

OCHA Syria | Flash Update #7

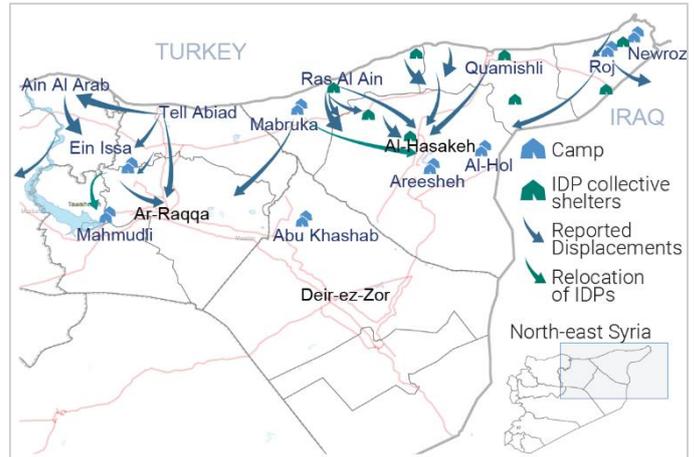
Humanitarian impact of the military operation in northeastern Syria
16-18 October 2019



**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 likely to change. Numbers are being revised on a rolling basis as further information becomes available.*

Highlights

- On the evening of 17 October, the United States announced an agreement for a 5-day ceasefire (120 hours) following meetings with the Turkish President to allow for the withdrawal of SDF forces from the Syrian-Turkish border. The announcement followed intense clashes in Ras Al Ain city – which was reportedly encircled by Turkish forces earlier that same day – and an appeal by health actors in the city to evacuate civilians and those who had been injured.
- Despite the announcement of the ceasefire, shelling and gunfire continue to be reported in Ras Al Ain as of the morning of 18 October. No information is currently available on casualties. The situation is reportedly calm elsewhere.
- In just over a week, at least 165,000 people have been displaced, including an estimated 70,000 children. Of those displaced, around 8,000 people are being hosted in 48 collective shelters across 8 sub-districts of Al-Hasakeh governorate. The rest are residing in host communities.
- On 17 October reports were also received that 3,250 families (around 16,250 people) had been displaced from communities in northern Aleppo towards Menbij. Displaced families are reportedly staying with relatives and in informal settlements.
- As of 17 October, around 91,000 people remain in five camps across North East Syria (Al Hol, Areesheh, Mabruka, Al Roj and Mahmudli). The remaining 15 households in Ein Issa camp departed on 16 October. Efforts to evacuate the 14 families (83 individuals) who are still in Mabruka are underway – three medical cases were evacuated on 17 October and taken to a hospital 60 km away from the camp, although specialized services are required to treat these individuals.
- Although return movements to Quamishli have been observed, exact figures are yet to be confirmed.
- The United Nations and partners have seen worrying reports of attacks impacting medical facilities and airstrikes causing civilians deaths.
- Phase II of the Alok mission to repair the water system that serves over 400,000 people in Al-Hasakeh is planned to take place in the coming days.
- Despite challenges, humanitarian partners continue to assist people in need where access is possible. Focus has been placed on support to those newly-displaced – both in 48 collective shelters and host communities – as well as IDPs in five camps. Food security partners are providing blanket food rations to up to 580,000 people in Ar-Raqqa and Al Hasakeh governorates to ensure that all affected people are reached as a first-line response, while essential services such as health and water are also being provided.
- Stocks of food and medicine, as well as necessary pipelines for bringing aid into the area and referral pathways to move those in need to adequate care facilities, are in place to meet many of the immediate needs, and partners continue to scale up their response across all areas.
- While existing readiness measures have ensured that many of required supplies are available to meet needs, stocks have had to be diverted from regular programming and are being depleted. Additional resources are therefore urgently needed in order to maintain pipelines. To date, the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan remain only 40 per cent funded.



Contextual developments

On 17 October, an announcement of a ceasefire for 120 hours was made. Gunfire and shelling continues to be reported in the towns of Lazqa, Marikiz, Bab al-Khair and Qabr Sheikh Hussein in Ras Al Ain as of the morning of 18 October. The announcement of the ceasefire followed a two-day period in which military activities appeared to slow, with the exception of Ras Al Ain where clashes intensified as Turkish Armed Forces and allied NSAGs encircled the city and advanced deeper into both Ras Al Ain and Tell Abiad sub-districts. Calls for a humanitarian corridor to evacuate civilians and injured from Ras Al Ain were subsequently made on 17 October, and discussions are ongoing with relevant parties to determine what support is required as well as to establish protocols for future medical evacuations from TAF areas. SARC has ambulances and buses available for the medical evacuations.

Following the withdrawal of US forces, Government of Syria (GoS) forces entered the Ain Al Arab area in Aleppo Governorate on 16 October, while expanding their presence in Menbij sub-district, including Menbij town. That same day, demonstrations occurred in Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)-held areas in rural Deir-ez-Zor Governorate against the military agreement between SDF and the GoS, with some elements threatening to target GoS forces should they enter the area.

While no party appears to have full control over the M4 highway -the main transport route running east-west across northern Syria - NSAGs are trying to strengthen their position around the M4, in areas south of Ras Al Ain city and some parts remain cut off. Despite this, an alternative route to the M4 has been used by some agencies in the past days – through Tabqa - to continue sending supplies to the area. Border crossings also remain open as does the airport in Quamishli.

Civilian casualties are being heavily reported in the media from both sides of the border as a result of shelling and ongoing hostilities.

Humanitarian impact

The full scope of the humanitarian impact of the current military operation continues being assessed.

Allouk water station

Efforts to fully repair the water station in Allouk are ongoing, with a second technical mission now expected to take place on 19 October following the cancellation of the mission on 18 October due to hostilities along the road. While interim solutions to ensure safe access to water for the 400,000 affected people in Al-Hasakeh city and surrounding areas have been arranged, the situation remains of highest priority to resolve. It is also understood that the repair team need to travel to a second location to conduct further repairs to the electrical line.

Population movements

In just over a week, at least 165,000 people have been displaced from border areas in northeast Syria, with more than two-thirds having fled from four districts in Al Hasakeh governorate alone (Al Hasakeh, Al-Malikeyyeh, Quamishli and Ras Al Ain). As of 17 October, 1,662 people have also crossed into Iraq and taken by bus to Bardarash camp. While it is expected that population movement will now reduce as a result of the ceasefire, if not respected and fighting continues, additional displacement is anticipated.

Population movements remain fluid in both number and geographical location. On 17 October, a further 16,250 people were reportedly displaced from seven communities in northern Aleppo towards Menbij town and its surrounding areas, representing approximately 80 percent of the overall resident population of these communities.

IDPs in collective shelters

Collective shelters continue to spring up across affected areas, although it is understood that in some locations people have now departed from schools and mosques in which they initially sought shelter. To date, 48 shelters have been identified across Al Hasakeh Governorate and are hosting around 8,000 people (almost 1,600 families). Almost half of all collective shelters are in Al Hasakeh sub-district (23), with other individuals being hosted in collective shelters in Al Malikeyeh (6), Darbasiyah (5), Quamishli (3), Ras Al Ain (1), Tal Hamis (2), Tal Tamer (7) and Ya'robiyah (1).

Efforts are ongoing to establish the status of these shelters, to assess needs as well as provide an immediate response. Currently, protection assessments are taking place in 35 shelters. Identified groups at risk include the elderly, persons with disabilities, persons with serious medical conditions and children. Protection partners are also supporting the reunification of unaccompanied children.

Situation at IDP camps:

An estimated 91,000 displaced people (including Syrian, Iraqis, and third country nationals) remain in five IDP camps across North East Syria.

Mabruka Camp: 14 families/83 people remain in Mabruka and in need of evacuation to Areesheh, although three medical cases were transferred to a hospital on 17 October.

Ein Issa camp: this camp is now empty with the remaining 15 households having left the camp on 16 October.

Mahmudli camp: having received 150 households (750 people) from Ein Issa camp, efforts are underway to expand the current site by 180 plots with levelling already completed and fencing to start shortly. Protection partners are also working to obtain civil documentation confiscated from 131 households (675 people) who were relocated from Ein Issa to enable them to leave the camp in the event that they wish to do so – currently 50 families have indicated that they would like to leave the camp and proceed to their places of origin in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor governorates. On 17 October, three families from the original caseload departed from the camp. Winterization distributions have also been completed. The camp population currently stands at around 7,200.

Areesh camp: as of 16 October, some 5,000 new arrivals arrived at Areesh camp from Mabruka. The total camp population is now 13,480 people. Protection, health and sanitation risks are being exacerbated due to overcrowding and stretched service provision; between 50 to 70 families are still staying in the reception area and in communal kitchens, although three medical points are operational. As of 17 October, 100 families have registered for return to Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa but are still awaiting the release of their IDs to enable their return. Protection partners are on standby for pre-departure safety messaging, family separation prevention, mine risk education. Approval for the release of 400 family-sized tents from Al-Hasakeh to Areesh remains pending and advocacy is ongoing with the Governor. Winterization distributions are planned to start on Monday, 21 October.

Al Hol camp: The total camp population is now 68,530 people. Basic services continue, including health and water trucking, although security concerns relating to the annex mean that access remains restricted to this area and food distributions have yet to resume in this part of the camp. Discussions and advocacy are ongoing with camp management to enable food distributions to resume as soon as possible to the annex. Regular protection activities including awareness raising, psychosocial support, child protection, GBV support, case management are ongoing. Winterization distributions continue; to date 1,500 households have received winterization kits, although significant gaps in heaters and heating fuel have been reported. Partners are currently working to meet these gaps.

Al Roj camp: the camp hosts 1,825 people. Regular services continue, with some protection actors re-establishing their presence to ensure continuity of services, including gender-based violence, child protection, psychosocial support and case management. Winterization distributions have been completed.

IDPs in informal settlements: reports of displaced populations congregating in sites and informal settlements, including in Ar-Raqqa have been received, but are unable to be confirmed at this time due to access limitations.

Protection of civilians

The protection situation of IDPs and the civilian population remains a critical concern given the evolving situation and continued displacement. There are immediate concerns for the civilian population remaining in Tell Abiad, Ein Issa, Tal Tamer, Ras Al Ain and Malikeyyeh. It is 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).

Due to ongoing hostilities and the situation on the ground protection partners are unable to assess and respond in parts of Ras al-Ein, Tell Abiad and Ein Issa. The situation at some of the IDP camps remains extremely concerning, particularly in Mabruka camp where 14 families have been stranded for a number of days, as well as in Areesheh and Mahmudli, which are now overcrowded having received large influxes in recent days.

The United Nations and partners have seen worrying reports of attacks impacting medical facilities as well as summary executions and airstrikes causing civilians deaths. In this environment, the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure remains of paramount concern. Public statements report on civilian casualties – both in Syria and in Turkey – as airstrikes, shelling and ground fighting take place all along the border. Civilian infrastructure has reportedly also been damaged, with at least four medical facilities inside Syria damaged by hostilities in the last days, and power lines and water infrastructure taken out of service.

The United Nations and partners continue emphasizing that civilians and civilian infrastructure must be protected, and that, safe, sustained, and unimpeded humanitarian access must be allowed for civilians in need, including through cross-border operations. Concurrently, as military operations continue, all parties to the conflict are urged to continue respecting international humanitarian law.

Humanitarian response and coordination

An already complex operating environment has become even more challenging for the civilian population and humanitarian actors.

The United Nations and humanitarian actors continue to assist people in need wherever access is possible. While significant parts of the M4 highway, the main transport route running east-west across northern Syria, remain cut off, alternative routes are being tried. A cross-border convoy passed on 17 October and the Fishkabour crossing point remains open.

The focus of the response remains two-fold to cover those who are reliant on humanitarian assistance to survive: those previously displaced in IDP camps, sites and settlements as well as the newly displaced. Additional efforts will be needed to support those seeking shelter in already vulnerable host families across the region.

Humanitarian partners are gradually scaling up life-saving assistance and protection services to the newly displaced arriving in collective shelters and host communities in Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa governorates. Emergency food assistance has been provided to 170,000 people, with some 67,400 people having received ready-to-eat (RTE) rations and 101,700 people receiving general food assistance. Deliveries and distribution of food assistance is taking place around the clock. A polio vaccination campaign in camps continues. Critical medical supplies were airlifted twice in the span of a week to Quamishli National Hospital, and mobile teams and ambulances have been dispatched. Stocks of food and medicine, as well as necessary pipelines for bringing aid into the area and referral pathways to move those in need out to adequate care facilities, are in place to meet many of the immediate needs.

The United Nations and partners remain however concerned that part of the humanitarian response capacity in northeast Syria had to scale down, following the recent scale down of some INGOs, even though many continue to operate. They have represented a significant part of the humanitarian response capacity in northeast Syria, and the services they have provided cannot easily be replicated by other.

An assessment of humanitarian access is being conducted and scenarios – including implications for the response in the coming period – in the process of development, along with a mapping of critical needs, existing response capacities and key gaps. Funding priorities are also being determined. To date, the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan remain only 36 per cent funded.

Humanitarian actors are committed to stay and deliver vital humanitarian assistance for the people in need, while minimizing any delay or interruption in the delivery of the assistance.

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.*



Protection

Needs and gaps

- Protection partners are carrying out regular consultations with affected people through mobile teams (protection, CP and GBV) outreach volunteers (ORVs) to understand the protection needs in IDP hosting areas and conduct rapid needs assessments, identification of persons with specific needs, awareness, case management and referrals.
- Rapid protection assessments have taken place in communal/collective shelters with partners to commence more comprehensive protection assessments in the coming days in 35 collective shelters in Hasakeh. To date, 32 women at risk, 87 elderly in need of support, 17 persons with disabilities, 27 persons with serious medical conditions, 1 unaccompanied child, 115 children at risk have been identified (referrals and individual follow-ups are ongoing). GBV risks have been identified due to lack of water, food, NFIs, in addition to cases of harassment and risks due the unavailability of separate wash facilities for both women and men. Assessments in host communities sheltering displaced families are also underway.
- A rapid protection assessment was carried out in Mabada, where 539 individuals were identified in four schools and a mosque, including 304 children in need of psychosocial support services.
- In Ar-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.
- Protection partners continue to advocate for the return of confiscated personal identification documentation and freedom of movement out of camps to locations of choice. This includes the 58 families in Mahmudli (displaced from Ein Issa Camp) wanting to leave.

Response

- There are over 20,000 people (5,000 HH) reported in Al Hasakeh, many being accommodated by the host communities. Assessments, referrals and individual follow up is ongoing by protection partners.
- GBV monitoring teams have intensified efforts in the distribution of dignity/hygiene kits for the most vulnerable population and affected women and girls. GBV partners continue providing GBV integrated services with reproductive health services through mobile teams and SRH clinic. To date GBV partners have distributed 560 protection kits and 516 Sanitary Napkins to 1,224 beneficiaries. In addition, 30,330 protection kits and 55,000 sanitary napkins are being delivered to Quamishli.
- Specialised GBV personnel have been deployed to Al-Hasakeh city and Tal Tamer to provide services per needs on the ground through mobile teams.
- In Hasakeh city, child protection partners are supporting three child friendly spaces (CFS) with activities including ongoing psychosocial support. Mobile teams conducted awareness campaigns, referrals and follow up for 247 children. Child protection partners continue to monitor and document children for further assistance through case management.
- A mobile child protection team has mobilised at the entrances of Raqqa city, to receive displaced families. To date, the team has received more than 3,000 families. The team also conducted a field survey in indifferent areas of Raqqa to identify unaccompanied and separated children for family reunification. Another CP mobile team assisted

IDPs from Ain Al-Arab and Tell Abiad with first aid sessions, health and hygiene awareness sessions and MRE sessions for children.

- Mobile teams assisted families in transporting the injured to hospitals. Fixed teams in Al-Raqqa (Al-Mishlab - Jawad Anzour) continue to provide psychosocial support sessions for children



Food Security

Needs and gaps

- Ready-to-eat rations (RTEs) needs in Menbij and Ain Al Arab sub-districts, Aleppo governorate, and Ein Issa and Ar-Raqqa city, Ar-Raqqa governorate.
- Challenges in access to areas under Aleppo governorate: Menbij and Ain Al Arab subdistricts, Ein Issa as well as Raqqa city in Ar-Raqqa governorate. And access to Mabruka and Ein Issa camps.
- Lack of access to Mabruka and Ein Issa camps for RTEs and general food rations (GFRs) distribution, Twahina camp with needs for RTEs and GFRs.
- Cooking gas and heating fuel needs in all camps.

Response

- As of 17 October, the UN has assisted some 170,000 people with food assistance across Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa governorates, including some 67,400 people with RTEs, and 101,700 people with GFA food rations. Deliveries and distribution of UN food assistance continues around the clock as of the time of reporting.
- The UN has indicated a total of some 580,000 people will be targeted for GFA across the two governorates in October, in addition to the ongoing provision of RTEs in the collective shelters.
- RTEs distributed to 29,930 individuals in Tal Tamer, Al-Hasakeh, Areesheh, Quamishli, Tal Hamis and Al-Malikeyeh, Ras Al Ain and Areesheh camp at both collective centres and villages.
- Bread was distributed to 5,347 individuals at the collective centres in Al-Hasakeh and Areesheh camp. Date bars distributed to 5,735 individuals at the collective centres in Tal Hamis and Areesheh camp.
- Planned rapid needs assessment in Ar-Raqqa city.

Capacity

- Overall, 10,000 RTEs dispatched to respond in Tamr, Al-Hasakeh, Areesheh, Quamishli, Tal Hamis and Al-Malikeyeh, Ras Al Ain and Areesheh camp in collective centres and villages with an additional 4,000 are being dispatched to Ar-Raqqa city. Two INGO partners have confirmed procurement of 4,300 RTEs which are expected to be in stock by October 20.
- The UN should be receiving an additional 9,000 RTEs in Quamishli warehouse on October 15. Some 17,000 RTEs are in the pipeline to respond to displaced families living in collective centres or urban locations and to be delivered within the next ten days. One INGO is planning to resume RTEs distributions on October 17. Another INGO is planning to conduct an RNA to provide RTEs to cover 420 -480 people (70-80 HHs) in collective centres in Tabqa/Al Jurnieh.
- The UN currently has GFA food rations sufficient for some 501,600 people, and RTEs sufficient for some 132,000 people currently either in stock or in transit to north-eastern Syria.
- A total of 70,000 general food rations in stock for immediate response will be used to support displaced families living in collective centres or urban locations – 400 are being dispatched. Some 30,00 general food rations are in the pipeline to respond to displaced families living in collective centres or urban locations.
- Large parts of the strategic M4 highway remains closed, and WFP's transporters are using alternate routes.



Health

- More health provision operations are needed in both Mahmudli camp and Areesheh camp.
- Decrease in the number of functioning health facilities across the northeast.
- More than 146 civilian casualties reported since the start of the conflict, in addition to 42 recorded deaths.

Needs and gaps

- More support is needed for the frontline hospitals and functionality should be scaled up. There is a need to increase number of first aid points (trauma stabilization centers) at the nearest safe locations to receive injured and refer them to the involved hospital and to coordinate and strengthen referral pathways.
- Need to sustain continuity of basic health services across IDP camps.
- Need to apply early warning, alert and response system at locations where IDPs have arrived and conduct general assessment of health situation at these locations.
- Enhance health education and awareness messages through a clear system and deliver a comprehensive MHPSS/GBV integrated response.
- To establish a system of water quality control within locations where IDPs have arrived.
- Winterization items to be prepositioned.
- Vaccination coverage remains low, specifically in Ar-Raqqa.
- Limited number of qualified medical staff.
- Need to preposition sufficient life-sustaining medicines and medical supplies at Quamishli hub to support health partners in the affected location and capacity building for national medical staffs. Challenging environment and security conditions, including supply routes for goods.

Response

- UN partners provided medical consultations and medications for over 1,000 patients, including the main camps and shelters, and more than 400 mental health and psychological support services.
- The third day of the ongoing polio campaign has been completed.
- Referral pathways have been established. Six cases were referred to UN-supported hospitals and two deliveries conducted through UN support.
- Two ambulances and two mobile clinics support the shelters in Al-Hasakeh city.
- Partners at Areesheh and Al Hol camps provided health and nutrition services to 837 women and children under five years.
- The Integrated Young Child Feeding (IYCF) campaign is ongoing in collective centres in A- Hasakeh governorate. On 16 October, UN partners reached 96 women with children under 5 years through 12 IYCF sessions.
- Partners with mobile teams provided 212 primary health care consultations for women and children in the collective centres in Al-Hasakeh city. The top causes of morbidity among under 5s from consultations at the shelters are: acute respiratory infections (ARIs) and diarrheal disease.
- On 16 October, partners in Areesheh and Al Hol camps provided health and nutrition services to 625 women and children under 5 years.
- In Al-Hasakeh City, mobile teams conducted MUAC screening for 107 children U5 and 40 pregnant and lactating Women (PLW).
- Partners have continued to distribute multiples items to 324 children and PLW in the shelters, including 12 cartons of high energy biscuits (HEBs), 71 multiple micronutrient sachets and 6 cartons of plumpy doz.
- Mobile teams provided 206 primary health care consultations for women and children at the collective centers in Al- Al Hasakeh city.
- The UN has provided reproductive health services for over 690 patients at the shelters and main camps and distributed 243 female dignity kits and 92 pregnant and lactating women kits to date.
- Water quality control activities are ongoing as per the plan in Al Hol – 25 water samples were tested and three of them were non-potable.

Readiness/preparedness measures

- Plans by health actors to increase the response through additional health facilities.
- Resource mobilization is in place to respond to both national hospitals and emergency health care needs.
- Assessments are being conducted for Tal Tamer hospital and plans are underway to assess Al-Hasakeh national hospitals.
- Five mobile clinics are planned to be set up to support health services provision.
- An airlift shipment of more than 10 tons arrived to Quamishli airport and will be distributed as per to date assessed needs.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Needs and gaps

- Continued advocacy for protection of critical water and electricity supply infrastructure within NES.
- Due to the fluid security situation, at least three cross-border partners have suspended their activities, while other partners continue to operate through remote implementation. Discussions have been initiated to ensure continuity of service delivery.
- In order to fill a critical gap resulting from the rapid departure of some INGOs in Tel Tamer, the UN continues to truck water to IDP shelters at a rate of 50 m3 per day.

Response

- Al Himme water pumping station continues pumping 24,000m3 per day to people in Hasakeh city covering about 30 per cent of daily demand (80,000 m3/d). UN partners have completed the works needed to ensure the pumping station functions at full capacity.
- On 16 October, UN partners-initiated rehabilitation and maintenance work of sanitation blocks in 15 IDP shelters in Hasakeh City - the scope of work is for rehabilitation of 30 latrines, installation of 15 shower blocks and excavation 30 garbage pits intended to benefit 600 people.
- UN partners continues to support water trucking to camps in NES with estimated quantities of 400 m3/day for Al Hol and 200 m3 /day for Areesheh. In addition, other services related to sanitation such as latrine cleaning, garbage collection and desludging of the sewerage network continue in both camps, reaching 75,500 people.
- Between 13th -16 October, a UN WASH partner distributed more than 10,000 hygiene kits in Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa governorates covering the needs of close to 60,000 people.
- Water quality monitoring continues at camps and communities. From 8 to 14 October, a total of 143 samples were collected (39 samples from Areesheh, 42 samples from Al Hol, 35 samples from Abou Khashab, 2 samples from Al Hassaker/Tal Tamer road and 25 samples from Al Hol). From the collected samples, eight samples (collected from jerrycans) were found to have microbial contaminants, and three samples from Al Hol had chemical contaminants.
- Provision of safe drinking water at healthcare facilities: WHO started the procurement process of 60,000 bottles of water (1.5L) and 1,000 jerry cans (25L) to support 7 health facilities in Al-Hasakeh, including Al-Hasakeh National Hospital, Al-loloa, TB center, Al-Nassrah, Al-Nashwah, Al-Salhyah, and Tal Hajar, serving 56,370 patients for one month and 123 healthcare workers.
- Emergency water trucking continues at Al Hol camp, with a total of 1,495m3 delivered. Additionally, and for Al Hol, the two reverse osmosis stations installed in the camp remain functional. The water trucking is hugely reliant on Allouk, and its non-functionality presents a significant challenge to the sector.
- Delivery of the water (60,000 bottles of water (1.5L) and 1,000 jerry cans (25L) to 7 healthcare facilities (namely Al-Hasakeh National Hospital, Al-loloa, TB center, Al- Nassrah, Al- Nashwah, Al- Salhyah, and Tal Hajar) completed. This provision will serve 123 health care workers and approximately 56,370 patients with safe drinking water for one month (30 days).
- The UN continues to conduct water quality monitoring in camps and communities. In this regard, 10 shelters in Al-Hasakeh city were visited and 10 tanks were tested. Among them 2 tanks in Khasman school in Halima Al-Saadi were contaminated. The results were shared with the administration and use of water from Shammka was recommended.
- The installation of three pumps by the UN inside Hasakeh (i.e. at Hezaam garden, at Al Klassh garden and at Al Wad Charity Association) has been completed. Water quality tests conducted at these three wells by joint UN teams reveal that the water has high total dissolved salts, and recommendation made that water from these wells be used for washing purposes only (pending installation of water treatment equipment). These three wells will serve approx. 750 people (or 150 families). The other two additional wells (at Sports Hall and at Al Kalasah) are under rehabilitation and will be equipped with pumps by a UN agency.



Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

Needs and gaps

- Concerns regarding sufficient humanitarian support given that some organizations have pulled out, reduced staffing particularly in Al Hol camp, while overcrowding is a serious concern in Mahmudli and Areesheh camps.
- Distribution of 400 tents in Areesheh camp is still on hold pending agreements.
- Trucks carrying humanitarian assistance entering through Taqba checkpoint are experiencing delays. Local NGOs report there are currently limited supplies available.
- In Raqqa, limited partners are available to assist the increasing needs.
- Partners encouraged to work through the Cash Working Group before distributing vouchers as access to markets, and goods and items could prove challenging given the fluid and volatile situation on the ground.
- Concerns with regards to adequate shelter and heating as winter approaches.

Response

- Winter distributions have already finished in Al Roj and Mahmudli camps, are underway in Al Hol and will start in Areesheh on Monday 21 October. Distributions will cover an estimated 91,000 new arrivals and camp residents.
- NFI distributions are ongoing in urban areas and collective shelters in Hasakeh, Mabada and distributions are expected to restart in Tal Tamer. To date, an estimated 2,677 HH or 13,385 individuals have received assistance.
- 21 collective centers in Hasakeh, which host over 3,500 individuals have been assessed for shelter repairs including water network repairs, basic maintenance. Contractors started in 7 locations and partners have committed to repairing the others. Shelter Assessments for 4 collective shelters in Tal Tamer were completed.
- Core NFIs have been distributed to 19,523 individuals, an estimated 3,924 households, at Areesheh, Ein Essa, Mahmudli and Al Roj IDP camps.
- Core NFIs have been distributed to 11,550 individuals, an estimated 2,310 households, at 14 communal shelters in Al-Hasakeh and Tal Tamer. Also, 1,750 individuals in Tal Tamer, an estimated 350 households, were reached with additional blankets, diapers and water.
- Tents for 770 households, approximately 3,850 individuals, were provided at Areesheh camp.

Capacity (continued evaluation)

- Currently, two UN partners and three INGOs are either providing shelter and NFI assistance or planning to. As some organizations have evacuated their staff, or suspended operations, this could limit the response capacity.
- An estimated 10,000 kits are on their way to Quamishli, but the trucks have been stopped at the Tabqa checkpoint due to logistical slowdowns and approvals.
- Tents to respond to 4,000 households in Quamishli, and an additional 1,000 are being dispatched. An estimated 2,000 tents are available in country, while another 4,960 are in the pipeline.
- Emergency shelter kits can be used to support displaced families living in collective centres or urban locations – 1,000 kits are being dispatched.
- Some 11,550 winter clothing children kits are available, with distribution expected to start on 17 October.
- There is capacity to provide 4,000 households with winter cash but given limited market access and security this need will have to be reassessed.
- Current routes available are via Homs/Tartous to Tabqa.



Early Recovery and Livelihoods

Needs and Gaps

- Quick impact livelihood protection activities are not adequately resourced. In instances of protracted displacement, these activities will require additional supplies and regular and safe access.
- Labour opportunities for the current IDP community do not exist and the IDPs are not engaged in any form of economic activities.
- The majority of IDPs are reliant entirely on food assistance as their savings are running out.

Response

- In coordination with Hasakeh governorate office, the UN has committed to repair and provide needed equipment to five wells to cover the acute shortage of water in the city.
- Maintenance of 3 wells (Al Wid association, Al Hizam garden and Al Nasirah/ near to Al Kalasah garden) and provision of submersible pumps have been completed. The maintenance works on the remaining two wells (Sports hall and Al Kalasah/ near to the Church) are ongoing.
- To support the electricity sector, the UN is in the process of providing power transforms, that include two 1000 KVA, two 630 KVA and two 400 KVA, in addition to required electrical accessories.

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