

### HIGHLIGHTS

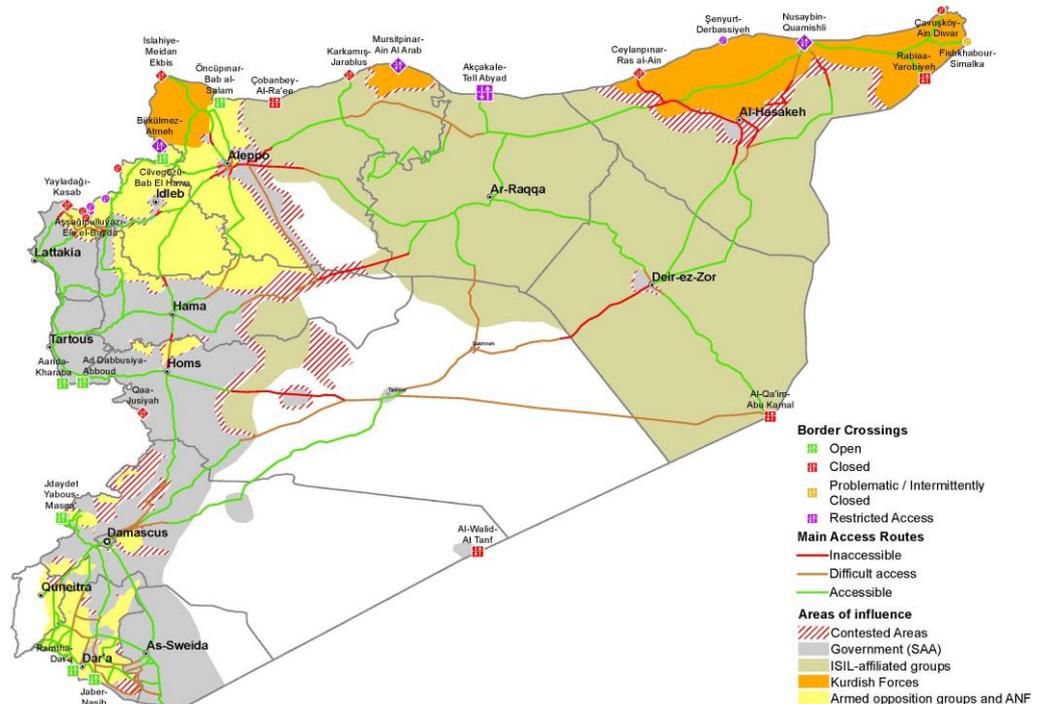
- YPG advances in Ayn al-Arab against ISIL prompt few returns to the town but locals are in need of emergency assistance.
- Clashes between Al-Nusra Front and Hazm Movement cease. Bab al-Hawa border crossing reopened.
- During the reporting period, UN cross-border shipments under Security Council Resolution 2165/2191 reach 268,332 individuals in Aleppo, Idlib, Hama and Latakia Governorates.
- The Turkish Red Crescent facilitate 350 truckloads of humanitarian supplies crossing through six border crossings during the past two weeks.



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## Humanitarian Access Constraints

Access trends remain generally unchanged during the reporting period except for the specific areas highlighted below. Humanitarian supplies and personnel are still generally able to reach their intended areas or beneficiaries in the northwestern governorates, with occasional delays because of active combat. The map below indicates that the broad areas of control by all the parties to the conflict remain roughly the same during the reporting period. Major routes remain largely accessible in Government of Syria (GoS) controlled areas; while routes crossing into opposition-controlled areas remain contested.



### FIGURES

# of People in Need (PiN)	12.2 m
# of IDPs	7.6 m
# of reported camps in northern Syria	232
# of IDPs in reported camp settlements	175,517

## Humanitarian Context

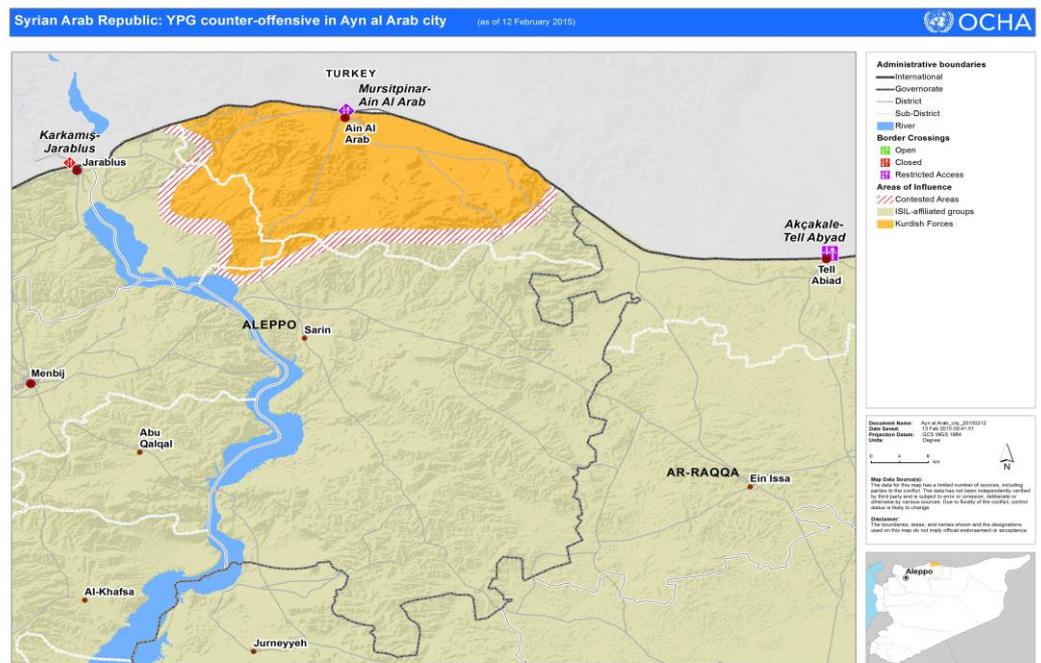
**Clashes between Al-Nusra Front and FSA-affiliates in Aleppo die down, reducing fears over Bab al-Hawa border:**

Clashes between Al-Nusra Front and the FSA-affiliated faction Hazm Movement in western rural Aleppo ended, after Hazm Movement joined the Islamist coalition Jabhat al-Shamia. This brings the majority of armed groups in Idlib and Aleppo under a common

umbrella, reducing the likelihood of Al-Nusra Front launching any major offensive on any other faction, for fear of allied factions then responding. Simultaneously, Hazm Movement withdrew from Bab al-Hawa border crossing – control of which it shares with 3 other factions – in order to avoid a scenario whereby Al-Nusra Front, which attacked the Hazm Movement inside the crossing, prompting its closure. Bab al-Hawa reopened and remains functional as of 02 February 2015.

**YPG advances against ISIL in Ayn al-Arab prompt returns:**

YPG forces continue to advance against ISIL in the countryside around Ayn al-Arab (Kobane) town, and are now in control of approximately 60-80% of the territory formerly under YPG control before the ISIL offensive in October 2014. The pace of YPG advances has reportedly prompted a slight increase in returns to Ayn al-Arab city, given perceptions of increased security. Local sources now estimate that the total number of civilians in Ayn al-Arab city is up to 10,000 people, with some sources reporting up to 500 returns a day. While many of these are temporary visitors looking to assess their houses, many are now staying on, or else are unable to return into Turkey given border restrictions on re-entering Turkey. Local sources are reporting that civilians in the city need emergency assistance, given that most of the city has been destroyed, along with most health, water and electricity infrastructure. However, some community ovens were not damaged and are operating. One hospital remains intact. So far, the only humanitarian response has come from local Turkish or Syrian NGOs. There is also a large quantity of unexploded ordinances and many booby-trapped houses in the Eastern sector of the city and the surrounding countryside that are preventing returnees from coming back to rural areas before they have been de-mined.



**YPG and FSA advances against ISIL in Ayn al-Arab and perception of increased Coalition airstrikes prompt some displacement:**

FSA forces fighting alongside the YPG in Ayn al-Arab have declared their intention to advance beyond Kurdish-majority areas and take the towns of Jarablus, Tell Abyad and Sarin from ISIL control reportedly causing some preemptive population displacements in Lower Shuyukh and villages west of Tell Abyad. Simultaneously, an increase in coalition airstrikes on ISIL positions, following the killing of the Jordanian pilot Muath al-Kaseasbeh, furthered this perception of imminent conflict, prompting some families in Ar-Raqqa city to flee temporarily to the surrounding countryside or to Turkey. However, there is no indication of a major population movement or imminent advance by forces opposed to ISIL into these areas. While approximately 650 individuals crossed into Turkey via Tell Abyad, these were Iraqi Turkmen who had travelled from Tell Afar in Iraq as a result of



chlorination coverage in Al Mayadeen increased from 68 % to 74 % in the last three weeks whereas it decreased from 75% to 69 % in Deir-ez-Zor. While Acute Bloody Diarrhea has decreased slightly in Abu Kamal, it has increased in Deir-ez-Zor and Al Mayadeen. Minor decreases in Suspected Typhoid Fever and Leishmaniasis in Al Mayadeen, Deir-ez-Zor and Abu Kamal are observed. However, Acute Jaundice Syndrome cases increased approximately from 60 to 100 in Abu Kamal, from 160 to 200 in Al Mayadeen, and from 50 to 70 in Deir-ez-Zor in the last three weeks.

Participants agreed on further sharing of information on their respective activities and capacities to coordinate the response. Another action point is focused around case management through support to health facilities and awareness raising of field health staff on modern treatment protocols of water borne diseases.

## Idleb Bakeries Update

*In places where bakeries stopped operations, locals report that prices have temporarily risen to up to 250 SYP per bag.*

The Food Security and Livelihoods Working Group (FSLWG) held a meeting on 11 February 2015 in Antakya to discuss the dramatic drop in flour quantities and bread production in Idleb province over the last month. As of 11 February 2015, ten bakeries that were run by the Government of Syria were closed down and only three bakeries are operational. It was also reported that the Government of Syria requested bakery staff to relocate to Ariha, Jisr-al-Sugur, and Idleb city bakeries that are controlled by the Government of Syria. While the underlying cause for the closure of ovens could not be established, the cessation of bread production has created a shortfall of bread for 250,000 families. Until the second week of February 2015, 600,000 people received bread at the subsidized price of 35 SYP (\$0.7 USD according to black market exchange rates) per bag. The average price of non-subsidized bread was 110 SYP for the same period. In places where bakeries stopped operations, locals report that prices have temporarily risen to up to 250 SYP per bag. Kafr Nabool, Salqin, Khan Shaykun and Ma'arat al-Nu'man remain vulnerable sub-districts with large population and high prices.

Partners discussed the availability of flour in Syria, flour supply from Turkey, operational constraints such as shifting focus from present projects to bakery-related support, and capacity of functional bakeries. Partners indicated that with the closure of these bakeries some 6,000 MT of flour have been taken off the market, which in turn is likely to further increase prices in Idleb. Partners stated that an assessment is essential to understand how much flour is available in silos and how much flour is being supplied from Turkey. Some partners raised concerns that the shortage of flour and bread may cause some families to move to IDP camps where food baskets are provided and where subsidized bread is available.

## Humanitarian Pooled Fund Allocation

*The HPF will allocate USD20 million for Protection, Livelihoods and Health/Nutrition projects.*

The Advisory Board of the HPF approved the Allocation Paper for the First Standard Allocation for 2015. Hard to reach and besieged areas will be targeted. Proposals from Syrian NGOs and those that build the capacity of Syrian NGOs will be prioritized over other submissions.

The HPF will allocate USD20 million to the following strategic priorities:

1. Safe protection services through Protection and Education activities
2. Livelihoods support through Food Security activities
3. Nutrition awareness raising and life-saving interventions through Health and Nutrition activities

Eligible partners are invited to submit their projects by 10 March 2015. The Allocation Paper can be accessed at: <http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/stima/hpf>

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