerable groups, including unaccompanied children, people with disabilities and the elderly who require urgent and specialized assistance, including diapers and baby formula. Displaced people have resorted to food and water as priority needs as well as segregated and safe WASH facilities at collective shelters.

Humanitarian partners are advocating for the movement of 34 trucks carrying humanitarian shipments stranded en-route from Ar Raqqa city as they had been denied entry through Al-Hasakeh city. The trucks are destined to the UN logistics warehouses in Qamishli via the Tabqa crossing in Ar Raqqa, the supplies are expected strengthen the response.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Humanitarian actors are discussing with local authorities to access the needs of displaced and affected families and ensure safe exit for residents from Ghweiran and Al Zouhour. Additionally, humanitarian partners are advocating for humanitarian assistance to be exempted from the lockdown, including releasing the 34 trucks stranded at the junction in Al Tabqa, and ensuring access to IDP camps.

Humanitarian partners are providing assistance in seven collective centers in Al-Hasakeh city, which are hosting approximately 523 families (2,615 people). As of 26 January, partners have distributed essential non-food items (NFIs), including winter NFIs to 369 households (about 2,000 people) such as mattresses, blankets, winter clothes, jerry cans and solar lamps. Collective centers have been sterilized and rehabilitated, with electricity networks repaired, water tanks, doors and windows installed, and solid waste management solutions implemented. Food and potable water were also distributed at the centers. Two mobile health and nutrition teams are providing outpatient consultations and nutrition services for children under 5 years old and primary health care consultations for children under 15 years old in four collective shelters. Health partners are supporting Al-Hikmah Hospital to prioritize civilians injured in hostilities, with seven cases admitted so far, two of whom required surgery. Three mobile clinics have been mobilized by local partners to provide health services to IDPs in different locations of Al-Hasakeh city. Additionally, over 13 tons of medical supplies, including life-saving medications and trauma kits, have been pre-positioned to be delivered to Al-Hasakeh, pending necessary official approvals. Mobile teams are also providing reproductive health and psycho-social services as well as transport to safe areas including collective shelters. Some 1,796 women and girls in collective centers received lifesaving reproductive health/ gender-based violence assistance, child protection services such as awareness on family separation, GBV awareness, psycho-social sessions, and monitoring for unaccompanied children. Over 1,000 women and girls also received winterized dignity kits and sanitary supplies. Two static health facilities in Al-Hasakeh city are providing health care, pediatric care and internal medicine to IDPs and host communities. Food security partners are mobilizing current food ration stocks from their warehouses towards meeting the needs for the 9,000 IDP families. Seven national NGOs in Al-Hasakeh city are also providing hot meals, drinking water, hygiene kits and NFIs to IDPs.

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