

## OCHA Syria | Flash Update #9

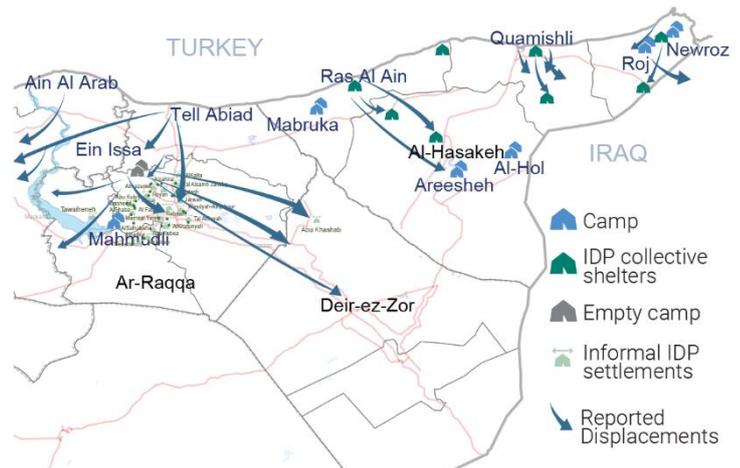
Humanitarian impact of the military operation in northeastern Syria  
21-24 October 2019



*\*This update is compiled with inputs from different sources, reflecting developments as they unfold and/or as they are reported to OCHA Syria. The situation on the ground is fluid and volatile. While striving to be as comprehensive as possible, information in this update, especially with regards to numbers of displaced people and civilian casualties, is susceptible to revisions as further information becomes available.*

### Highlights

- The five-day ceasefire ended on the evening of 22 October. That same evening, the Russian and Turkish presidents announced an agreement on security parameters in the northeast, including proposed security arrangements along the border.
- While the agreement puts an end to large-scale military operations, localized incidents continue to occur, particularly in Ras Al Ain and Tal Tamer with an increase in improvised explosive device attacks observed in Quamishli, Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh governorates over the past few days. These incidents injured many civilians, including children.
- On 24 October the 14 remaining families (84 individuals) in Mabruka camp were evacuated to Areeshah camp after an unsuccessful attempt on 23 October due to interference from armed groups. Those evacuated included a critically ill woman and two other people requiring medevac.
- 139,265 people, including around 58,485 children and 35,500 women of reproductive age, remain displaced from Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Aleppo governorates; to date, 61,200 people have returned to their places of origin. Almost half of those returning have returned to areas now under the control of Turkish Armed Forces in Tell Abiad, Ein Issa, and Suluk sub-districts in Ar-Raqqa governorate.
- More than 10,100 refugees have crossed into Iraq through informal crossing points; the vast majority are being hosted in Baradash camp.
- On 27 October, the Syrian Humanitarian Fund (SHF) will launch a reserve allocation of US \$15 million to support partners responding to the crisis.



### Contextual developments

The past week has witnessed rapid political and military developments in northeast Syria, the humanitarian impact and implications of which are being assessed. Following the start of Operation Peace Spring on 9 October, the US and Turkey reached, on 17 October, an agreement for a 120-hour ceasefire calling for Kurdish armed forces to move away from the Syria-Turkey border.

The 120-hour ceasefire put a stop to large-scale military operations although localized clashes continued to be reported, particularly in Ras Al Ain and close to Tal Tamer. As the 120-hour period ended, the Russian and Turkish presidents announced on 22 October the parameters of a new agreement, which sees the preservation of the status quo in current Operation Peace Spring areas as well as the deployment of security mechanisms including joint Russian/Turkish patrols and monitoring. Meanwhile, Government of Syria forces continued their deployment in various areas including Tabqa, Menbij, Ain Al Arab, and Tal Tamer towns in light of the recent understandings between Syrian Democratic Forces and the Syrian Arab Army (SAA), as well as areas along the M4 road west of Tal Tamer, northwest rural Al-Hasakeh and the town of Ein Issa and north rural Ar-Raqqa.

The decrease in hostilities facilitated the return of a significant number of displaced people to their areas of origin. An increase in asymmetric attacks was also observed in Ras Al Ain and Tal Tamer causing civilian casualties.

Humanitarian actors are currently finalizing planning assumptions outlining the potential implications of all these changes and agreements on the protection of civilians; displacement dynamics and humanitarian access.

## Humanitarian impact

Despite challenges, humanitarian partners continue to assist people in need where access is possible. The priority remains supporting those newly displaced in collective shelters and in host communities and maintaining support to displaced people in camps and informal settlements/sites. Partners are scaling up assistance in response, with the Food Security Sector planning to providing blanket food rations for up to 580,000 people in Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa governorates in October. Essential services such as health and water are being provided. Winterization efforts have begun with distributions completed at Mahmudli and Al Roj camps.

### Population movements

As of 23 October, a total of 200,465 population movements were recorded: 139,265 people remain displaced from Al-Hasakeh (86,921), Ar-Raqqa (35,463) and Aleppo governorates (16,881), while 61,200 people returned to their areas of origin in Al-Hasakeh (32,200) and Ar-Raqqa (29,000) governorates.

Of those displaced, 124,445 are residing in host communities in Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor governorates; the remaining 14,280 (2,630 families) are being accommodated in 69 active collective shelters in Al-Hasakeh (68) and Ar-Raqqa (1) governorates. Seventeen collective shelters previously hosting displaced populations (15 in Al-Hasakeh and 2 in Quamishli districts) are now empty. Almost all active collective shelters are schools, depriving thousands of children of learning opportunities.

Given the scale of displacement into Al-Hasakeh governorate over the past two weeks, local authorities reported on 22 October that the city has no further capacity to absorb additional displaced people and requested support to establish a new camp in Tweina, 15 km to the east of Hasakeh. Partners advocated for alternative hosting arrangements given protection concerns related to the establishment of a new site. On 24 October, it was confirmed that Newroz camp, close to the Iraq border, had been reopened to accommodate IDPs reportedly being hosted in Hasakeh and Malikeyyeh sub-district. At the time of writing, no reports have been received of any displaced people moving, and protection partners continue to advocate for any movement to be informed and voluntary in line with humanitarian principles. In Ar-Raqqa governorate, Raqqa and Tabqa city councils indicated that 5,000 individuals living in informal settlements in Ar-Raqqa would be brought to Mahmudli camp to receive assistance. Partners are exploring how to assist this group in their current location.

### Mabruka

On 24 October, the 14 remaining families (83 individuals) in Mabruka camp, Al-Hasakeh governorate were relocated to Areesheh camp by SARC and protection partners. A critically ill woman was transferred by ambulance to a health facility in Al-Hasakeh together with two other patients requiring urgent health assistance. All households relocated with their personal belongings, including tents. Upon their departure from Mabruka, heavy clashes were reported to the northwest on the M4 highway. A de-escalation team was called to support the team to pass the area and the group arrived in Areesheh camp.

### Al Hol

In Al Hol camp, an interim solution has been identified to support third country nationals in the annex with food assistance until construction of the annex is completed. The distribution mechanism should see 100 to 300 households in the Annex receiving food assistance each day until the end of the month. The last monthly food distribution to residents of the annex took place in the first week of September.

### Alouk Water Station

On 22 October, SARC conducted a mission to Alouk to rotate the maintenance team deployed to monitor the station. Access for the repair team was facilitated with parties to the conflict to ensure their safety. The rotated team remained at the station until 24 October. Further rotation may be needed to maintain functionality of the water system.

### Stocks and supply lines

Parts of the strategic M4 highway remain closed. As a result, aid transportation is being done through alternate routes, however these do not allow for the same volume of supplies to be transported given the condition of the roads. The M4 highway therefore remains a key strategic route for the transportation of humanitarian commodities. Prior to recent events, an estimated average of 235 trucks each month used this highway to resupply Northeast Syria. Urgent arrangements for safe passage along the M4 are needed.

Stocks of food and medicine are in place to meet many of the immediate needs, along with the necessary pipelines to move aid and referral pathways to move people who need care facilitation.

## Sector Response

*\*With information available at the time of reporting, i.e. inputs not fully capturing all planned and ongoing response, nor all needs and gaps, on the ground.*



### Needs and gaps

- Increased displacement was reported from Darbasiyah and surrounding villages, as well as Ras Al Ain toward Hasakeh as a result of ongoing clashes. Due to the security situation on the ground, protection partners have been unable to assess and respond in Ras Al Ain, Ein Issa and Tell Abiad. Consequently, partners formerly present in these locations have diverted programs and resources to respond to the protection needs of newly displaced populations in Tal Tamer, Al-Hasakeh, Areesheh camp, Mahmudli camp and Raqqa areas.
- In the collective shelters, there is a concern regarding the spread of diseases due to overcrowding and limited WASH facilities; there are continued GBV risks due to the lack of electricity in some shelters and common WASH facilities for both males and females, making women and girls more vulnerable to sexual violence and other varied forms of GBV.
- In Raqqa, advocacy for unimpeded access for humanitarian actors and solutions is ongoing for the 27 unaccompanied children in an interim center managed by local authorities.
- Overcrowding in Areesheh remains a serious protection concern and continues to exacerbate protection, health and sanitation risks while posing challenges for all actors to implement activities and provide services. At the same time local authorities have indicated that they will not be able to support possible expansion. Former residents of Ein Issa continued to arrive during the reporting period including 5 new families.
- It remains imperative that civilians are protected from direct attacks and the effects of hostilities, allowed to move in safety and voluntarily to safe places, with special protection afforded to children, including those formerly and or allegedly to be associated with armed forces or armed groups (CAFAAG).

### Response

- Protection partners are providing a four-pronged response across **community centers, collective shelters, in host communities** and in **camps**, as per the following:
  - Support to static and mobile **community centres** in Malkieh, Tal Hamis and Quamishli, including awareness raising and psychosocial support; child protection; GBV support and case management, informal education, assistance for persons with specific needs, legal assistance; specialized services for children and women/girls. Protection partners are responding at community centers.
  - 660 families in 15 **collective shelters** in Hasakeh, 18 families in 2 shelters in Tel Hamis, and 139 families in 5 shelters in Mabada, 17 families in 1 shelter in Raqqa have been reached with different protection, child protection and SGBV activities. In Mabada, protection partners are conducting recreational activities for children in the Almohditha collective shelter; psychosocial support (PSS) and SGBV awareness sessions and case management are also taking place in Altahrir collective shelter; and two community led initiatives in Shahid Ayoub and Al Mohditha collective shelters where community kitchens were provided. A protection partner is carrying out PSS group counselling in the Mathloutha collective shelter in Tel Hamis. Child protection activities are ongoing in Mabada, Hasakeh including structured and sustained PSS so far reaching 2,930 children and 655 adults in 17 shelters in addition to 240 children and 242 caregivers in one center in Rural Ar-Raqqa.
  - Legal awareness and legal counselling interventions in Hasakeh collective shelters has commenced. So far, 177 individuals in the Rafeida Al Eslamea shelter have received legal counselling and 6 undocumented children received their birth certificates.
  - GBV partners continue providing GBV services integrated with reproductive health services through mobile teams and a reproductive health clinic so far reaching beneficiaries in 25 shelters in Hasakeh city and Mabada in addition to Tal Tamer and its rural areas. Through Women and Girls' Safe Spaces (WGSS), GBV monitoring teams have intensified efforts in the distribution of dignity/hygiene kits for the most vulnerable population and affected women and girls. So far GBV partners have distributed 4,888 GBV protection kits and 5,074 sanitary napkins to beneficiaries as of the reporting date. 42,670 protection kits and 169,000 sanitary napkins are being delivered to Al-Hasakeh city to target IDPs in local communities and to Quamishli to reach IDPs in shelters and in local communities in the eastern and southern countryside of Quamishli.
  - Comprehensive protection needs assessments in collective shelters across Al-Hasakeh are also ongoing: so far 23 have been assessed. Protection partners are providing on-spot guidance and support, including identification of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and referrals
  - Protection, CP and GBV activities are ongoing in all camps. Protection partners continue to advocate for the return of confiscated personal identification documentation and freedom of movement out of camps to

locations of choice. In Mahmudli, through sustained protection advocacy, 27 of the 63 families wishing to leave have had their documents returned and been allowed to leave.

- In Areesh, the sorting and organizing of individual documentation of the Mabruka archive is ongoing and to be completed by 27 October. Departures from the camp were approved and commenced assisted by advocacy from protection partners on the ground. Tension between Mabruka and Areesh population persists, however the commencement of winterisation distribution to the original Areesh population may ease the tension.
- In Mahmudli, through advocacy by protection partners, 27 of the 63 families wishing to leave had their documents returned and were allowed to leave the camp. The remaining families are awaiting final security clearance. The school in the camp reopened.
- In **host communities**, protection partners are carrying out regular consultations with affected people through mobile teams (protection, CP and GBV) and outreach volunteers (ORVs) to understand the protection needs and to conduct rapid needs assessments, identification of persons with specific needs, awareness, case management and referrals.
- In Ar-Raqqa city and rural Ar-Raqqa, 2,279 children and 883 adults have been reached by CP partners including PSS and awareness raising sessions. Assessments, referrals and individual follow up is ongoing by protection partners. Specialized GBV personnel have been deployed to Al-Hasakeh city and Tal Tamer to provide services per needs on the ground through mobile teams.
- In Quamishli and rural Al Hasakeh 2,144 child IDPs and 1,801 local children and 1,064 adults and 280 families have been reached through PSS activities.
- In Deir-ez-Zor, CP partners are supporting 4 child friendly spaces and have 4 mobile teams supporting 1,304 children.
- GBV partners are currently providing GBV services through a mobile team in the Al-Ameria area. GBV partners have reached 4,836 beneficiaries through 5 WGSS, 23 RH/GBV integrated mobile teams in Quamishli, Tal Tamer, Hasakeh city, Derbasyeh, Mabada, Areesh, Ameria, Tabqa, Jurniah, Raqqa city and Deir-ez-Zor city.
- Protection monitoring is ongoing.



## Food Security & Agriculture

### Needs and gaps

- A number of farmers displaced from Tell Abiad and Ras Al Ain disrupting the planting season and possibly impacting production. Farmers in Al-Hasakeh governorate have been particularly affected with the suspension of agriculture and livestock programming by 10 NES INGO partners, impacting the livelihoods of an estimated 8,500 people across Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa governorates.
- Most agricultural traders have communicated to Food Security sector partners that due to the current situation they will not be able to provide all the inputs required for the planting season. Moreover, a high number of beneficiaries that partners were targeting are within the 30km 'safe zone'. Farmers in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor will also likely be affected by an increase in production costs with an expected increase in fuel prices in addition to challenges in access to water.
- Since the start of the crisis on 9 October, there has been an approximately 20 per cent increase in food prices in Al-Hasakeh governorate with traders indicating that prices have increased as many supply routes have been affected, constricting supply to markets. Weekly market price assessments have been put in place to monitor markets. Lack of availability of fresh food has been reported in some markets. The main route partners are using for transporting stocks is currently is the Al Abiad route (Karama – Raqqa – Hasakeh) instead of the M4 main highway.
- While one UN partner has a wide geographical footprint across Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa governorates, figures are reflective of humanitarian assistance provided since 11 October. Regular distributions are ongoing, though the caseload of regular response has increased. As is standard in times of sudden onset emergencies, the response to the recent emergency has been through blanket assistance. Figures provided are also therefore inclusive of host community members also impacted by large scale IDP movement. The overall response so far is estimated at 22 per cent in Hasakeh and 43 per cent in Ar-Raqqa, based upon the FSS MYR PIN + IDP caseload in each of the governorates; the total emergency/ IDP response is at 64% in Hasakeh and 63% in Ar-Raqqa – using only emergency distributions against the against the IDP population. Efforts are ongoing to ensure that all affected communities are reached and receive assistance as per need despite the absence of beneficiary lists. In the meantime, access to Menbij and Ain Al Arab in Aleppo governorate remains limited and challenging, with numbers of IDPs in Menbij estimated at 6,725, though still unconfirmed in Ain Al Arab. Both UN and INGO partners continue efforts to reach/ re-start regular programming in these locations, with at least half of INGO partners originally working in these areas already resuming work in both locations.

## Response

- As of 22 October, a total of 282,120 people (50,059 households) including host community populations have been reached with some form of food assistance:<sup>1</sup>
  - One UN partner has reached a total of 89,320 people (17,864 households) with Ready to Eat (RTE) rations and date bars, 12,760 people (2,552 households) with RTEs, in addition to 154,430 people (30,886 HH) people with General Food Rations (GFR) in areas with of high displacement. A total of 2150 kg of bread has been distributed to IDPs in 34 collective centers to date.
- 24,689 people have received RTEs from four food security partners (INGO and one UN partner) in Al-Malikeyyeh, Qahtaniyyeh, Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Quamishli, Mabada, Tal Hamis and Al-Malikeyyeh and Areesheh camp as well as collective centres and Host community.
- 1 INGO continues to provide bread in in 34 collective centres in Hasakeh and Mabada reaching 6,281 people (1,200 households) daily.
- 1 INGO has carried out a rapid assessment in Raqqa city.
- Coordination between NES FSS and Iraq FSC is ongoing. It is reported that the Sahela dn Walidiya border crossing is being used by people who are crossing into Iraqi Kurdistan. Those crossing the border are receiving hot meals from a national NGO, Barzani Charity Foundation (BCF) before being moved to Bardarash Camp by IOM, where people are registered and provided with UNHCR documentation receive RTEs from WFP. As of October 21, some 36,659 hot meals have been provided.

## Capacity

- A total of 70,000 general food rations in stock for immediate response will be used to support displaced families living in collective centers or urban locations.
- 30,000 general food rations are in the pipeline to respond to displaced families living in collective centers or urban locations.
- 47,000 RTEs are in the pipeline to respond to displaced families living in collective centers or urban locations.



## Health

### Needs and gaps

- Limited number of qualified human resources for health, particularly specialized staff for trauma surgery (surgeons, nurses and anesthetists). Tal Tamer hospital is reportedly overwhelmed with patients being referred to Hasakeh and Quamishli hospitals whose capacity is also inadequate. Needs for Menbij Hospital are not currently clear.
- Limited delivery of health services due to low capacity of health facilities as most are only partially functioning. The inability of NES INGOs to implement programmes as per plan will also likely lead to further gaps in healthcare delivery.
- Establishment of more Trauma Stabilization Points and referral pathways given that ambulances are being diverted to the frontlines and increasing numbers of primary health care centers and hospital closures. Support in availing additional ambulances, is an emergency response priority.
- Increasing access to essential health care services for IDPs, particularly those in collective centers and over-burdened host communities, is a top priority, including disease surveillance (EWARS).
- Health care services in Al Hol have reduced with only 12 static health facilities (from 18) and 5 mobile teams (from 9) currently providing primary health care services with minimal health staff on ground. Surgical interventions have been suspended in two field hospitals (one run by a Damascus-based partner and the other cross-border) due to lack of staff. Only one field hospital currently provides surgical care.
- Funding: the health sector in Syria has a financial gap of almost US \$5.5 million.

### Response

- Almost 200,000 have been affected by the crisis and are in need of medical/surgical interventions at the rate of average 1-2 consultation per person per year.
- Since 10 October, health sector partners in Syria have reached more than 45,000 people with some form of health assistance:
  - A total of 6,980 patients have been reached by mobile clinics in Hasakeh and Tal Tamer collective shelters; family dignity kits have also been distributed to 560 households in collective shelters in Ma'bada, Al-Jawadia and Quamishli neighborhoods. Seven mobile medical units run by Damascus-based partners are providing health services in collective shelters in Al-Hasakeh in addition to one run by NES INGOs.

<sup>1</sup> This includes Ready to Eat (RTE) Rations, Date bars, General Food Baskets (GFR).

- More than 3,556 patients received medical consultations and related treatments in Abu Khashab camp in addition to 192 MHPSS services.
- More than 6,287 patients in Ar-Raqqa benefited from medical consultations, including in rural areas such as Maddan, Al-Kasrat and Al-Karama.
- An estimated 4,375 primary health care services were provided through the ongoing health facilities in Hasakeh city and rural areas.
- Mobile teams in two IDP camps in Menbij delivered more than 693 health services and 52 MHPSS services in reporting period.
- In the camps, the following support has been provided:
  - Al Hol: more than 11,721 medical services were provided including medical consultations, medications, trauma care and secondary health care in addition to more than 300 MHPSS services.
  - Mahmudli: more than 650 IDPs benefited from health services including reproductive health services; one UN partner also distributed family dignity kits to new arrivals Ein Issa camp.
  - Areesheh: more than 1,650 IDPs accessed and obtained the health services including pediatric, gynecological and internal health care.
  - Al Roj: no access for the health actors from inside Syria currently.
- The assessment of Al-Hasakeh, Al Tabqa, Menbij, Tal Tamer, Ar-Raqqa and Quamishli hospitals, in addition to six health centers in Hasakeh city: Al-Salehiah, Tal Hajjar, Al-Naserah, Twaineh, Sfaia, and Al-Khamail has been finalized. Assessments of 48 collective shelters in Al-Hasakeh governorate have also commenced – the results are expected to be ready within a week.

### Capacity

- One UN partner dispatched 34,243 tons of medical supplies and equipment to Tal Tamer, Hasakeh and Quamishli hospitals as well as the Department of Health of Hasakeh, SARC and 4 national NGOs. Shipments are also in the process of being dispatched to Al-Tabqa and Raqqa national hospitals.
- 10,782 family dignity kits, 55,000 sanitary napkins, 1,000 adolescent kits and 2,100 male dignity kits have arrived in Quamishli from one UN partner; another has dispatched 176 paediatric kits to Quamishli from Damascus.
- Security remains a concern for shipment routes within NES
- Emergency medicines and medical supplies, medical equipment (medical supplies that has crossed the border has not yet reached final destinations for use). Dispatch of newly received medicines and medical supplies is hindered by access/security and lack of official approvals.
- Plans to scale up the EWARS reporting approach across NES and to increase the number of reporting points.



### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

#### Needs and gaps

- While Alouk water supply station is back in operation and supplying water to Hasakeh city, 15 production boreholes have yet to be reconnected to the electricity grid (due to inaccessibility), meaning that it is currently only operating at about half of its pre-crisis production capacity.
- Insecurity and access, particularly in the area around the location of Alouk boreholes, are two of the main challenges to delivering a comprehensive response.
- Inadequate financial resources to meet identified gaps.

#### Response

- Since 10 October, it is estimated that approximately 457,000 individuals (in Hasakeh city and neighbouring towns, IDP camps, villages and collective shelters) have been reached with WASH assistance. Thus far, three UN agencies and five I/NGOs have delivered WASH services as follows:
  - The key water supply source for Hasakeh city was restored on 19 and 20 October with all residents receiving water by 23 October as per the Water Directorate schedule. In the meantime, one sector partner supported emergency water trucking and installation of 150 units of polyethylene water tanks with capacity of 2m<sup>3</sup> and 5 units in four neighbourhoods of Al-Hasakeh (Ghweran, Al Nashweh, Al Liliah and Al Zohore) supporting 77,510 individuals. With the restoration of Alouk water station, the sector partner has re-direct services to locations with emergency needs for water (camps or shelters).
  - Al Hol: Through emergency water trucking, two Damascus-based partners deliver, on average, approximately 750m<sup>3</sup> of drinking water per day to the resident population. In addition, sector partners are also undertaking latrines cleaning, garbage collection, as well as operating two Reverse Osmosis water units in Al Hol camp. Discussions ongoing with NES partner to reactivate the desludging activities that were earlier suspended.

- Areeshah Camp: Two Damascus-based partners provide, on average, 410m<sup>3</sup> of drinking water per day to the resident population. One sector partner continues to support the collection and disposal of garbage in Areeshah old site, along with maintenance of water tanks and desludging of filled septic tanks.
- Mahmudli IDP Camp: Given the new arrivals from Ein Issa camp (approx. 400 households), and using an active Long-Term Agreement (LTA), sector partner has initiated procurement process for latrines (26 units, each 4 doors), 26 water tanks 1m<sup>3</sup> each, 13 water tanks 2m<sup>3</sup> each, provision of 26 garbage bins, construction of septic tanks and improvements to the sewerage system. The works are planned to commence within the next three days.
- Al Roj Camp: WASH services are provided by a NES INGO.
- Water quality monitoring is also ongoing across all camps to detect contamination and ensure continued safe access to water.
- In collective shelters, sector partners have delivered:
  - Distribution of 1,829 family hygiene kits in IDP shelters and host communities in Hasakeh and Tal Tamer, benefiting an estimated 9,000 individuals (Bor Saed, Fatima Alzahraa, Rafrat, Msherfa Tel Meden, Hay La Ghazel (host community) Nawames, Mahmoud Naef, Hay Aradi Habbo, Hay Al Qudat, Tel Hassan, Tel Tamr IDP shelter, Hay Ghweran, Hay Msherfa).
  - A total of 150m<sup>3</sup> is being water trucked daily to Tal Tamer host community and IDP shelters (namely Ghebesh village, Tel Nasri and Naif Al Salem collective shelters, and Sife Al Dawla), benefiting 453 families / 2,255 individuals. A total of 10 water tanks (of 1 m<sup>3</sup> capacity) and 9 water tanks (of 2 m<sup>3</sup> capacity) were also installed in IDP shelters.
  - Installation of water tanks and rehabilitation of shelter and WASH in six schools namely Labeed Abn Rabeaah, Ahmad Mekhleef, Ablahd Moussa, Halima Al Saadiyeh, Abdallah Al Qadri and Khashman Al Mohdatha undertaken.
  - Hygiene promotion (through door to door visits to 197 families), along with distribution of aqua tabs and 459 brochures in 9 IDP shelters (Abdul Aziz Al Rashid, Jareer Al Mshref, Ali Al Ali, Ahmad Yassin, Al Andalus, Shaban Jaban, Bor Said, Naim Al leji and Al Muthana), reaching 450 families. The aqua tab is for one month.
  - Solid waste management: distributed 53 garbage bins in 15 shelters benefitting an estimated 2,000 IDPs. In addition, also conducted the collection and disposal of solid waste in 12 IDP shelters and cleaning of yards inside shelters;
- A total of 38 shelters (see in Annex III) have been assessed by sector partners. All these shelters are in Hasakeh. Some of the key issues identified during the assessment are linked to insufficient potable water, lack of water for use, lack of garbage containers, lack of hygiene related items, latrines are not separated with no light and no water and a sewage flooding. Based on these findings, sector partners have initiated various response actions.
- For Aleppo, preparedness is in place for any possible displacement towards Government of Syria areas. Coordination is also ongoing with Government is ongoing to grant access to Menbij for assessment and response as soon as possible. WASH services such as water trucking, tanks installation, latrines installation etc. are usually provided through either active Long-Term Agreements (LTAs) or Framework Agreements that two sector partners have in place as part of the preparedness.

## Capacity

- Three sector partners have either active Long-Term Agreements (LTAs) or Framework Agreements for emergency water trucking, construction of emergency latrines and showers, installation of water tanks, operation and maintenance of WASH facilities and construction / desludging of septic pits. Specifically, and for one sector partner, the capacity and scope of the LTA can cover / scale up interventions in all three governorates very quickly to install critical facilities. In addition, partners have some capacities for emergency solid waste management and water quality monitoring.
- All the Damascus based Quamishli actors are operational on the ground. With respect to supplies, a total of 20,522 family hygiene kits (17,722 kits in Quamishli and 2,800 kits in Aleppo) have been delivered by sector partners. The procurement of an additional 52,000 kits is in progress.



## Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

### Needs and gaps

- There is a need to have greater focus on the host communities in order to prevent possible secondary displacement, particularly areas outside of Hasakeh city including Madaba which saw new arrivals on 22 October. Currently, no partners have access to Ar-Raqqa governorate.
- IDPs have requested communal kitchens in the collective shelters; this needs careful consideration, however, given that the vast majority of collective shelters are schools and children are already being negatively impacted.

- There is severe overcrowding in Areesheh and there are limited options for expansion – relocation and related advocacy may be required with local authorities.
- Heating fuel and heaters have been discussed with NGOs from NES response, but remain a significant gap.

### Response

- NFI/Shelter Sector and NES Forum partners met to discuss plans, response and reporting as well as the need to consider a strategic response if some organizations cannot resume operations fully or if there are people in areas that humanitarian partners can't reach.
- In total, Shelter & NFI partners have reached 14,310 households, or an estimated 66,500 individuals. Prior to 9 October, sector partners had provided extensive support and had reached nearly 800,000 people in Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor governorates and with NFIs between 1 January and 30 September 2019.
- Winter distributions have already reached 8,478 Households/more than 36,000 people or one-third of the population in Al Hol, Areesheh, Ein Issa before it closed, Roj and Mahmudli camps. Distributions will cover an estimated 92,000 new arrivals and camp residents.
- 400 family-sized tents intended to support relocated residents from Mabruka to Areesheh camp have been released and arrived in the camp on the evening of 23 October.
- NFI distributions are ongoing in urban areas and collective shelters to IDPs and host community in Hasakeh, Mabada and Quamishli. To date, an estimated 5,832 households or 30,481 individuals have received assistance, including over 4,500 children with specific winter clothing kits. It is estimated that partners have reached 27 per cent of those recorded to be displaced across 79 locations of Hasakeh, Malikeyeh and Quamishli sub-districts.
- Partners have completed basic shelter repairs in 16 shelters benefitting 501 households, nearly 2,700 individuals; work is ongoing in 5 for 217 households (1,019 individuals) and another 11 with 360 households have been assessed with discussion underway on which organization will respond. It is estimated that partners have already reached about 31 per cent of the households in collective shelters.

### Capacity

- All trucks carrying NFI and emergency shelter kits have arrived to Quamishli; however private transport options within Al-Hasakeh are limited.
- Given the situation and shifts in control, there is a lack of clarity if INGOs previously operating in the NES through cross-border operations will be able to continue working or return to scale up response.



## Education

### Needs & gaps

- Partners are assessing the educational needs in collective shelters in Al-Hasakeh governorate to provide education supplies and temporary learning opportunities for the displaced children. Initial reports indicated that over 86,000 children have had their education disrupted and over 5,000 teachers have been affected by the instabilities.
- Currently, 63 schools in Al-Hasakeh are being utilized as shelters, depriving more than 30,000 students of their education and adding to the already overstretched system.
- Partners are exploring how to better support existing education provision and structures within host communities for a more sustainable response.
- Two learning centers in Ein Issa camp (closed as of 16 October) providing educational services to more than 1,100 learners were directly impacted by the instability in the region and reports indicate that learning was disrupted and supplies and material in the centers were looted.

### Response

- Education partners continue to deliver services in camps as per the following:
  - Al Hol: Education activities in Al Hol in collaboration with partners continues reaching around 3,000 children
  - Mahmudli: no previous interventions were provided by Damascus-Quamishli partners in Mahmudli camp. Partners will initially respond to the needs of the 500 school-aged children that relocated from Ein Issa and who were already receiving the Self Learning Program. The possibility of supporting additional caseloads are being explored should a gap in educational provision arise.
  - Areesheh: Due to the closure of Mabruka camp more than 850 learners were relocated with their families to Areesheh camp – the learning facilities were fully equipped and reported as looted in Mabruka. Tents to expand the current learning centers in Areesheh will be installed to accommodate the additional children from Mabruka, and teachers relocated to complement the existing education provision. Tent to tent visits of households show that around 500 children are willing to join the learning centers in Areesheh.
- Aleppo sub-sector partners are prepared to respond to a caseload of 10,000 school aged children from Menbij.

## Capacity

- 5 National NGO partners are currently implementing and on standby to scale up the provision of education services should permission be given to implement the non-formal education (Self Learning Program) in the shelters. To date, education partners have faced challenges in providing education to school aged children in shelters. Discussions are underway to provide learning materials, stationary and recreational kits.



## Nutrition

### Needs and gaps

- In Al Hol camp, one UN partner suspended services in phases 5 – 8 as well as the annex due to security concerns. One NES INGO has also suspended their Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) in the annex and their stabilization center in Phase 1 meaning that all SAM cases with complications now need to be transferred to Al-Hasakeh city for treatment. The absence of adequate ambulances poses a significant challenge with only the Kurdish Red Crescent authorized to transfer patients.
- Ongoing tension and security concerns among partners operating in Al Hol pose the biggest challenge to accessing nutrition clinics and other areas (primarily Phases 5 – 8 and the Annex). One UN partner, while present and continuing to implement activities in the camp, has seen its overall coverage decrease from around 90 per cent to 50 per cent since the beginning of October. The annex reports the highest number of malnourished children, and with two actors – one Damascus-based and one cross border – having suspended services there, this will have a significant negative impact on children's health moving forward.
- Mapping of sector activities across Northeast Syria is being undertaken by Damascus-based and NES INGO partners to inform next steps and to ensure a minimum continuity of services moving forward.

### Response

- 3,723 children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) have been reached with different nutrition services including screening for malnutrition and distribution of preventive nutrition items in 43 shelters across Al-Hasakeh governorate. To date, 1,331 children under 5 have been screened for malnutrition – 1 SAM case and 7 MAM cases were identified; 374 PLWs have also been screened with 13 MAM cases found and treated.
- Nutrition services remain available in all camps, except Mabruka and Ein Issa which are now closed. Services include screening for malnutrition, treatment and referral to stabilization centers as well as provision of nutrition supplies for both children under 5 and PLWs. IYCF activities are also provided through awareness campaigns and lactation consultation. Currently, one partner is providing nutrition services through Phases 1 – 4 in Al Hol, while national staff of one NES INGOs continue to support Mother and Baby Areas in phases 1 and 5.
- In Areesh camp, one UN partner continues to provide comprehensive nutrition services (screening for malnutrition, treatment and referral, in addition to Infant and Young Children Feeding). The partner is serving both the original Areesh IDPs and the new IDPs who moved from Mabruka camp.



## Logistics

### Needs and gaps

- Storage capacity in Al-Hasakeh governorate, as well as transport capacity and access, remain the major logistics constraints.
- Due to increasing humanitarian needs, expanded storage capacity is needed for the repositioning of humanitarian relief items.

### Response

- From 21-22 October, four logistics partners dispatched a total of 192m<sup>3</sup> of relief items for transport from Quamishli.
- The Logistics cluster is supporting humanitarian actors with coordination and information sharing on logistics assessments, to find common solutions to bottlenecks and constraints, as well as facilitating access to road transport services from Quamishli warehouses to final destination in support of the immediate response in the northeast, access permitting.
- Limited storage capacity is available in Quamishli. Two Mobile Storage Units (MSU) will be erected to increase available storage capacity for the humanitarian community; access will be facilitated through the Logistics cluster.
- One partner is supporting humanitarian organisations with road transport to Ar-Raqqa on a cost recovery basis.

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