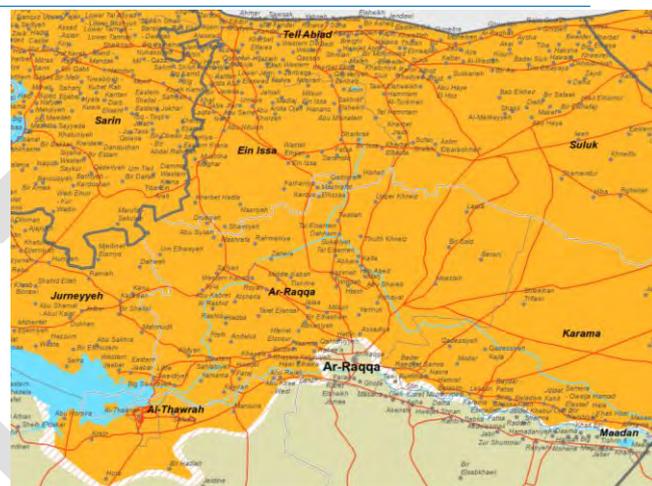




This report is produced by the OCHA Syria Crisis offices in Syria, Turkey and Jordan. It covers the period from 1 – 3 June 2017. The next report will be issued on or around 9 June 2017.

Highlights

- The SDF advances towards Ar-Raqqa city displaced over 169,000 people during the months of April and May across northern Syria. Of which an estimated 100,000 were displaced in May.
- On 28 May, about 25,000 people were reportedly displaced to the east of Al-Tabqa, near Al-Elskandariyah neighborhood, as a result of Government of Syria (GoS) advances in eastern Aleppo countryside around Maskana and SDF advances south of the Euphrates river around Mansourah. Initial reports indicate that these IDPs are in urgent need of food, WASH, health and shelter.
- IDPs continue to face significant protection risks including those related to the presence of explosive hazards; unsafe and smuggling routes; reports of forcible recruitment of men and boys and limitations in freedom of movement.
- As of 3 June 2017, Vaccine Derived Poliovirus Type 2 (VDPV2) has been detected by WHO accredited laboratories in the samples of two children with Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) from Deir-Ez-Zor Governorate. A vaccination campaign is underway.



169,982

people displaced from 1 April - 31 May (100,779 during May)



112,351

people reached with food assistance from 1 -31 May



488,740

children under five vaccinated against polio in Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, and Hassakeh governorates



10,600 +

children reached with nutrition assistance between 1 -31 May



Situation Overview

In the week from May 24 to May 31, the SDF continued to advance towards Ar-Raqqa city amidst heavy airstrikes and increased ground fighting in the western and eastern Ar-Raqqa countryside, generating new waves of displacement. On 24 May, more villages, including the town of Hamrat Nasera, were captured by the SDF in the eastern countryside as well as the Al Rasheed farm in the western countryside. On May 25, the SDF captured the strategic Kdeiran village, north of the Al Baath dam. The SDF continued to make inroads towards Raqqa city on May 30, taking control of six villages in the southwestern countryside. On May 31, the SDF established its control of Hunaydi village, which is located along the M6 highway, a strategic supply road. At the same time, ISIL withdrew from al-Assadiyah village in northern Raqqa, five kilometers north of Ar-Raqqa city. The SDF also advanced further towards the northern banks of the Euphrates River, and as of May 31, the SDF were located hundreds of meters from the Al-Baath Dam, which regulates the water flow of the Euphrates River and is also used for power generation. On 6 June the offensive against ISIL in Ar-Raqqa city was announced by the SDF.

SDF advancement resulted in the displacement of about 12,000 individuals from the Hamrat area eastwards, close to the Karama area. About 7,000 were displaced from Kdeiran, western Sahlabiyeh and Khayala northwards near Al Rasheed farm. GoS forces advances against ISIL in east Aleppo countryside also caused the displacement of about 15,000 people from Maskana, Debsi Afnan and Debsi Faraj. At the same time, SDF advances south of the Euphrates river led to the displacement of some 10,000 people from Mansoura, Hneda, Al-Rrasafa, and Al-Zmla to areas close to Al-Tabqa. However, local Kurdish authorities reportedly prevented the IDPs from crossing into the city, citing security concerns. As a result, these IDPs stayed for a few days in open areas near the Al- Elskandariyah neighborhood east of Al-Tabqa. By 2 June, most IDPs had crossed the Euphrates dam bridge accessing areas in Jurneyyeh district or west Raqqa countryside. About 500 families from east Aleppo countryside were sent to Twehina

camp site after the ID cards and travel documents were confiscated by local Kurdish authorities. Other IDPs moved to Menbij and the ones who failed to provide sponsors were moved to Albab and Jarablus.

The month of May was marked by a worrying increase in the number of civilian casualties reported as a result of hostilities. Such reports coincide with an increase in the reported incidents of shelling and airstrikes on Ar-Raqqa city as well as ISIL-held towns and villages in the southern countryside. Between 27 – 29 May, reports of more than 70 fatalities due to airstrikes and shelling were received. Verification of these reports, however, remains extremely challenging given the limited information flow from ISIL-held areas. These reports include an incident in which 18 people were reportedly killed on the road between Ratlah town and Al-Kasrat area on 28 May, and incidents of shelling on Ar-Raqqa city that led to more than 17 fatalities on the same day.

As the fighting draws closer to Ar-Raqqa city, vital civilian infrastructure continues to suffer. On 27 May, airstrikes reportedly destroyed the Al-Rasheed school in the center of the city. On 29 May, the faculty of science as well as the industrial school were severely damaged by airstrikes. Airstrikes were also reported in the vicinity of the National Hospital, with no clear information whether the hospital was damaged in the attack. In the southern countryside of the governorate, the water tower in the ISIL-held Mansura town was reportedly blown up by ISIL on 29 May.

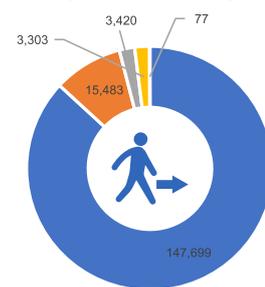
The access situation into Tabqa town witnessed some improvement in the last week of May after the dam bridge road was reopened for civilians and commercial traffic from 6 am to 6pm. This resulted in a significant increase in the availability of food commodities, such as vegetables and fruit. The reopening of the dam bridge enabled IDPs from Tabqa town in the northern and western countryside of the governorate to return to their homes. Furthermore, a few NGOs have been able to access the town and carry out assessments and humanitarian distributions.

Displacement trends

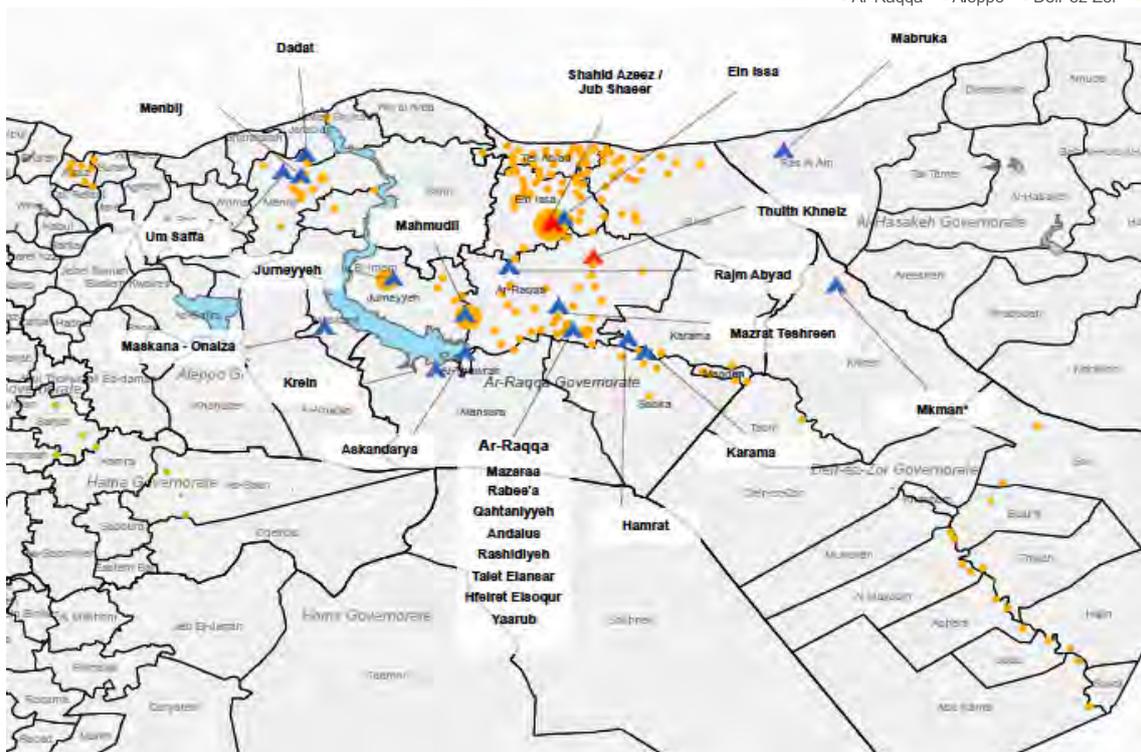
The total number of displaced people (which might include some secondary displacement) from Ar-Raqqa governorate tracked by the CCCM Cluster since May has reached 169,982 individuals. Of these, 147,699 people displaced within Ar-Raqqa governorate, whereas 15,483 displaced to Aleppo, 3,420 to Deir-ez-Zor, 3,303 to Idleb and 77 to Hama . In the last two weeks of the month, the Cluster recorded a total of 7,709 arrivals in Al Bab sub-district, including 2,527 from Ar-Raqqa, 3,307 from Homs and 1,875 from Aleppo governorate.

The situation remains highly fluid with displacements and apparent returns reported in various locations on a daily basis.

Destination of Ar-Raqqa IDPs
(# of displacements)



■ Ar-Raqqa ■ Aleppo ■ Deir-ez-Zor ■ Idleb ■ Hama



The below provides an update of the situation in areas of highest concentration of IDPs. The size of the population in these sites remains influenced by the implementation of screening and sponsorship procedures by the security and civilian administration.

Ein Issa Camp



**6,000 – 9,000
individuals**

As of 31 May, an estimated 6,000 IDPs were staying at the transit site with a further estimated 3,000 individuals located in the surroundings of the site. Site preparations to host up to 10,000 people are almost finalized. However, humanitarian actors discussed the need to increase the reception capacity of the center to 25,000 people in view of a likely increased in the number of IDPs as a result of an intensification of the military operation in Ar-Raqqa city.

On 28 May, WFP distributed food assistance consisting of 1,600 ready-to-eat food rations to the transit IDPs and 400 general food rations to the long-term IDPs. As of 1 June, WFP is prepositioning 2,000 ready-to-eat food rations at Ein Issa camp as an emergency stock to respond to emerging food needs in the camp.

IDPs in Al-Iskandariyeh (Tabqa)

As of 31 May, an estimated 25,000 IDPs arrived to the Iskandariyah area near Tabqa town. The IDPs originated from Al-Mansura, Hindah, Maskana, Dibse Afnan and Bu Asi. A Rapid Need Assessment was conducted on 31 May, highlighting limited access to basic goods and services.



**25,000
individuals**

An INGO distributed 1,200 ready-to-eat food rations on May 31, covering food needs for a household of five to six days. By 2 June, most IDPs in Iskandariyah had either moved on to other locations or returned to their areas of origin. The remaining IDPs were transferred to a new site in At-Tuwayhinah, some 27 km from Tabqa. Partners on the ground are currently discussing further response efforts.

IDPs in Al-Hamrat (near Karama)



**11,000
individuals**

A further 11,000 IDPs were reported to have arrived to Al-Hamrat (10 km from Al-Karama makeshift camp) from Raqqa in late May. A rapid needs assessment was conducted on 30 May. WFP is making arrangements to deliver 2,000 ready-to-eat food rations. Mine contamination, particularly near the main irrigation canal, is of concern.

IDPs in Karama

As of 31 May, an estimated 40,000 IDPs remain displaced in various settlements in Karama. Response efforts continued throughout the month including water trucking, installation of sanitation facilities and provision of medical supplies.



**40,000
individuals**



Access

Response

Given the protracted inability to deliver humanitarian assistance to Al-Hassakeh Governorate via land since December 2015, WFP, as lead agency of the Logistics Cluster, has initiated procedures to deploy a second aircraft to increase the airlift operation to Qamishli. This will allow an increase in the number of daily Damascus-Qamishli rotations from two to three, six days per week. The additional daily flight will be dedicated to the transportation of NFIs (including medical supplies) and the two other flights will be reserved for food deliveries. Subsequently, all sectors will have the opportunity to send items more frequently with the increase of a second aircraft, securing a 50 per cent increase of the daily transport capacity.

Meanwhile, advocacy efforts continue to resupply the area through land-routes, including via the Aleppo-Membij-Qamishli road or through official cross border points.

On 7 June, WFP received approval from MoFA to assess the road between Aleppo and Qamishli. Consequently, WFP initiated a recce from Aleppo to Qamishli through an overland route on 8 June.

Humanitarian Response (covering the entire month of May)



Protection

Key developments and needs

The surge of several spontaneous IDP settlements in various locations around Ar-Raqqa (e.g. Karama, Al-Hamrat located West of Ar-Raqqa) and the Membij area, combined with the intention of local entities to create new sites, have continued to challenge the ability of protection actors to cover protection needs in an adequate, sustained and timely fashion. Meanwhile, an increase in displacements has also been reported in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate, with movements registered towards Al-Hassakeh governorate. These developments may prompt the local administration to create new sites and necessitate expanded coverage for operational actors.

Against a backdrop of logistical challenges, the existence of these multiple axis of displacement puts further strain on the operational capacity of humanitarian actors in general, and protection actors in particular as protection interventions require a constant presence and interaction with the population. While the number of protection partners has increased during May, with national partners now guaranteeing a steadier presence in Mabrouka/Ras el Ein and Ein Eissa/Tal Abyad, other distant areas where IDPs have spontaneously settled have remained insufficiently covered. Overall, provision of specialised protection services needs to be reinforced.

Individuals on the move continue to face a series of protection risks. Incidents caused by the presence of explosive hazards have been regularly reported during the reporting period. The use of unsafe and smuggling routes by IDPs carries numerous risks, including being caught in cross-fire. Reports of forcible recruitment of men and boys at checkpoints are also highlighted, in particular for male IDPs born in Tal Abyad, Ras al Ain and Kobane. While there are female SDF personnel at mobile front-line check points – where identity documents are checked and IDPs are searched for weapons and explosive - gender-sensitive searching procedures are not ensured in all checkpoints located in Ar-Raqqa Governorate.

Overall, the protection situation for the civilian population around Ar-Raqqa and Deir-Ez-Zor cities is deteriorating. Cases of civilians being prevented by ISIL to leave the outskirts of Ar-Raqqa city in search for safety are being reported. As a consequence, civilians are increasingly exposed to the effects of airstrikes and ground offensives as the military operation continues to unfold and to intensify. Growing concerns around the consequences of airstrikes conducted by parties to the conflict, the global coalition in particular, call for the need for absolute respect of basic principles of International Humanitarian Law.¹

Despite advocacy efforts conducted at multiple levels, screening and sponsorship procedures set up by the authorities on security grounds remain highly contested. While such measures can be justified in consideration of the security imperative, they are still unclear, inconsistently implemented and not properly communicated to the affected population. They have also revealed cumbersome for local authorities, which are not in a position to adequately manage them and prevent adverse effects for the population, in particular individuals with specific needs.

These procedures have also remained influenced by area of origin and intended destination of IDPs, leading to inconsistencies in their implementation. Certain categories of individuals have indeed managed to be exempted from the sponsorship system, if directed to specific destinations (e.g. Azaz, Jarablus); if returning to Tabqa or to areas of origin in Northern Raqqa; or if requesting to go by flight back to Damascus. Nevertheless, unpredictability is increasing.

The rest of the displaced population remains subject to the requirement of finding a sponsor outside of the transit sites. In turn, sponsors need to complete several bureaucratic steps with civilian and security authorities before being able to guarantee the exit of the individual or the family. Confiscation of identity documents at checkpoints and delayed restitution has generated situations where documents have been lost or left behind by families prioritising the exit from the sites to any other condition. In addition, it is also reported that as a security measure, sponsorship is not granted for IDPs wishing to relocate to urban locations of Tal Abyad, Ein Arous and Kobane towns. There also are indications that the population displaced from the urban and semi-urban area of Ar-Raqqa city and that may soon arrive to Ein Eissa camp, may be requested to remain in the site.

This screening system has been all the more concerning for individuals presenting specific needs, such as medical evacuations. The absence of streamlined procedures constitutes a serious obstacle for efficient referrals. The *ad hoc* intervention of protection or health partners is often the only way to allow individuals in needs to swiftly access specialised services in the nearest urban areas. Delays have led to prolonged stays in camps for IDPs in sometimes sub-standards conditions and a harsh climatic environment. Overall, this situation aggravates vulnerabilities and a sense of anxiety and distress among IDP families. There is a need to significantly improve conditions in these sites to anticipate consequences of prolonged stays and increased displacements once the offensive reaches Ar-Raqqa city.

¹ <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/whole-of-syria/document/monthly-human-rights-digest-syria-may-2017>

The overall operating environment remains affected by a high security risk for the population and for humanitarian workers. On 2 May, a suicide operation carried out by ISIL fighters in Rajm Al-Slaib killed and injured dozens of civilians, including women and children² and demonstrated the continuous risk of infiltration of armed elements (ISIL in particular) behind SDF lines. The need to continue to advocate for transit/screening points to be located at a safe distance of the frontlines and for a better distinction between screening sites and existing transit sites/camps to maintain the civilian character of the latter remains paramount.

To date, the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms on grave violations against children (MRM) for Syria, verified 25 violations which occurred in Ar-Raqqa governorate during the first quarter of 2017, all of which related to the recruitment and use of children. Children as young as 14 years were used in combat roles – ranging from patrolling streets and guarding checkpoints to frontline combat; children were also used in support roles – including as prison guards and *aides-de-camp* for armed group commanders. Verification of incidents which occurred in Ar-Raqqa governorate during the reporting period is ongoing and the number of verified cases is expected to increase as more information becomes available. Overall, grave violations against children in ISIL-held territories included killing and maiming of children (in the course of anti-ISIL airstrikes, as well as by victim-activated IEDs and shooting incidents when leaving ISIL-held areas); detention of children associated with opposing parties to the conflict; attacks on health facilities; and abduction and enforced disappearance of children following alleged infractions of armed group rules imposed on the civilian population. It is important to note that safe and timely access to information on grave violations against children in ISIL-held areas, including Ar-Raqqa governorate, remains extremely restricted.



**25 grave violations
against children
verified**

Response

Despite a humanitarian operating space challenged by logistic and bureaucratic constraints, UN Protection partners based in Qamishli have substantially scaled up their interventions during the reporting period, particularly in Mabrouka and Ein Eissa camps. Increasing efforts are underway to expand operations in Al Journieh and in some of the informal settlements. North-East Syria protection partners also regularly visit transit camps to monitor the situation and provide response as appropriate. One partner is currently setting up two integrated protection mobile teams (GBV, CP, protection case management and basic PSS) which will be working alongside mobile health teams in locations where IDPs are present.

In Al Hol camp, the sustained presence of protection actors has for instance allowed for an immediate response to the incident in Rajm Al-Slaib, with referral of cases and provision of psychological first aid to injured survivors and children. Coordinated follow-up conducted in Al Hol camp confirmed that there were no separated or unaccompanied children following the incident.

UNHCR and its partner have intensified their presence in Mabrouka and Ein Eissa, to be able to consult with newly arrived families. In Mabrouka, more than 800 individual and collective consultations with families were carried out during the month to better understand needs, support referrals and facilitation of procedures (e.g. retrieve confiscated documents, support referral to camp administration for exit procedures, provide general psychosocial first aid and support to children well-being). Consultations with families have also provided the necessary insight for UNHCR to be able to conduct its advocacy at local level on freedom of movement. While individual interventions have proved to be a great support for individual cases, they cannot substitute the utmost necessity for authorities to improve current procedures.



**800 consultations with
families carried out**

UNFPA and GBV sector partners continue to operate in Mabrouka and Ein Eissa camps and have extended support to displaced women and girls in Al Journieh. The primary focus remains the support to dignified conditions for women and girls of reproductive age with the provision of sanitary materials and dignity kits. 4,120 women and girls of reproductive age received sanitary napkins in Mabrouka Camp; 8,888 in Ein Eissa transit camp; and 16,400 in Al Journieh. In coordination with its reproductive health partner, UNFPA distributed 300 dignity kits to 300 families in the Shadadi area, in addition to 300 sanitary napkins for 150 women. One women and girl safe space was set up in Surin. Women and girl safe spaces are also planned in Jarablus and Al Bab.

Child Protection responses, managed from Turkey, Qamishli and north-east Syria, are based on the minimum package of assistance including: awareness raising on key child protection concerns (such as prevention of child separation and risk education), psycho-social support and specialised child protection services. To respond to the growing protection needs of children, UNICEF has supported the establishment of five child protection centres in Tal Abyad district, Suluk sub-district, Ein Issa sub-district, Ein Issa camp (Aktan/Cotton factory) and Al Journieh sub-district. Through these centres children are supported with psychosocial support to provide a sense of normality, stability and structure to children to reduce the risk that short-term distress leads to longer term concerns, and assist

² See OCHA Ar-Raqqa Situation Report No. 5 (as of 15 May 2017), <http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syria-crisis-ar-raqqa-situation-report-no-5-15-may-2017-enar>
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
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child protection actors in identifying and supporting children in need of more specialised child protection interventions, for example high risk cases such as unaccompanied and separated children.

During the last week of May, UNICEF partners provided structured psychosocial support and child protection awareness raising activities to a total of 674 girls and boys, as well as mine risk education to 624 individuals (473 girls and boys and 151 men and women). The response targeted IDPs from Ar Raqqa including in Ein Issa and Mabrouka Camp. Child Protection staff also featured on a radio programme to disseminate safety messages to newly displaced IDPs.



**647 people benefitted
from mine risk education**

UNICEF has identified 46 separated and unaccompanied children in Al Journieh and is providing psychosocial support and recreational facilities to these children, currently living in collective shelter, with regular visits by NGO front-line workers. Individual assessment of cases, for further support (FTR, alternative care) is planned. Training on key competencies to deliver child protection services continues to be rolled out, including training of 33 NGO frontline workers on psychosocial support and risk education during last week of May. Situation monitoring of child protection issues is ongoing through one NGO child protection actor. Monitoring teams provide PFA, referrals and other direct assistance to children and their families.

Gaps and challenges

The capacity of protection actors to reach and ensure constant interventions in all locations continues to be a major challenge, against a backdrop of highly unpredictable movements of population and gradual expansion of the operational area. Despite operational presence and partnerships with local NGOs have been significantly increased, the logistic challenges and the needs in the increasing number of sites and spontaneous settlements, from Menbij to Deir-ez-Zor, outstrips the current capacity to respond. While cooperation between operational actors of Qamishly and NES is ongoing, more investment in human and operational capacity is still required.

As detailed above, delays and uncertainty around screening and sponsorship procedures remains a major concern. This situation leads to prolonged stays in camps, might expose individuals with specific needs to unnecessary risks, if not properly addressed, and increase frustration among the IDP population. Advocacy both at the local and higher level is critical, as increased and prolonged displacements are expected as military operations unfold. Meanwhile, rapid assessments and consultations with IDPs conducted in Ein Issa and Mabrouka during the period have highlighted concerns around irregular food distribution, insufficient tents to allow gender-segregated sleeping arrangements and male and female toilets located next to each other and deprived of locks, doors and lights. The Protection Sector, particularly at local level, will need to increase its advocacy for proper integration of protection-sensitive measures by other sectors engaged in site-planning and site-building.

While ongoing fighting will increase explosive hazard contamination, including on major roadways, urban centres, and agricultural areas, the ability of the sector to remove explosive hazards continues to be hampered by access and security constraints. Mine-Risk-Education interventions remain essential as a preventive measure, including at checkpoints and in the context of potential rapid returns.



Food Security and Agriculture

Response

Throughout May 2017, the Food Security sector through its partners – either from within Syria or Cross-Border Hubs – has distributed various types of food assistance to an average total of 112,351 beneficiaries across Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Aleppo and Deir-ez-Zor governorates.



**Food distributed to
112,351 beneficiaries**

In total:

- 7,804 ready-to-eat food rations covering food needs for five days for a family of five or six were distributed, reaching around 42,772 beneficiaries.
- 8,953 food rations covering food needs for ten days for a family of six were distributed, reaching around 53,718 beneficiaries.
- 1,215 food rations covering food needs for 14 days for a family of six were distributed, reaching around 7,290 beneficiaries.
- 110 regular food Baskets covering food needs for a month for a family of five were distributed, reaching around 550 beneficiaries.
- 1,337 households were assisted with multi-purpose unconditional cash transfer to assist a family of six for 30 days to meet their food needs.

Al-Hassakeh

A cross-border INGO distributed 674 ready-to-eat food rations covering food needs for five days for a family of five, reaching around 3,370 beneficiaries in Marbrouka Camp.

Ar-Raqqa

In Ar-Raqqa Governorate, around 82,907 beneficiaries were reached with ready-to-eat food rations (RTERs) and food rations covering food needs between five and ten days for a family of six, including 32,000 in Ein Issa camp and 25,200 in Ath-Thawrah/Tabqa. Cash assistance was also distributed in Tell Abiad.

Area of distribution 	Number of beneficiaries 	Type and quantity of assistance 	Notes 
<i>Ein Issa Camp (inside camp)</i>	32,000 beneficiaries	5,319 RTERs and FRs	Covering food need for 5- 10 days for a household of 6
<i>Ein Issa Camp (inside camp and surrounding areas)</i>	16,230 beneficiaries	3,246 RTERs	Covering food needs for 5 days for a HH of 5
<i>Ein Issa camp (inside camp and surrounding areas)</i>	550 beneficiaries	110 GFRs	Covering food needs for one month for a household of 5
<i>Tell Abiad</i>	5,000 beneficiaries	792 FRs	Covering food needs for 10 days for a household of 6
<i>Tell Abiad</i>	1,337 beneficiaries	Cash assistance	Cash assistance for HH to meet food needs for a period of 30 days
<i>Suluk</i>	1,500 beneficiaries	244 FRs	Covering food need for 5 days for a household of 6
<i>Jurniyeh</i>	1,000 beneficiaries	153 FRs	Covering food need for 10 days for a household of 6
<i>Tabqa/Ath-Thawrah</i>	7,200 beneficiaries	1,197 FRs	Covering food need for 10 days for a household of 6
<i>Tabqa/Ath-Thawrah</i>	18,000 beneficiaries	3,000 RTERs	Covering food need for 5 days for a household of 6

Aleppo

In Aleppo Governorate, around 16,850 beneficiaries were reached with ready-to-eat rations (RTERs) and Food Rations covering food needs between five and ten days for a family of six.

Area of distribution 	Number of beneficiaries 	Type and quantity of assistance 	Notes 
<i>Menbij – Camp and Rural</i>	12,000 beneficiaries	2,000 FRs	Covering food need for 10- 14 days for a household of 6
<i>Abu Qalqal</i>	3,700 beneficiaries	616 FRs	Covering food needs for 10 - 14 days for a HH of 6
<i>Ain Al Arab</i>	400 beneficiaries	64 FRs	Covering food needs for 10 days for a household of 6
<i>Azaz</i>	750 beneficiaries	150 RTERs	Covering food needs for 5 days for a household of 5

Regular Programming

The recently approved monthly WFP general food assistance response plan for Ar-Raqqa, Hassakeh and Deir-ez-Zor will target 24,900 IDP households and 12,200 affected households in host communities (totaling 37,100 households, or 185,000 people). Target locations in Ar-Raqqa governorate include: Jurniyeh, Mahmoudi, Ein Issa, Suluk, Tel Abyad, Karameh, Tabqa; Mabrouka camp in Al-Hassakeh and Mkman and Abu Khashab in Deir-ez-Zor.



Nutrition

Key Developments

During the month of May, UNICEF conducted a rapid nutrition screening for acute malnutrition (using MUAC) in various locations including Ein Issa camp, Mabrouka camp, Al Hol camp and Roj camp (refer to below table):

Rapid Assessments through middle-upper arm circumference assessment:

Location 	Date	Children Under 5 	Severe acute malnutrition	Moderately acute malnutrition	Pregnant and Lactating Women 	Malnutrition cases
Ein Issa camp	14/5/2017	50	0	0	-	-
Ein Issa camp	29/5/2017	200	0	3	-	-
Mabrouka camp	22-24/5/2017	280	1	7	163	0
Hol camp	23/5/2017	78	0	2	-	-
Roj camp	24/5/2017	132	0	3	-	-
Total		740	1	16	163	0

The above screenings through MUAC measurements in the IDP camps revealed very limited cases of acute malnutrition or moderate and severe acute malnutrition. Out of the 740 children assessed only 16 (2.2 per cent) were acutely malnourished which shows low malnutrition levels which are very much comparable with the SMART nutrition survey results of 2015/16. The rapid screening results also revealed no cases of acute malnutrition among pregnant and lactating women. However, preventive nutrition interventions complemented with identification and treatment of acute malnutrition cases with therapeutic products for children under five and pregnant lactating mothers remain necessary to maintain adequate nutritional status.



2.2% of all assessed children malnourished

The nutrition sub-sector in Qamishli set out a plan to monitor the nutrition situation of children and women in Karama, Jurnayeh, Suluk, and Tabqa city through MUAC measurement if access can be obtained.

Response Efforts

Ein Issa and Jurnayeh locations:

Two UNICEF supported partners distributed preventive nutrition supplies including fortified spread, high energy biscuits, multiple micronutrient powders and tablets to children under five and pregnant/lactating women in Ein Issa and Jurnayeh locations. A total of 3,200 children were reached with micro-nutrient powders, 1,700 with fortified spread (Plumpy Doz) and 495 with High Energy Biscuits. 264 pregnant and lactating women were reached with Multiple Micronutrient Tablets.

Ein Issa camp:

A total of 2,200 children under five were supported with preventive and curative nutrition services by two implementing partners supported by UNICEF. Among these, 860 children were reached with High Energy Biscuits, 500 with fortified spread (Plumpy Doz), 840 children with PACs of multiple micronutrient powders. Similarly, around 300 pregnant women and lactating mothers were provided multiple micronutrient tablets.

Mabrouka camp:

Two UNICEF supported partners distributed preventive essential nutrition supplies in the camp targeting children under five and pregnant lactating mothers. 840 children under five received Multiple Micronutrient powders and High Energy Biscuits while 133 pregnant women and lactating mothers received Multiple Micronutrient tablets. Two INGOs based in north-east Syria will begin to distribute preventative nutrition supplies to the IDPs living within the host community in Northern Raqqa in the coming month.

The nutrition sub-sector convened a meeting to assess gaps and challenges faced for the Raqqa response and identified ways of addressing these gaps, such as enhancing engagement of the Directorate of Health in Qamishli, supporting the Qamishli national hospital to establish an inpatient nutrition center, training more health workers on nutrition and stabilizing/strengthening nutrition surveillance centers to collect nutrition data for programming and monitoring.

Azzaz

A UNICEF partner dispatched a rapid response team to Azzaz (specifically Alrayan camp, Aleman Camp and Shamarikh). A total of 597 children aged 6-59 months were screened for malnutrition, using MUAC. 10 children were found to be moderately acutely malnourished and 4 were severely acutely malnourished. The MAM and SAM children were registered in a nutrition programme and started on treatment. In addition, 144 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) were screened for malnutrition. 9 cases were moderately acutely malnourished and referred to a health facility to receive treatment. The rapid response team also provided preventative nutrition services to 420 children aged 6-23 months (Plumpy Doz) and 120 children aged 24-59 months received high energy biscuits. 120 PLW received micronutrient tablets.

Gaps in the Response

Partners are facing difficulties in reaching the IDP camps due to security concerns and distance which affects possibility of carrying out a meaningful response, particularly with the identification and treatment of acute malnutrition. The sector is exploring ways to address these challenges, such as identifying volunteers to help with the detection and treatment of acute malnutrition.



Health

Key Developments

Ar-Raqqa city

Al-Raqqa city is characterized by a worsening humanitarian situation. The national hospital and the maternity hospital work at their minimum capacity. There is an acute shortage of medicines and medical staff, as well as reports of inflated medicine prices.

Al-Tabqa city:

An assessment conducted by the WHO HIS teams reported the following:

- De-mining efforts continue in and around the national hospital building. The hospital building is partially damaged. All major-medical equipment was looted, including CT-Scan, incubators, and dialysis machines. Operation theaters are intact and hospital beds are available.
- One PHCC is destroyed, one is partially damaged, and the third one is in good condition and may be operational soon.
- There are six doctors in Tabqa city, including three pediatricians, one internal specialist, one general doctor, and one dentist. Three pharmacies are open occasionally.
- Health staff are reporting increased numbers of cases of diarrhea. WHO reactivated three Early Warning Alert and Response System sites (EWARS) in the city and two new sentinel sites were recruited in the last week of May to cover the 15,000 IDPs in this location.

Polio:

During the month of May, an increasing number of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases were reported in rural Deir-ez-Zor, mainly from Sbeikhan area/Mayadeen district, including a case of VDPV2 that has been detected as a part of AFP cluster of from Deir-ez-Zor. Extensive coordination throughout the month took place to ensure the best and most efficient ways to deliver the samples of polio suspected cases from rural Deir-ez-Zor to the central laboratory in Damascus. Due to security concerns, the AFP lab samples from rural Deir-ez-Zor were kept in cool conditions and 30 samples reached the National Polio Lab in Damascus for analysis and further investigation in the last week of May. A sample of earlier identified suspected AFP in Mabrouka camp in Al Hassakeh governorate was also transported to the lab in Damascus and results are pending.

In line with the current national campaign (initially planned for the period 21-25 May 2017 and extended till next week) a localized campaign has started on 28 May in rural Deir-ez-Zor for children under five years old using three vaccines: bOPV, IPV and measles. The campaign is mainly targeting the following locations: Al- Mayadin district including Subaykan, Khashmeh, Dablan, Tesherin, abo Hardoop, Al- Jurdi, Al-Husanneh, Al- Sower and part of Deir-ez-Zor city.

Response Efforts

During May, efforts were focused on the expansion of sentinel sites in particular in IDP camps and improving reporting on the occurrence of epidemic prone diseases. EWARS training targeted health workers at Al-Hol, Tal Aswad, Ain Al-Khadra and Mabrouka camps. During epidemiological week 18 the new sentinel site in Ar-Raqqa, Ein Issa, has reported the following cases: 27 cases of acute diarrhea, seven cases of pertussis, five cases of brucellosis and three cases of cutaneous leishmaniosis. During epidemiological week 19 the new sentinel site in Ar-Raqqa/Ein Issa has reported the following cases: 44 cases of acute diarrhea, nine cases of scabies, and four cases of brucellosis. An increase in diarrhea cases in Deir-ez-Zor was also reported, however, the rapid diagnostic test was negative for cholera. Efforts to send emergency kits are being initiated.



488,740 US children polio vaccinated in Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, and Hassakeh

The national vaccination days were conducted in rural Deir-ez-Zor, reaching five hard-to-reach (HTR) locations: Al Bokamal, Al-Mayaden, Hajeen, Al-Sawar, Al-Hosayneh, Al-Kasrah, Al-Hamadyya. As a result of the campaign, 218,011 children under five years were vaccinated against polio as well as 4,557 drop-out children were vaccinated. In addition, 5,999 newly eligible children were vaccinated, with a high number of them originating from Iraq and Ar-Raqqa. In

Al-Hassakeh governorate, 264,730 children under five were polio vaccinated. The vaccination status of children was checked and needed vaccinations were completed. The coverage rate reached 115 per cent.

In response to the increase in diarrhea cases in Deir-ez-Zor (Almayadin. Sbeikhan), WHO managed to provide 3,000 oral rehydration salts (ORS) sachets and to send 150 rapid diagnostic tests for cholera. Eight cholera RDT (Rapid

Diagnostic Tests) kits were provided to UNHCR to serve the camps in Al-Hassakeh and Ar-Raqqa for rapid detection of any potential cholera outbreak. Quality antibiotics, oral rehydration salts, and other medicines were included in last week's shipment to Al-Hassakeh in favor of Ar-Raqqa.

50 tons of WHO health supplies are to be airlifted (30 tons of health supplies airlifted from Damascus during May) in addition to 15 tons already pre-positioned to provide 100,000 medical treatments for the emergency response, including NCD medicines, anti-allergic, antibiotics, topical creams for burns, psychotropic medicines.



50 tons of WHO health supplies are to be airlifted

WHO dispatched a three tons shipment of medicine and medical supplies to Al-Hol refugee camp in coordination with UNHCR containing: 39 pneumonia type A and B kits, 2 trauma B kits, support to trauma kit A (consumables), two surgical supply kits, in addition to PHC, EWARS and trauma medicines (benefitting to both cross-border and cross-line health actors), WHO dispatched also an urgent shipment of family planning supplies to address the need of Iraqi refugees and IDPs in Al-Hol camp.

Furthermore, a shipment of medicine and health care supplies (two tons) was delivered on 14 May to Al-Karama and Ein Issa camps in Ar Raqqa in coordination with UNHCR. Emergency local procurement of syringes (110,000 syringes) and 10,000 vials of insulin for the Department of Health in Al Hassakeh. Rapid diagnostic tests were delivered to detect Visceral Leishmaniasis cases in camps located in NES governorates.



WASH

Key Developments

During the month of May, WASH sector partners continued to follow extremely fluid displacements patterns with the provision of life saving services. The number of partners providing emergency water trucking services has risen. The WASH sector has managed to identify and rehabilitate a few water sources close to the main IDP sites which enabled to increase quantities of provided water and more cost effective water trucking. Emergency sanitation facilities have been constructed in several IDP camps/sites, however, due to limited access to some areas, high turnover and continuous influx of IDPs, there is still a gap in the number of sanitation facilities. Camp and WASH facilities cleaning activities have been initiated in Mabrouka and Ein Issa camps through Cash for Work (CfW) scheme. RNA and technical assessment have been conducted for the main water treatment station in Thawrah (Tabqa). Access to some areas, however, remains a challenge.

Response Efforts

Ein Issa Camp and surroundings

INGO partners and UNICEF have been jointly providing drinking water to IDPs staying in the camp as well as in its surroundings via water trucking. The water storage capacity has been increased to 80,000 litres. The rehabilitation of the camp's borehole and ground storage tank was completed and most of the water is now trucked internally (340,000 liters out of 460,000 liters). INGO will also start constructing a water network to ensure more sustainable water supply system. Procurement process for the construction of a water network has already been initiated. In total 157 latrines and 48 showers have been constructed by UNICEF and INGOs. INGO provided septic tanks desludging services. Solid Waste Management as well as WASH facilities cleaning and maintenance have been initiated by INGO under Cash for Work (CfW) scheme. Family hygiene kits have been distributed over the month to the camp residents, new arrivals and IDPs living in the hosting communities (UNICEF and INGOs) and hygiene promotion sessions have been initiated by INGOs in the camp and surrounding areas.



340,000 liters of water trucked internally in Ein Issa Camp

Mabrouka Camp



100 latrines and 48 showers installed in Mabrouka camp

UNICEF continues water trucking for the camp (75,000 liters/day) and a partner INGOs increased the total water storage capacity. The borehole close to the camp was rehabilitated by INGO and another INGO will soon construct the water network. UNICEF installed 100 latrines and 48 showers, while a partner INGO provided emergency latrines until IDPs will move to the new part of the camp. Solid Waste Management as well as WASH facilities cleaning and maintenance have been initiated by INGO under Cash for Work (CfW) scheme. Family hygiene kits have been distributed (UNICEF, NES INGO), and hygiene promotion sessions have been initiated by INGOs.

Karama Informal Settlements

Despite of limited access to these areas, UNICEF completed the rehabilitation of boreholes closer to Karama which reduced water trucking distance from 160 km to 25 km and allowed to increase the daily water supply from 200,000 liters to 600,000 liters. INGOs will provide more water storage tanks. UNICEF will install 100 latrines and 48 bathing

showers soon and will look forward for expansion if number of IDPs remains reasonable stable. Family hygiene kits were distributed by INGOs.

[Menbij Camps](#)

INGO partner have been providing drinking water to IDPs in the old and new camps around Menbij (50,000 litres per day). Emergency latrines were installed in the old camp and additional units will be provided soon in both camps. Hygiene kits were distributed in both locations.



50,000 litres of drinking water provided per day in Menbij camps

[Other locations](#)

An INGO continues water trucking for Menbij camp (50,000 liters/day) and Al Mahmoudly reception centre (7,000 liters/day) and maintenance of WASH facilities. UNICEF distributed hygiene kits and jerry cans, reaching over 13,000 beneficiaries in Jurneyyeh informal settlements. Family hygiene kits were also distributed in Al-Hisha village and in Thawrah city by INGOs. INGO distributed Aquatabs and provide chlorination system for the main water treatment station in At Thawrah city,

[Major Gaps and Challenges](#)

- Timely ERW/UXO clearance, especially in proximity of water pumping stations
- Restoration of water to Al-Thawrah city
- Limited access to several IDP informal settlements including Karama, Journiah, Thawrah
- Installation of water storage tanks for Karama informal settlements
- Provision of sanitation services for Karama informal settlements
- Timely provision of sanitation facilities that reflects expansion of Ein Issa Camp, waves of influx and high turnover of IDPs
- Timely identification and rehabilitation of sustainable and cost effective water sources for the major IDP settlements
- Establishment of sustainable mechanism for regular cleaning, repair and maintenance of installed WASH facilities in the camps and informal collective shelters



[Shelter and NFIs](#)

[Response Efforts](#)

[Ain Issa Cotton Camp / Al Aqtan](#)

UNHCR replenished the NFI stock at the camp to the level of 300 kits. Cross-border actors from the Turkey hub have 1,500 NFI kits available and 2,200 emergency tents in the pipeline. UNHCR have supplied 800 tents and six large tents to date, and plans to provide a further 1200 tents to meet a current shelter gap, and in anticipation of further large-scale displacements. NRC has provided 15 communal kitchens at the site, currently being used as shelters by camp management.

There continues to be a very high turnover of IDPs at the camp, with current inflows and outflows at roughly 1,000 people per day – although the situation remains dynamic and changes continually. Camp Management remains an issue, with implications on the protection of IDPs. UNHCR is in the process of supporting the camp administration with the presence of 15 volunteers carrying out work on camp documentation, layout and arrangement of tents according to the UNHCR design. NFIs are being distributed according to needs by UNHCR and by INGOs.

[Mabrouka Camp](#)

UNHCR replenished the NFI stock at the camp to the level of 500 kits, and distributed 367 Mattresses, 675 Blankets, 203 Kitchen Sets, 362 Jerry cans, 441 Sleeping Mats, 193 Plastic Sheets, 27 Solar Lamps and 98 Winter Jackets; assisting a total of 968 people. Partners report no major developments in Shelter / NFI in Mabrouka over the last month, but there is a concern that the number of people staying at the camp could slowly increase, and therefore that this needs to be monitored.

[Rasm Akhdar Camp, Menbij](#)

This is a newly established camp since May 2017, in the Menbij area, hosting IDPs arriving from Maskana and South /Southwest Raqqa. 300 tents and 250 NFI kits were provided to new arrivals. 30 tents erected with the rest pending some infrastructure work.

[Menbij \(general\)](#): Turkey-based partners have contingency stocks in the pipeline, including almost 4,000 shelter/NFI kits, 14,000 hygiene kits, 4,200 jerry cans, 4,000 blankets and 18,640 plastic sheets, for areas of Raqqa and Menbij that are experiencing inflows of IDPs and to which the partners may have access.

[Raqqa Governorate](#)

Raqqa countryside: 500 HHs assisted with NFI kits by an INGO.

Shaheed Aziz, Tal Saman villages and Jarnyeih village: 3,600 emergency tents in the pipeline for a cross-border Turkey partner.

Hamrat informal settlement: UNHCR completing their assessment, initial information suggests a need for light shelter and NFI assistance to newly arrived families.

Al Karama: During the last week of May, 430 hygiene kits distributed by an INGO partner. The Karama informal settlements are widely dispersed, making distributions difficult.

Major Gaps and Challenges

During May, the limited number of local partners continues to be a constraint for UN agencies. Access remained an issue especially for cross-border partners based in Turkey. INGOs based in NE Syria continued to provide complementary and gap-filling assistance, focusing primarily on areas outside the camps. However, security and access considerations still limit the ability of partners to reach those displaced, to conduct needs assessments and provide assistance in and around locations in close proximity to the front lines. Procurement and replenishment of NFIs stocks continued.

In Ain Issa camp, there is a recognised need for improved camp management which would help to address issues of bottlenecks and wait times, and support IDPs to have their needs met in a timely and transparent manner. As of the end of May, there is a reported shelter gap at the current camp population level. In addition to this, the current baseline of around 500 people who are long-term residents of the camp could slowly increase, and spikes are expected in the IDP flow through the camp. This gap is being addressed by UNHCR as above. There are likely to be shelter gaps throughout the informal settlements and communities in the areas surrounding Raqqa and Ain Issa which are difficult to quantify given the fluid situation and the dispersed nature of displacement. Many IDPs are travelling with their own vehicles and basic shelter materials, so the response outside the camps includes light, flexible and adaptive solutions, such as the inclusion of plastic sheeting and other materials in NFI kits to supplement the IDPs own shelter materials; and the procurement of emergency tents to provide temporary, transportable solutions.

The sector will continue to assess and identify needs and gaps, and will require continued donor support to respond to developments.

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