

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Al-Nusra Front consolidates control in western Idlib and the Zawiya Mountains
- ISIL maintains 60% control of Ayn al-Arab city
- Up to 15,000 civilians are estimated to remain in eastern Deir ez-Zor city with limited humanitarian access
- Whole of Syria: At a meeting in Beirut (3/11), HNO was approved and consensus to produce a Strategic Response Plan was reached
- UN cross-border shipments under the Security Council Resolution 2165 reach 20,700 individuals in Aleppo and Idlib Governorates
- UN cross-border shipments under the Security Council Resolution 2139, 10 trucks with UN humanitarian supplies crossed the Nusaybin/Qamishli border
- The Turkish Red Crescent facilitated 278 trucks with humanitarian supplies through seven border crossings

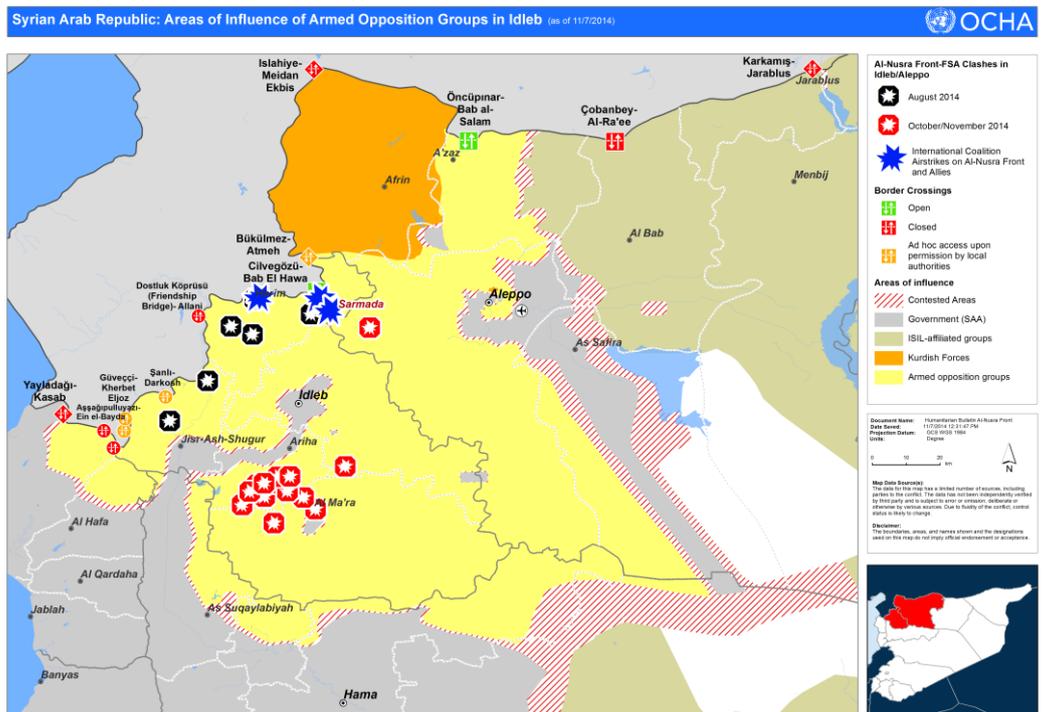


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### Humanitarian Context

Clashes broke out between Al-Nusra Front and its allies, and specific FSA-affiliates in Idlib and western rural Aleppo. These clashes ultimately lead to Al-Nusra Front seizing the main home-territory of a FSA-affiliate as well as their military bases and warehouses. These clashes have raised fears of an all-out war between Al-Nusra Front and FSA-affiliated or other opposition groups. Media reports of Al-Nusra Front building up troops in Sarmada, in order to take Bab al-Hawa crossing proved to be false. However, Al-Nusra seems to be consolidating its territorial control in western Idlib and the Zawiya Mountains and may seek to expand to control the Bab al-Hawa crossing, eastern Idlib, or Western rural Aleppo – scenarios which could see the Turkish authorities closing that crossing; thereby closing-down a major access route to north-western Syria.



### FIGURES

# of People in Need (PiN)	10.8 m
# of IDPs	6.5 m
# of reported camps in northern Syria	133
# of IDPs in reported camps	163,312

ISIL continues its presence in Ayn al-Arab city, where it maintains control of approximately 60% of the city, despite an influx of Kurdish-Iraqi and FSA forces via Turkey and international coalition airstrikes. Unconfirmed reports still suggest that up to 500 civilians remain inside the Kurdish controlled parts of the city.

During the reporting period, ISIL succeeded in taking a key gas field in Eastern Homs from government control and launched an offensive on the Tiyas military airbase. Both actions

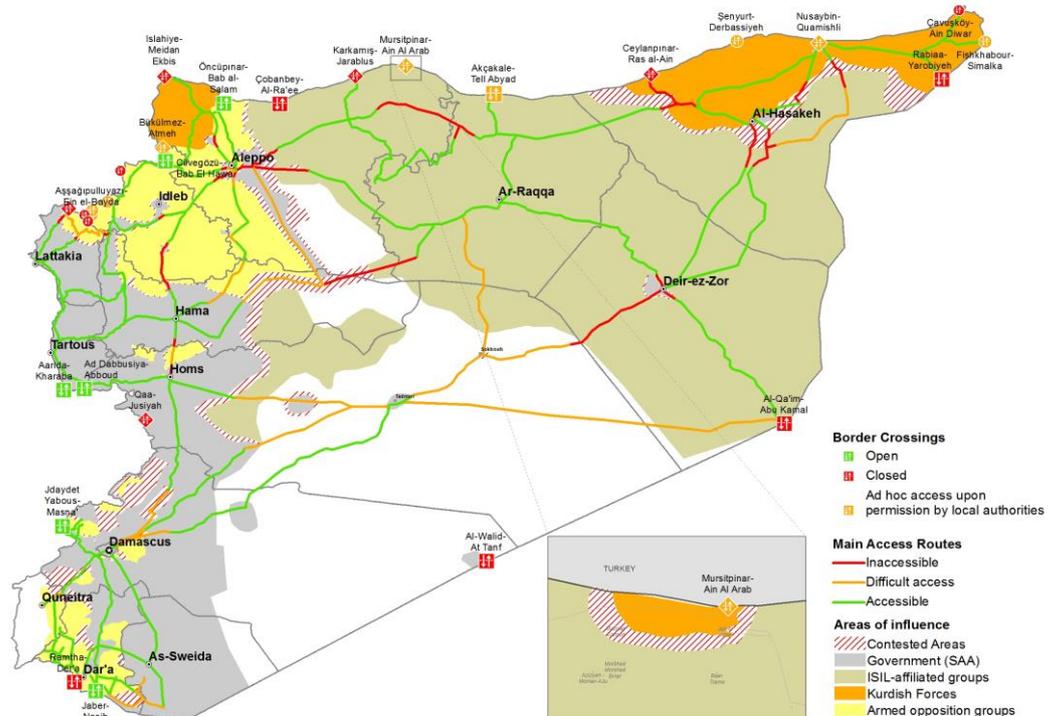
may be a prelude to a further ISIL offensive in nearby areas such as Homs, Hama or even the Qalamoon mountains in rural Damascus. If the case, it raises significant protection concerns for a large numbers of civilians, including minorities, living in these areas.

In Deir-ez-Zor city, government forces launched an offensive on ISIL positions in the eastern neighborhoods, which may result in access being restricted or even blocked to the civilian population. At present, up to 15,000 civilians are estimated to remain in eastern Deir-ez-Zor city. ISIL continues to restrict humanitarian and commercial access to government-controlled neighborhoods in western Deir-ez-Zor city, worsening the humanitarian situation for the approximately 150,000 civilians that remain.

Government forces have continued their counteroffensive in northern Hama, during which there has been a dramatic escalation of aerial bombardment on nearby settlements, such as the Abdeen IDP camp near al-Habit village resulting in 63 deaths and 70 injured. Government forces have sustained their offensive in Aleppo city, launched in October, advancing further into Handarat and Castello with the possibility that the city, itself, may become fully encircled. This would result in humanitarian actors operating from Turkey having to cross a front line in order to access eastern Aleppo. Effectively, approximately 300,000 civilians, who live in eastern Aleppo would be cut-off from ease of humanitarian access, as the only two remaining routes would no longer be usable without passing through opposition and government controlled front lines.

## Humanitarian Access Constraints

Access trends generally remain the same during the reporting period. Humanitarian supplies and personnel are still generally able to reach their intended areas or beneficiaries in the north-western Governorates, albeit with occasional delays as a result of active combat, such as the intra-opposition skirmishes detailed above. Access to the Government controlled villages of Nubul and Zahra in Aleppo remains fully restricted. Access to eastern Aleppo city, Kurdish and ISIL controlled north-eastern Governorates remains problematic.



The coalition airstrikes have, in themselves, not resulted in a reduction of humanitarian interventions. OCHA has no reports of the airstrikes having impacted on the humanitarian operation though humanitarian actors are operating with even greater vigilance. However, there remains a heightened concern that humanitarian workers might be subjected to arrest and/or violence by those armed actors currently being targeted by the airstrikes. This is

particularly a concern, given that international coalition airstrikes have resumed against Al-Nusra Front and have targeted Ahrar al-Sham, a faction of Islamic Front that is not listed as proscribed terror group. This may heighten the security posture of a wide variety of armed groups that had hitherto considered themselves unlikely to be targeted by airstrikes. This may have an effect on humanitarian operations, given that Al-Nusra Front and Ahrar al-Sham operate across north-western Syria, where a majority of cross-border humanitarian actors operate, and Ahrar al-Sham controls Bab al-Hawa crossing.

The above map indicates that the broad areas of control by all the parties to the conflict remain roughly the same during the reporting period. The major routes remain largely accessible in Government of Syria (GoS) controlled areas; while routes crossing into opposition controlled areas remain contested.

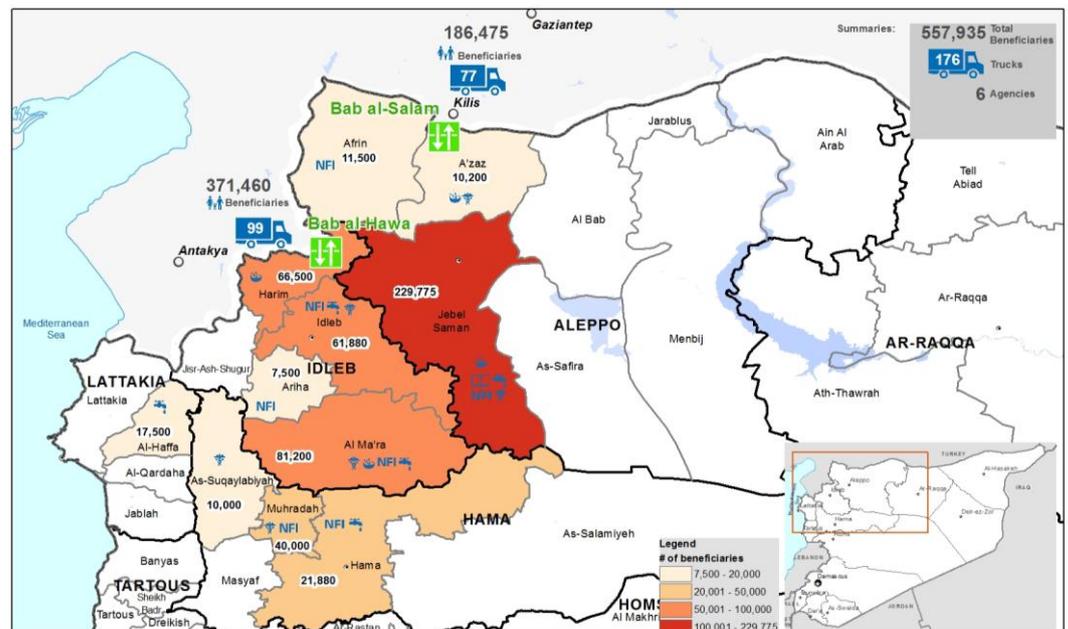
## Whole of Syria (WoS) Meeting in Beirut

OCHA Turkey participated in the third WoS meeting in Beirut on 03 November. The workshop focused on four objectives: 1) review progress on the implementation of the 2 months joint operational plans; 2) validate the HNO in order to make sure that the humanitarian community agrees on key humanitarian needs; 3) agree on how to move forward on the Strategic Response Plan for Whole of Syria in 2015; and 4) agree on how to improve WoS coordination structures.

## Response Update

On 14 July 2014, the Security Council adopted Resolution 2165 allowing the UN and its implementing partners to deliver humanitarian assistance into Syria across designated border crossings. The Resolution requires that the Government of Syria is notified of UN humanitarian assistance entering Syria across the border.

During the past two weeks, shipments with humanitarian supplies from UNHCR, IOM and UNFPA crossed the Bab al-Hawa border. The humanitarian supplies consisted of NFIs and WASH items and will assist 20,700 individuals in Aleppo and Idlib Governorates. The below map shows the accumulated assistance provided through UN cross border assistance from Turkey since the adoption of UNSCR 2165, which totals 557,935 people assisted.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> The total number of households reduced from the previous report. The current number reflects the actual targeted number of beneficiaries versus the planned figure originally contained in the Notification.

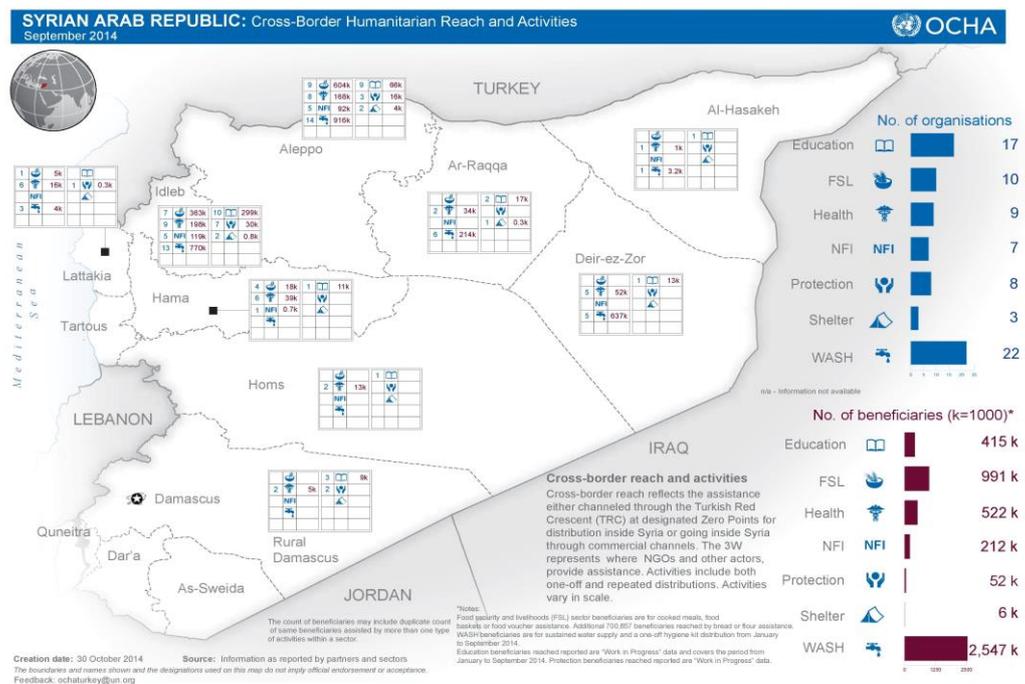
The UN resumed its cross border operations under Security Council Resolution 2139 through the Nusaybin/Qamishli border crossing. Over the course of the last two weeks WFP and UNHCR shipped 10 truckloads of assistance through Nusaybin/Qamishli.

The Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) facilitates the crossing of humanitarian shipments for NGOs and other actors. Between 25 October and 06 November, the TRC facilitated the crossing of 278 trucks using seven border crossings.

IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation is a Turkish NGO, with its own capacity of shipping humanitarian supplies through the Bab al-Hawa border crossing. During the reporting period, IHH sent 46 truckloads multi-sectoral. Reportedly, IHH sent over 4.000 truckloads of assistance to Syria since 2012.

The 3W map below highlights the number of beneficiaries reached in the month of September by humanitarian organizations operating from Turkey. The highest concentration of sectoral interventions can be found in Aleppo and Idleb, followed by Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa with Al-Hasakeh and Homs having the least interventions.

Over 2.5 million people were reached with WaSH interventions in six Governorates since January 2014. Food assistance and health interventions were provided to 991,000 and 522,000 people respectively in September. Compared to the month of August, on average more people were reached in September with various humanitarian interventions.



## Education Sector Update

At the request of the Ministry of Education (MoE) of the Syrian Interim Government, the Information Management Unit (IMU) of the Assistance Coordination Unit (ACU) conducted a rapid assessment of 1,507 public schools in 62 sub-districts across 9 governorates in July 2014 in Syria in order to inform the education sector response. The assessment's major findings are as follows; (a) high proportion of regular public schools are still functioning despite the duration and intensity of the ongoing crisis in Syria, (b) about one third (30%) of assessed public schools do not receive any external support and no longer covered by the Syrian government, (c) staff salaries comprises the largest part (41%) of support received, (d) a high level of enrollment in primary schools is present, (e) the primary reason for student drop-out is the need to work to support family, and (f) student desks are the most needed (48%) classroom equipment.

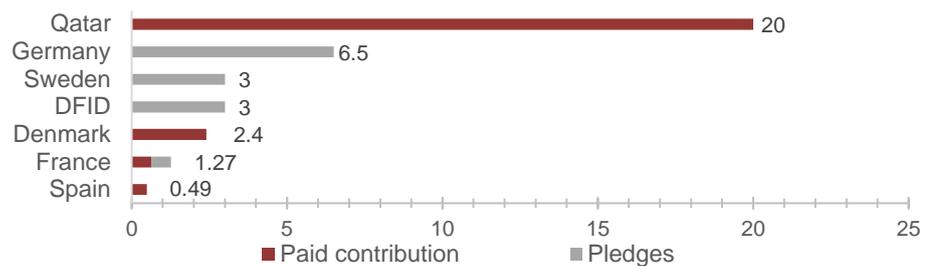
## Update on the Multi Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA)

The MSNA Report was published on 28 October 2014, and can be downloaded at: <http://tinyurl.com/n8ceqw7>. In addition to an in-depth general and sectoral needs analysis, the MSNA results identified that a key constraint to the delivery of humanitarian assistance in the surveyed areas is interference by influential groups or people.

## Humanitarian Pooled Fund (HPF)

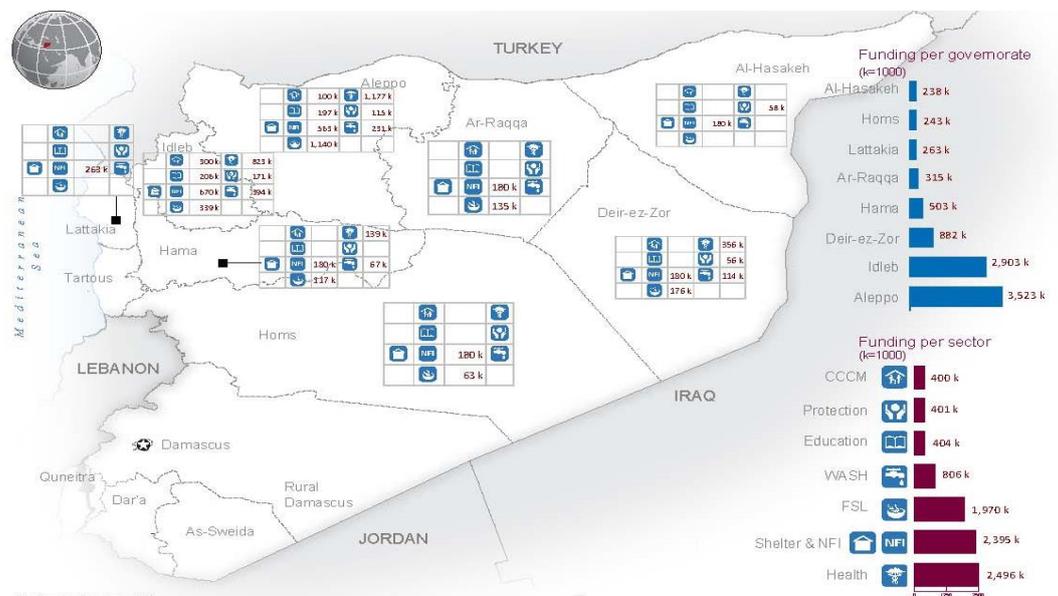
The HPF's allocation process is expected to be finalized towards mid-November, with first disbursements of funds planned within the first weeks of December.

**HPF Funding Status (USD Million)**



The HPF became operational with the first Call for Proposals issued on 19 September 2014. For an allocation of USD 9 million in the first round, 49 proposals were submitted by humanitarian partners in the priority areas. After one strategic and two technical reviews conducted by the sectors in October, 24 (USD 9 million) were approved by the DRHC. Throughout the process, special emphasis was placed on building the capacity of local partners that deliver humanitarian assistance to Syria from Turkey.

The number of donors expressing interest in contributing to the HPF has been increasing. As of 06 November, the HPF has received \$21m with a further \$15m having been pledged. Qatar, France, Denmark and Spain have already acted on their pledges.



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