



©UNICEF/2019. On 21 October 2019, children open the baby and family hygiene kit provided by UNICEF inside their tent at the Barderash camp, Iraq.

## NORTH EAST SYRIA RESPONSE

### SITUATION REPORT

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Situation report # 11- 30 October 2019

## Highlights

- Turkish-allied forces expanded their control over several villages, in two main areas: north-west of Ayn Issa, along the M4 highway, and south-east of Ras al Ayn, along the Manajir-Asadiyah-Umm Ashba front.
- According to UN OCHA as of 29 October, a total of 202,429 population movements have been recorded across Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Aleppo governorates since military operations began on 9 October:
  - 105,574 people remain displaced from Al-Hasakeh (73,210), Ar-Raqqa (25,588) and Aleppo governorates (6,776).
  - 96,855 people have returned to their areas of origin in Al-Hasakeh (47,750), Ar-Raqqa governorates (39,000) and Aleppo governorates (10,105).

## Humanitarian Situation

- The 150-hour deadline, negotiated as part of an agreement signed between Turkey and Russia, for the YPG is to withdraw from a 32km deep buffer zone along the Turkey-Syria border, ended at 18.00hrs on 29 October. Minutes before the end of the deadline, Russia reported the YPG had withdrawn from the buffer zone.
- There are sporadic localized areas of conflict in the North East and it is expected that this will continue as the military forces from all sides adjust to the new boundaries and areas of operation.
- On 24 October, the Kurdish Self Administration reopened the Newroz camp close to the Iraq border: currently, 25 IDP families are staying in the camp having arrived from collective shelters in Mabada on 27 October.
- Of the 105,574 currently displaced people in the NES, 15,443 (3,378 families) are being accommodated in 75 active collective shelters in Al-Hasakeh (74) and Ar-Raqqa (1) governorates.
- Twenty-six collective shelters previously hosting displaced populations in Al-Hasakeh Governorate are now empty.
- As reported by UN OCHA, 40 per cent of the 96,855 people who have returned have gone to areas now under Turkish military control, in Ar-Raqqa Governorate (Tell Abiad, Ein Issa and Suluk sub-districts). The map below shows the return routes.



**105,574**

People currently displaced

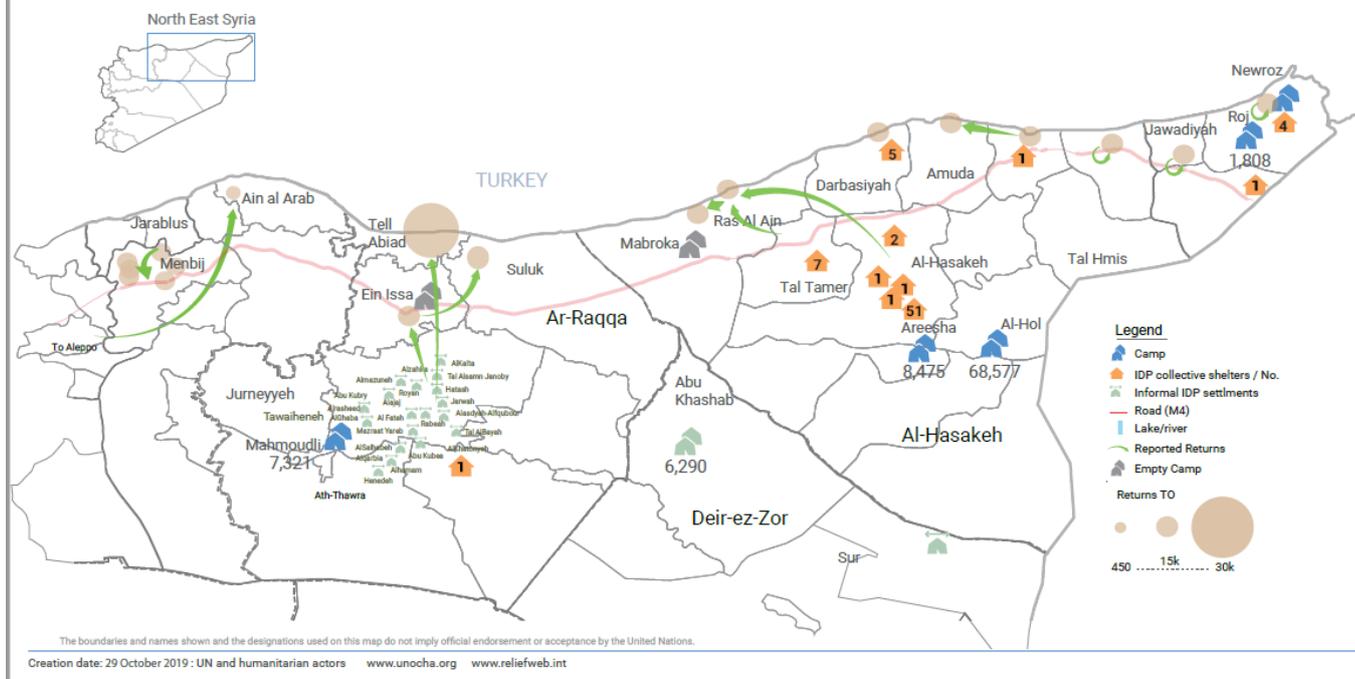
**96,855**

People reported to have returned

### OVERVIEW

An estimated **96,855** people who were displaced after 9 October are reported to have returned to their places of origin. Of these, **86,750** have returned to Al Hassakeh and Ar-Raqqa: 17,500 to Qamishli, 8,200 to Al-Malikeyyeh, 22,050 to Ras Al Ain and 39,000 to Tal Abyad in Ar-Raqqa.

In Aleppo **10,105** have returned mainly to Menbij



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Creation date: 29 October 2019: UN and humanitarian actors [www.unocha.org](http://www.unocha.org) [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)

- In Iraq, As of 30 October 2019, 12,511 Syrian refugees (including approximately 6,000 children) fleeing the most recent Turkish operation in Northern Syria entered Dohuk, in north-western Iraq. There has been a decrease in the number of new arrivals in recent days, as refugees report a change in thinking among friends and relatives on whether they should cross into Iraq or stay in their homes, as the situation in Syria has become calmer. Security patrols on the Syrian border side continue to be tight, and new Syrian refugees entering Iraq continue to pay smugglers to get through the border. The majority of refugees entering the country continue to be women, children, adolescents and young males. Among the refugees who have arrived since 14 October, 568 people have been given approval by security in northern Iraq to join their family members in other areas of KR-I.
- As Bardarash camp in Dohuk is now full, newly arriving refugees are being hosted in Gawilan camp, which has the capacity to accommodate an additional 1,357 families. To date, 959 new refugees have arrived in Gawilan camp where services and infrastructure are being expanded to cover the new population.
- Recent assessments show that around 9% of the new refugees include people with special needs. Within Bardarash camp, vulnerable individuals (including those with special needs, unaccompanied children and elderly) have been moved to shelters close to services (health care, distribution center and protection services) in order to mitigate risks that these vulnerable groups may be exposed to in the camp.
- Within Bardarash camp, active surveillance of diarrheal diseases, polio, measles, leishmaniasis and other communicable diseases is ongoing with no epidemic prone diseases reported to date. The local health clinic has been receiving on average 80 consultations per day, with the majority of reported cases being acute respiratory infection, especially among children in the camp. The health clinic has essential supplies and medicine available to treat common childhood illnesses.
- A new transition centre has been established in Darashakran camp in Erbil which will be used for new Syrian refugees entering Erbil governorate. In addition, a site for the establishment of a new refugee camp in Erbil governorate will be identified soon and will have the capacity to accommodate up to 3,000 families.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### WASH

- UNICEF and partners to date have distributed 12,158 family hygiene kits in Hasakeh, Tal Tamer and Raqqa benefiting 60,015 IDPs in shelters and their surrounding host communities. UNICEF is also providing emergency water supply, through water tucking and installation of water tanks, to almost 13,000 people in Hasakeh city and 14,000 people in Tal Tamer.
- UNICEF also continues to provide cleaning services of WASH facilities in 53 IDP shelters in Hasakeh benefiting 12,200 IDPs. As part of the ongoing sanitation response 28 toilets/showers, 110 solid waste containers and 87 water tanks for hand washing are being installed.
- Free access to the Allouk pumping station (which serves 450,000 people) is hindered by the security situation on ground, compromising the continued and full functionality. As such, UNICEF and partners are taking contingency measures should the Allouk pumping station become non-operational, including enhancing the alternative water source locations of Nafasha and Tal Brak/Tal Azan, improving the water treatment at Al Himme station and activating water trucking arrangements.
- Iraq - Currently the population living in Bardarash camp have access to 50 liters of clean water per person per day, in next days, UNICEF and WASH partners are working to ensure the 25% of the population who currently share and latrine and shower with neighbours, are reached with their own sanitation facilities.
- In Gawilan camp, UNICEF, in partnership BRHA, is in the process of installing 150 emergency latrines and showers. While in Erbil, UNICEF's team is working with EJCC to prepare a reception centre for new refugees at Darashakran camp. Within the reception centre, UNICEF is currently installing 12 toilets and 12 showers. In addition, UNICEF's team is developing Bills Of Quantity with EJCC for the establishment of a full WASH infrastructure (which includes water supply provision plan, toilets, showers, cesspits/septic tanks and communal tap stands) in the new Erbil refugee camp which will have the capacity to host 3,000 families.
- Over the past two weeks, UNICEF has provided hygiene items (soap and hygiene kits) to the Sahela border points and distributed 4,000 family and 200 baby hygiene kits as well as 170 garbage bins to Bardarash camp.

### Health and Nutrition

- UNICEF through the Directorate of Health (DoH) launched the Sub National Immunisation Days (SNIDs) on 27<sup>th</sup> October in rural Ain Alarab and Manbij. During the first two days, the following children under 5 were reached:
  - Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV): 2,459 children
  - Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV): 1,268 children
  - Measles, Rubella (MR): 229 children
  - Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) 1,153 children.
  - Vitamin A supplementation 1,382 children
  - A total of 3,879 door-to-door visits were conducted for community mobilization and awareness raising sessions in the same locations. Community leaders and influencers were involved in the community mobilization; the SNIDs will continue until 2 November
- Iraq - The Directorate of Health (DoH) in Dohuk, through UNICEF support, is providing Vitamin A supplementation, as well as polio and measles vaccinations for children at Sahela border points as well as in Bardarash camps. Between 14 and 29 October, 5,169 children 9 months to 15 years were vaccinated against measles. All vaccinated children are provided with a vaccination card to document their vaccination status. In addition, DoH Duhok will establish a fixed EPI unit inside the camp to vaccinate all eligible under 5 years old children with routine immunizations as per the national Iraqi EPI schedule starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2019.
- Nutrition assessment teams from Bardarash district are undertaking rapid nutritional assessments in Bardarash camp, and to date, a total of 1,474 children aged 6-59 months were screened with 2 cases of severe acute malnutrition and 19 cases of moderate acute malnutrition identified and referred to the Bardarash Primary Health Care Center for management. This data shows a low malnutrition rate among new refugee arrivals.
- Through UNICEF support, the health promotion department from DOH-Duhok will launch a comprehensive health and nutrition awareness campaign in Bardarash camp by trained health promoters between the months of November and December 2019. The awareness campaign will focus on a number of issues, including

raising public awareness about general hygienic practices (particularly hand washing), proper IYCF practices and promotion of breastfeeding, among others.

## Child Protection

- UNICEF and partners continue with provision of psychosocial support, specialized child protection services and awareness raising on the risks of mines and explosive ordinances and other child protection issues targeting IDPs in 37 collective shelters. To date 1,818 HHs and 4,601 children received CP services including those in the surrounding host communities of Al Hasakeh, and Al Raqqa Governorates. Psychological distress among the displaced children and women is being observed on a large scale.
- CP services delivery continues to be provided through fixed child friendly spaces (CFS) in Al Hol camp in phases 1,3 and 5 and by mobile teams in phases 4 and 7.
- Lack of specialized mental health and counselling services and referral is a major gap in Al Hol and the NES region.

## Education

- According to assessments by UNICEF and partners, most children in Ras Al-Ain and Abu Rasin are not attending school, and only a small percentage of children are attending school in Qamishli and Tal Tamer. Reports received indicate that, out of 150 schools in the District, some schools are non-functional. UNICEF estimates that about 108,143 children in Al Hasakeh Governorate were attending KSA managed school prior to the crisis while only 77,282 are currently enrolled, indicating that 29% more children are now out-of-school. Furthermore, 2,708 teachers teaching in the affected schools in Al Hasakeh were also displaced.
- In Tell Abiad, Ar Raqqa Governorate, 426 schools under KSA control are still not functional, resulting in disruption of learning activities for 51,200 children. Most of the affected students from these schools are living in the host community and unable to attend schools.
- UNICEF child protection partners, in coordination with education teams, are providing recreational activities for children in collective shelters in Hasakeh City targeting the children who are unable to attend school. Physical activities, games and sports are used to engage these children under the supervision of CP facilitators in 50 collective shelters reaching approximately 3,000 children.
- UNICEF and partners have installed six tents for temporary learning centres for the education response in Mahmoudli Camp; to date, 497 children (283 boys and 240 girls) are attending the UNICEF supported self-learning program there.
- Tent-to-tent visits are ongoing to mobilize the children and parents in Areesha and Mahmoudli Camps to re-enrol in the temporary learning spaces recently provided by UNICEF and partners. However, the teams are facing challenges to motivate both the parents and students due to psychosocial distress from multiple displacement. UNICEF and partners are advising the parents to send their children to school where psychosocial support sessions can be conducted for them.
- Iraq - in Gawilan camp, new Syrian refugee students are being registered in the existing formal school if they have official certification from Syria to show the last grade that they have passed. If students do not have official certification from their previous schools, the Directorate of Education will begin education assessments to determine the appropriate grade for children.
- Iraq - In Badarash camp, UNICEF provided 2 tents to Save the Children and NRC who will use these to establish temporary learning spaces where non-formal education will take place until the formal schools (through the Directorate of Education) become operational in the camp.

## NFI / Children winter clothing packages

- UNICEF and partners have responded to the needs of 7,316 children U15 in 59 collective shelters and in host communities in Al Hasakeh and Tal Tamer with winter clothing packages. To support the ongoing response and meet the needs, an additional 4,413 kits have been delivered to partners in Al Hasakeh city.
- Iraq - UNICEF plans to reach all new refugee children aged between 0 and 14 years with winter clothing kits as the temperatures in KR-I are beginning to drop with the onset of winter. UNICEF's winter kit distribution will begin next week in Baradash and Gawilan camps covering approximately 5000 children.

## PSEA and AAP

- Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Sexual abuse (PSEA) activities are being mainstreamed in UNICEF response efforts across all sectors by including the following activities - awareness raising sessions with partners on PSEA obligations and supporting referrals for survivors of SEA through GBV and CP referral mechanisms. A one pager hand-out with key messages and points to remember on PSEA has been circulated to all UNICEF staff to guide them while responding to the current situation in NES more so during field monitoring missions in the camps, host communities and collective shelters.
- As part of improving UNICEF and partners Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), seven facilitators received orientation on the importance of the AAP and a guide on how to conduct FGDs. Ten consultative sessions were conducted with groups of affected populations in 10 collective shelters in Hasakeh city to gather information and collect feedback on the health and WASH responses being delivered by UNICEF and partners. In total 104 people (74 Females, 30 Males) from different age groups were engaged in this process. The consolidated feedback will inform the on-going response by UNICEF and Partners.

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