

HIGHLIGHTS

- Al-Nusra Front (ANF) and allies consolidated their control of the Zawiya Mountains in Idlib.
- Fighting between two factions of the Islamic Front controlling the Bab-al Hawa border prompted Turkish authorities to close the crossing on 16 November 2014.
- During the reporting period, UN cross-border shipments under the Security Council Resolution 2165 reach 107,500 individuals in Aleppo, Idlib and Hama Governorates
- During the reporting period, UN cross-border shipments under the Security Council Resolution 2139, 93 trucks with UN humanitarian supplies crossed the Nusaybin/Qamishli to Al-Hasakeh Governorate
- The Turkish Red Crescent facilitated 297 truckloads of humanitarian supplies crossing through seven border crossings during a ten day period

FIGURES

# of People in Need (PiN)	10.8 m
# of IDPs	6.5 m
# of reported camps in northern Syria	144
# of IDPs in reported settlements	168,689



In this issue

- Humanitarian Context P.1
- Humanitarian Access Constraints P.2
- Update on WoS Approach P.3
- Response Update P.3
- Protection Mainstreaming P.4
- Humanitarian Pooled Fund P.5

Humanitarian Context

Al-Nusra Front (ANF) and allies (Jund al-Aqsa, Khadra Brigade, Liwa al-Umma) further consolidated their control of the Zawiya mountains in Idlib. They eliminated a small FSA-affiliate in the town of Rami and assassinated a key commander of another FSA-affiliate. In contrast to its previous role that was limited to front lines, the ANF has begun to exert greater political and legal influence in areas where they have consolidated control. There have been some instances of harassment and detention of humanitarian workers by ANF in Idlib, who questioned them on the scope and nature of their activities.

While a range of FSA-affiliates continue to maintain presence in Idlib, all either are surrounded by ANF with reduced military capacity, or are situated in southern Idlib/Northern Hama, with their resupply routes blocked by ANF. This dynamic is highly likely to spark ANF-FSA conflict, particularly after ANF withdrew from a sharia tribunal intended to arbitrate between all parties, and after FSA-affiliates' indications that they intend to reopen supply routes. Such conflict could cause momentary or protracted conflict in areas where a wide variety of humanitarian actors operate, such as Idlib, Ma'arat al-Nu'man, Saraqeb, the Zawiya mountains, and Northern Hama.

Fighting broke out in Bab al-Hawa, between two of the factions of Islamic Front controlling the border crossing, prompting its closure by Turkish authorities on 16 November 2014. Islamic Front maintains that the fighting was the result of an argument between individuals and did not reflect longer-term dynamics. Fears of an ANF takeover of Bab al-Hawa, based on unconfirmed reports of a build-up of ANF troops near the crossing, have subsided; informed observers indicate that Islamic Front and ANF have been in talks to reduce any such tensions and that ANF lacks the military capacity to launch a takeover of the crossing.

A variety of mainstream Islamist groups have begun to strengthen relations with ANF over the last week, including closer cooperation on the battlefield. In some cases, this is driven by a motivation among some mainstream Islamist groups to seize territory from their FSA rivals; while in other areas mainstream Islamists have sought to align themselves with ANF given the latter's popularity following coalition strikes against them. This comes several months after FSA-affiliates and Islamic Front officials had begun to cooperate more closely, including entering into talks over building a future coalition to combat al-Nusra. This development may reduce the threat of ANF seizing the Bab al-Hawa crossing from Islamic Front - a scenario that was seen as possible last week, when ANF built up checkpoints around the crossing.

15 factions in Aleppo city created the Aleppo Revolutionaries' Council, an operations room intended to prevent government advances in Handarat that would allow them to encircle the city. 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. Government forces have so far failed to advance further around the city. Some observers still consider that their next advance may be to reconnect with the government-controlled towns of Nubul and Zahra (13 km away from their outwards position in Seifat) a move that could block humanitarian access routes from Bab al-Salam crossing to Aleppo city. Islamic Front and ANF also launched an offensive towards the Sfirra military production facilities in southeastern Aleppo, a key military installation marking the governments resupply route to western Aleppo city.

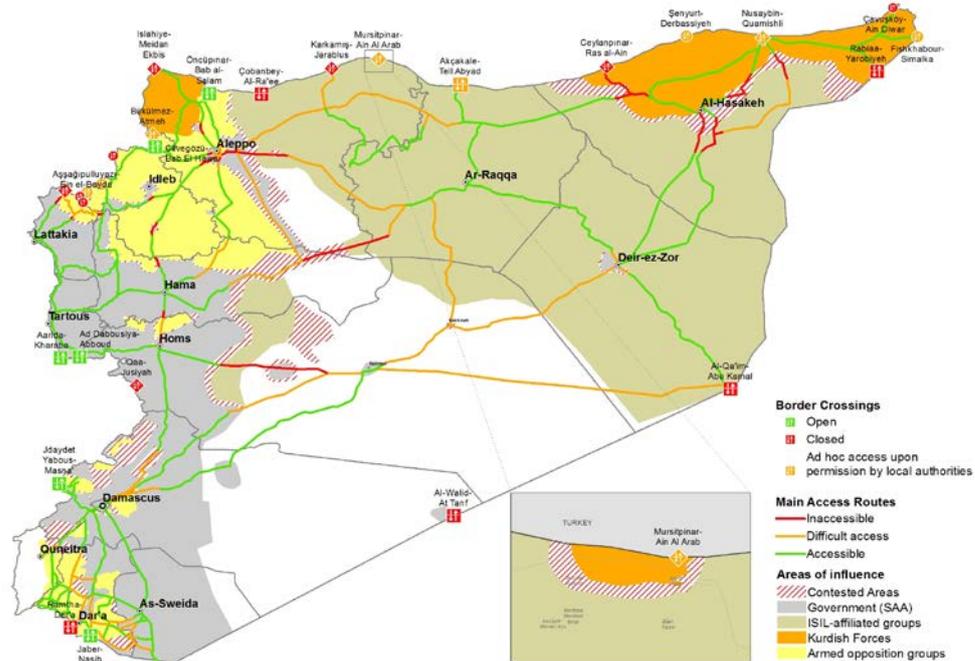
ISIL sustains its presence in Ayn al-Arab city and controls approximately 40-50% of the city.

ISIL continues to sustain its presence in Ayn al-Arab city, where it maintains control of approximately 40-50% of the city. There are some indications that the YPG, assisted by an influx of Kurdish-Iraqi and FSA forces, have succeeded in contesting (but not fully retaking) parts of the city under ISIL control. There are also indications of modest numbers of returnees, with local and international media estimating that over 500 civilians are now located inside of YPG-controlled sectors of the city. ISIL lost a key gas field in eastern Homs to government forces and failed to sustain its offensive on the government Tiyas military airbase, reducing the scenario of further ISIL advances into Homs, Hama or even the Qalamoon mountains in rural Damascus and the concomitant protection concerns for civilians in the area.

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 northwestern governorates, albeit with occasional delays because of active combat. Access to the government-controlled villages of Nubul and Zahra in Aleppo remains fully restricted. Access to eastern Aleppo city, Kurdish and ISIL controlled northeastern governorates remains problematic. The below map indicates that the broad areas of control by all the parties to the conflict remain roughly the same during the reporting period.

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The coalition airstrikes have not resulted in a reduction of humanitarian interventions. OCHA has no reports of the airstrikes having an impact on the humanitarian operation though humanitarian actors are operating with even greater vigilance. 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 coalition airstrikes have resumed against ANF 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. Humanitarian operations may be impacted, given that ANF and Ahrar al-Sham operate across northwestern Syria, and Ahrar al-Sham controls Bab al-Hawa crossing.

Update on WoS Approach

Humanitarian actors, NGOs based in Turkey, Syria and Jordan as well as INGOs and UN agencies, working on Syria gathered in Beirut for the Whole of Syria meeting on 17-18 November 2014. Participants discussed progress made, 2015 Strategic Response Plan and reviewed SRP's key components (country strategy, strategic objective, monitoring framework, sectors/clusters response plan, costing methodology). The participants also put forward recommendations to strengthen coordination.

The Syria HC ai, the D/RHC acknowledged achievements made to date and emphasized the importance of reaching an agreement on the modalities for a joint response plan. Participants made critical decisions during the two-day workshop, as the SRP will be launched in Berlin on 18 December. Moreover, participants agreed on arrangements related to sectoral objectives and activities, a new costing methodology, a monitoring framework in line with IASC guidelines and WoS.

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 assistance entering Syria across the border.

WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, and IOM shipped humanitarian supplies through the Bab al-Hawa and Bab al-Salam border crossings. The humanitarian supplies consisted of FSL, NFIs, WaSH and health items and will assist 107,500 individuals in Aleppo, Idlib and Hama Governorates. The below map shows the accumulated assistance provided through UN cross border assistance from Turkey since the adoption of SCR 2165, which totals 665,244 people assisted.

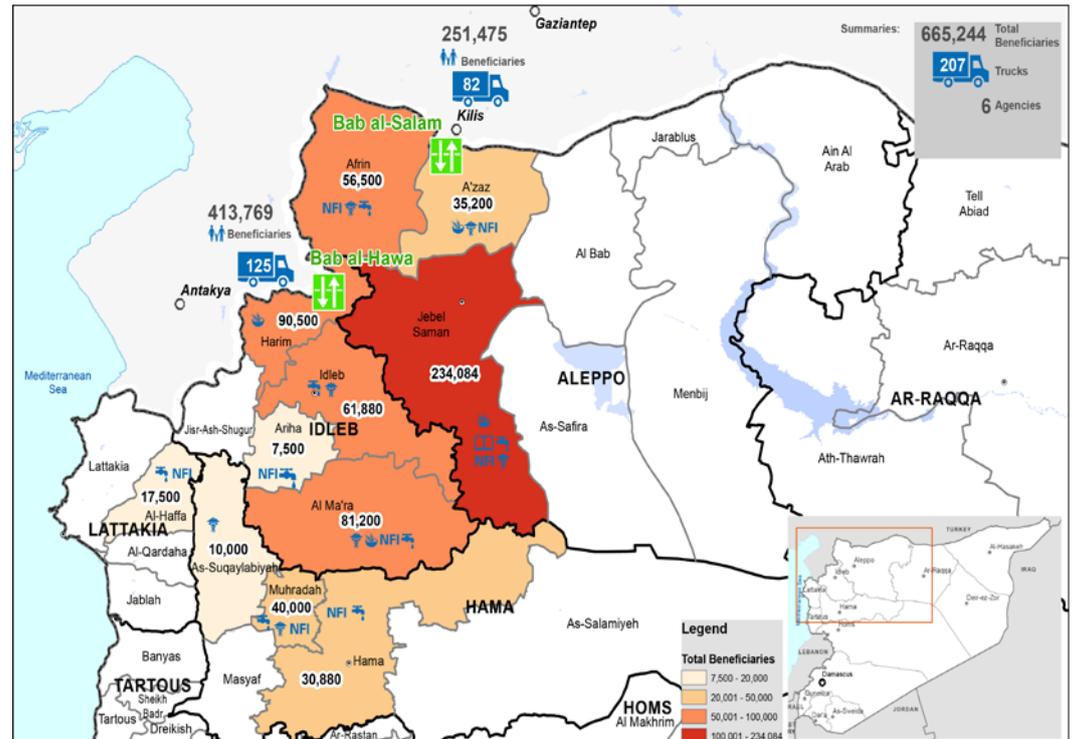
UN further resumed its cross border operations under Security Council Resolution 2139 through the Nusaybin/Qamishli border crossing, a route that significantly helps to reduce logistics costs in resupplying UN warehouses in Al-Hasakeh governorate. Over the course of last two weeks, WFP and UNHCR shipped 93 truckloads of assistance through Nusaybin/Qamishli.

In addition to the UN shipments, the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) is facilitating the crossing of humanitarian shipments by NGOs and other actors through designated zero points along the Turkish border. Between 06 November and 20 November, the TRC

Participants made critical decisions during the two-day workshop and agreed on arrangements related to sectoral objectives and activities as well as a new costing methodology.

facilitated the crossing of 297 trucks during 10 shipment days using seven border crossings.

The map shows the accumulated assistance provided through UN cross border assistance from Turkey since the adoption of SCR 2165, which totals 665,244 people assisted.



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Protection Mainstreaming

OCHA, with the support of IRC, conducted eight trainings on Protection Mainstreaming in Gaziantep and Antakya to over 190 humanitarian actors operating in Syria. The trainings, carried out from September to November 2014, are part of a broader “**Capacity Building Initiative on Protection Mainstreaming**” that aims to support the humanitarian community adopt a protection mainstreaming approach to the Syria response.

The participants of the trainings (5 held in Arabic and 3 in English) included staff from 105 different organizations, including SNGOs, INGOs, UN agencies, local councils and authorities and Red Crescent societies. Close to a third of participants were female and Syrian staff comprised approximately 90% of participants. To develop participant’s skills to mainstream protection into their programmes, the training modules included defining protection mainstreaming and its key elements (safety & dignity, meaningful access, accountability and participation); practical application of protection mainstreaming into the program cycle; safe communication of protection issues; and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.

OCHA’s ProCap adviser facilitated the trainings with the support of 13 co-facilitators / protection mainstreaming focal points from 12 humanitarian organizations operating in Syria from Turkey. According to a course evaluation, participants noted greater appreciation and recognition for the relevance and value of protection mainstreaming and 97% stated that the training significantly improved their understanding of Protection Mainstreaming and its practical application.

To further support the humanitarian community, Protection Mainstreaming Guidance Notes for each of the sectors have been developed based on suggestions provided by participants. Participants identified recommendations to be shared with the humanitarian community to make protection mainstreaming a concrete reality in the Syria response.

The DRHC approved 24 proposals for an allocation of \$USD 9 million.

Humanitarian Pooled Fund (HPF)

The DRHC approved 24 proposals from 18 SNGOs, 4 INGOs and 2 UN agencies for an allocation of \$USD 9 million in the first round. The Advisory Board (AB) meeting will take place on 4 December 2014 to review lessons-learned from the first allocation process.

Information Management

OCHA trained more than 40 participants from various sectors in reporting for 3Ws in English in Gaziantep. OCHA plans to hold a similar training in Hatay.

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