Highlights

- Hostilities continued over the last 48 hours, with no report of additional displacement on 2 December. An estimated 31,500 people from east Aleppo remain displaced within the entire city of Aleppo in the last 4 days.

- IDPs interviewed by the UN describe a catastrophic humanitarian situation in the remaining neighborhoods, with increased food scarcity translating into further price increases. At least 400 critically wounded or sick people require immediate evacuation from besieged areas of Eastern Aleppo.

- Unconfirmed reports have emerged of members of non-state armed groups (NSAGs) actively preventing residents of east Aleppo to leave for west Aleppo, together with continued reports of detention of some IDPs crossing into GoS held areas.

- Humanitarian actors are delivering a comprehensive response to the needs of the newly displaced in all areas they can access, and stand ready to assist civilians in besieged east Aleppo whenever access will be granted. The United Nations will provide humanitarian assistance to the Kurdish-controlled Sheikh Maqsoud provided it receives authorization to do so in the face of complex security and bureaucratic procedures.

- Those displaced to Western Aleppo are either accommodated in shelter facilities in the industrial park of Jibreen, or in an ad hoc shelter facility in a former cotton fabric, also in Jibreen. However, poor conditions in the cotton factory render the facility inhabitable, and as of 2 December, 7,000 out of an original 10,000 people have left the facility to stay with relatives and acquaintances elsewhere in west Aleppo.

- Some 100 – 120 families have left Jibreen for accommodation in the Hanano housing area, a neighborhood in east Aleppo that has recently come under GoS control. Unexploded ordnances might pose a threat to civilians returning to East Aleppo.

- With the onset of winter, insufficient and inadequate shelter space is currently the biggest concern for humanitarian actors. In addition, the need for more food distribution, particularly hot meals, and ready to eat meals, addressing health concerns, especially among children, and increased protection requirements have been noted.

- On 2 December, the United Nations conducted two inter-agency missions to assess the humanitarian situation in the cotton factory shelter in Jibreen and Hanano in east Aleppo.
Situation Overview

Hostilities in the northern neighborhoods of east Aleppo (i.e. Masaken Hanano, Al-Entharat, Jabal Al-Badro, Al-Sheikh Najjar, Bustan Al-Basha, Al-Sakhour, Haydariyeh, Sheikh Khader, Sheikh Fares, Al-Baseil, Al-Hellok) between 24 November and 2 December have effectively returned this area to Government control and prompted the displacement of an estimated 31,500 people to multiple locations:

- Some 18,000 individuals were displaced to Jibreen in the eastern part of Aleppo, under GoS control.
- Some 8,500 individuals were displaced to Sheikh Maqsoud, inhabited and controlled by a Kurdish population majority.
- Some 5,000 individuals were displaced within besieged east Aleppo.

Out of the up to 18,000 people who fled from besieged eastern Aleppo to areas under the control of the Government including Jibreen, some 8,000 people are accommodated in the Jibreen collective centre, and another 10,000 were initially in the neighboring cotton factory. However, the cotton factory is inadequate to serve as a shelter, as holes in the ceiling and walls let the cold and much rainfall into the facility, and the large halls without partitions do not provide the IDPs any privacy. Consequently, since 1 December, over 7,000 people have left the cotton factory and now shelter with family members and acquaintances elsewhere in west Aleppo and were accommodated in the Hanano neighborhood. Reportedly, approval from GoS security forces is required for those wishing to leave the shelter. Informal reports have emerged of non-State armed groups (NSAGs) preventing people from leaving east Aleppo, and shooting at some of them when they attempted to go, in addition to reported sniping activities when they crossed the line of fire.

In the interim, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and local partners comprehensively supported by the UN are providing NFIs, nutrition supplies, such as Plumpy Doz, and hot meals through a collective kitchen that is run by a local WFP partner to all those displaced in collective shelters. Furthermore, mobile clinics and medical teams have been dispatched to respond to the medical needs of the new arrivals. For example, all people in Jibreen and the cotton factory are receiving hot meals. In addition, WASH articles for 40,000 displaced families are being distributed (27,700 family hygiene kits, 10,000 soap bars, 7,000 cartons of sanitary napkins for women, 15,000 bags washing powder, 20,000 carton of diapers), 11,678 winter clothing kits have been distributed to date and preventive nutritional treatment was provided to 1,771 children under 5.
In Sheikh Maqsoud, at least 8,500 IDPs have been registered with the local SARC branch and were accommodated in four different collective shelters. SARC also distributed assistance to all newly displaced individuals, including food rations and NFIs. A more robust response is needed through the provision of hot meals and protection services.

Little to no assistance could be extended to the 5,000 IDPs who were displaced within east Aleppo where the ability of humanitarian actors to respond is severely limited by lack of access with resources inside east Aleppo nearly depleted following almost five months without humanitarian deliveries. Medical facilities have mostly shut down with only a few operating at absolute minimum capacity. Following the GoS takeover of Al-Sakhour neighborhood, only one hospital with very limited trauma treatment capacity remains available. Sources inside east Aleppo indicate that with fuel for ambulances running low, some wounded individuals are rushed to the medical facilities on vegetable carriages. WHO’s partners have identified 400 cases in east Aleppo requiring urgent medical evacuations. Additionally, the complete lack of forensic bags in east Aleppo prevents a dignified and hygienic burial in east Aleppo. Fuel availability and prices (SYP 2,500/ USD 4.80) remain way beyond the means of residents in east Aleppo, making them even more vulnerable and exposed to the cold winter weather. Also, electricity has been cut in east Aleppo for the past few days.

IDPs interviewed by the UN described a catastrophic humanitarian situation in the remaining neighborhoods under siege, with increased food scarcity translating into further price increases. (e.g. 1kg of sugar cost SYP10,000/USD 19.2, 22 times higher than the average price in the western part of the city; 1 kg of rice cost SYP 3,000/USD 5.7, 6 times higher than the average price in the western part of the city)

This electricity cut also means that water supply from Bab al-Nayrab pumping station has been cut, depriving a total of 25,000 people from access to potable drinking water. However, through UNICEF-provided fuel Suleiman al-Halabi water pumping station is currently pumping water to twelve neighborhoods in Aleppo city, benefitting an estimated 1.2 million people.

The security situation remains largely unchanged, with reports of heavy clashes in the Sheikh Saeed and Tareeq Al-Bab districts. Shelling on the NSAG-held neighborhoods continued throughout the past 24 hours and sources in east Aleppo reported the death of four children after multiple artillery shells struck Al-Ma’adi neighborhood. On 2 December, reports indicate that shelling killed 11 people and injured 68 people in West Aleppo.

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