

HIGHLIGHTS

- Armed opposition forces have taken control of the key government military bases of Wadi al-Deif and Hamadiya
- ISIL launched an offensive into Northern rural Aleppo to exploit the heavy fighting between government and opposition forces in Mallah farms
- ISIL's sustained its offensive on Deir-ez-Zor military airport for some days, but made no clear gains over government forces
- Security Council, unanimously adopts Resolution 2191 (2014), renews authorization allowing agencies, humanitarian partners continued aid access across Syrian borders
- During the reporting period, UN cross-border shipments under the Security Council Resolution 2165 reached 248,470 individuals in Aleppo, Idleb, Hama and Latakia governorates

FIGURES

# of People in Need (PiN)	10.8 m
# of IDPs	6.5 m
# of reported camps in northern Syria	149
# of IDPs in reported settlements	180,248



Jordanian Authorities Visit UN Hub in Rehani for Bab al Hawa

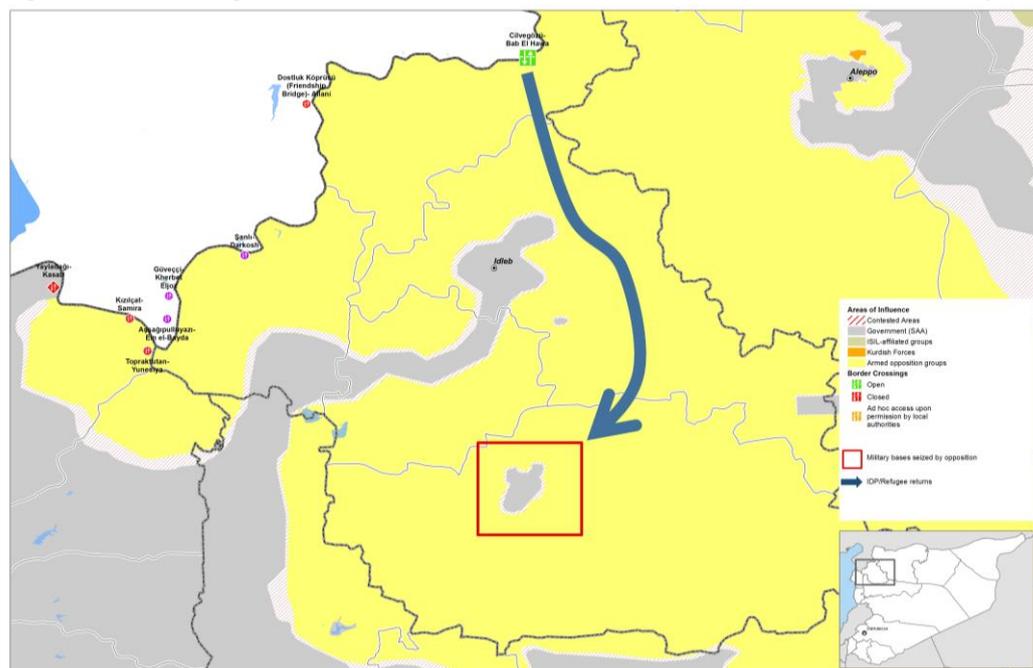
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Humanitarian Context

Opposition takes key government military bases in Idleb:

Armed opposition forces have taken control of the key government military bases of Wadi al-Deif and Hamadiya, which had been besieged by opposition forces for over 2 years (please see the below map). The seizure of these military bases, which were a major source of artillery shelling on surrounding civilian settlements – particularly Ma'arat al-Nu'man and the Zawiya mountains – has reportedly prompted many refugees and IDPs from these areas to return to Idleb. The seizure of the bases also opens up large stretches of the highway for humanitarian access. The seizure of the bases and military hardware has also boosted the capacity of the armed opposition, as well as freeing up large numbers of fighters that had been stationed around the bases for over 2 years.



GoS' advances to encircle Aleppo city prompts opposition counter-offensive:

Government forces succeeded in pushing west of Handarat village, taking some of the Mallah farms. This move puts them in close geographical proximity to a stretch of the Castello road – the only remaining access route into Eastern opposition-controlled Aleppo city. Cross-border actors have adjusted their access route, using the Haritan-Castello road, which still allows full access. However, further government advances west and southwest could threaten, or even block this route. If government forces reach Castello,

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approximately 300,000 civilians, who live in eastern Aleppo would be largely cut-off from ease of humanitarian access. Armed opposition forces, reportedly boosted by their victory in Idleb, responded by launching a counteroffensive that saw them retake some of the Mallah farms. It is also worth noting that sources from the Local Council of Aleppo have also reported tens of thousands of returns to Eastern Aleppo city, motivated by winter conditions, relatively cheap accommodation and a perceived decrease in barrel bombing.

ISIL offensive into Northern Rural Aleppo:

ISIL launched an offensive into Northern rural Aleppo to exploit the heavy fighting between government and opposition forces in Mallah farms, which may weaken the opposition's defense against ISIL. So far, there is no evidence of any ISIL progress but the incident underlines the continuing risk of ISIL making a quick advance into Northern Rural Aleppo, reaching Tell Rifaat, Azaz or even Bab al-Salam crossing -scenarios which would block one of the main cross-border access routes into Syria.

ISIL offensive on Deir-ez-Zor military airport dies down:

ISIL's sustained its offensive on Deir-ez-Zor military airport for some days, but made no clear gains over government forces and, according to some reports, caused significant losses among ISIL, prompting them to cease the offensive. This reduces the possibility of ISIL taking over the airport – a move that would likely cause the fall of remaining government-held neighborhoods to ISIL. Approximately 150,000 people continue living under government control, to which ISIL has already blocked almost all humanitarian access from the surrounding countryside.

Government airstrikes on hospitals:

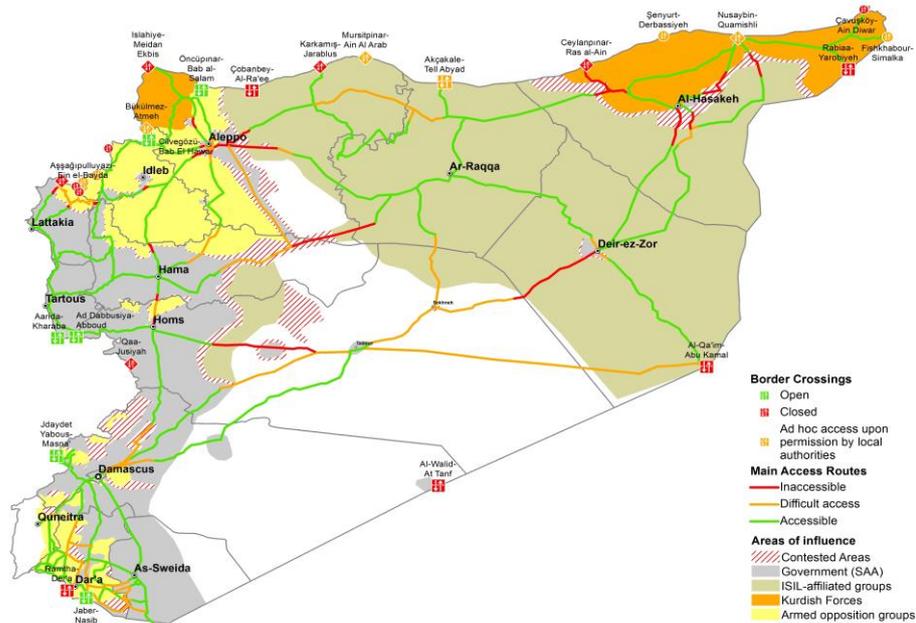
On 16 December, government forces carried out airstrikes that hit the Tabb al-Hadeeth hospital in Mayadeen city, Deir-ez-Zor – the largest hospital in the area, resulting in the deaths of 12 people and injuring civilians, patients and medical staff and damaging the hospital. The same day, government airstrikes hit the Orient hospital in Kafar Nobol, Idleb, resulting in the deaths of 13 civilians and rendering the hospital non-functional. The hospital served approximately 30,000 people in rural Idleb.

Humanitarian Access Constraints

Humanitarian supplies and personnel are still generally able to reach their intended areas or beneficiaries in the north-western governorates, albeit with occasional delays.

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. Access to the Government of Syria (GoS) 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 below 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 GoS controlled areas; while routes crossing into opposition controlled areas remain contested.



The Strategic Response Plan was launched in Berlin on 18 December 2018.

Update on SRP

On 18 December 2014 the Whole of Syria Strategic Response Plan 2015 (SRP) was launched in Berlin by the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos and the newly appointed Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Whole of Syria Response, Kevin Kennedy. The purpose of the WoS approach is to avoid duplication, improve joint planning and monitoring for a more effective response within Syria. The Plan 2015 addresses acute humanitarian needs inside Syria, aiming to provide 12.2 million people with protection, life-saving assistance and livelihoods support. It requires \$2.9 billion in funding and brings together humanitarian organizations working inside Syria and in neighboring countries.

The accumulated assistance provided through UN reached to 1,055,714 individuals.

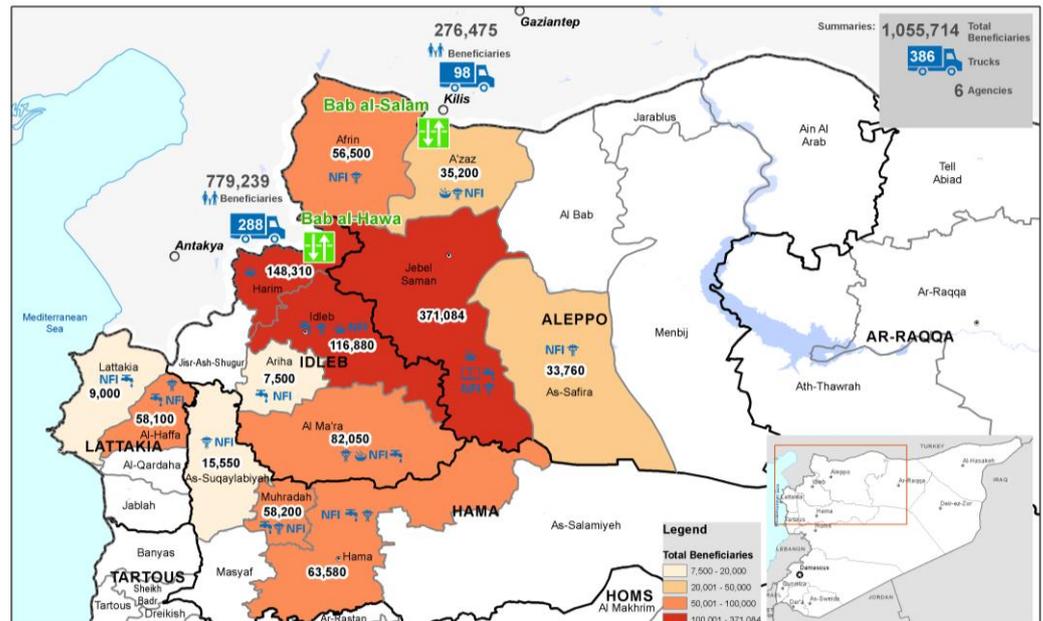
Response Update

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 consisting of Health, FSL, NFIs and WaSH items from WFP, UNHCR, UNFPA and IOM crossed the Bab al-Hawa border crossing. This aid will assist 248,470 individuals in Aleppo, Idlib, Hama and Latakia governorates. The below map shows the accumulated assistance provided through UN cross border assistance from Turkey since the adoption of SCR 2165, which totals 1,055,714 people assisted.

The Security Council renewed OCHA's mandate to deliver cross-border humanitarian aid to Syria through its unanimous adoption of resolution 2191 on 17 December 2014.

On 17 December 2014, the Security Council decided that United Nations agencies and humanitarian partners could continue, with notification to the Syrian authorities, to use the border crossings at Bab al-Salam, Bab al-Hawa, Al Yarubiyah and Al Ramtha through its unanimous adoption of resolution 2191. Those border crossings originally authorized by UNSC 2165 Resolution will also be used.



UN resumed its cross border operations under Security Council Resolution 2139 through the Nusaybin/Qamishli border crossing. Over the course of past two weeks UNHCR shipped 30 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 05 -18 December 2014, the TRC facilitated the crossing of 427 trucks during 12 shipment days using six border crossings.

Humanitarian Pooled Fund

The Advisory Board of the Humanitarian Pool Fund (HPF) in Turkey met on 4 December 2014 to update the Board on the establishment of the fund, the strategic priorities and the second allocation (calls for proposals). HPF will disburse the first round of funds to partners in upcoming weeks. Preparations for the second allocations are well under way with a deadline for the call for proposals likely to be in the middle of February. In line with the priorities of SRP, capacity building of national humanitarian actors will be the first priority for the second allocation. The Board approved the limit of 15 Million US dollars with a contingency of 10 percent for unforeseen developments.

ACU Bakery Assessment Study

The Assistance Coordination Unit (ACU) conducted an assessment of bakeries in Syria in order to inform the response provided by aid actors within the food security sector. Key findings presented in further details in this report include (1) The majority of assessed bakeries was private bakeries (71%), and about quarter of assessed bakeries was public (24%), (2) The highest proportion of non-functioning bakeries were found in Rural-Damascus Governorate (79%), followed by Hama (65%) and Deir-ez-Zor (45%) governorates, (3) Public bakeries represented 52% of the bread production capacity, followed by private bakeries with 46% and joint bakeries with 2%. The full report can be accessed from the following link: <http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/bakeries-syria-assessment-report-december-2014>

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