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FIGURES

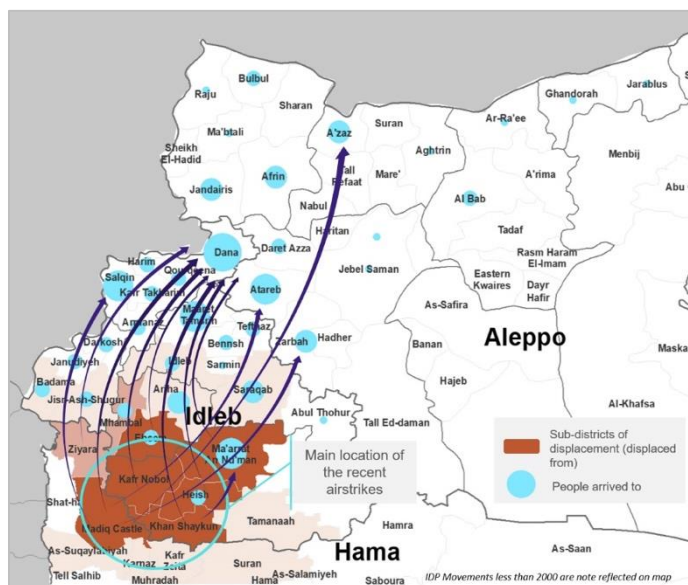
People in need of humanitarian assistance	11.7 M
People in acute need of humanitarian assistance	5 M
Internally displaced people (protracted) (as of August 2018)	6.2 M
Population Movements Jan-April 2019	372,800
Returnees Jan-April 2019	216,200

Source: HNO 2019 & IDPs Taskforce

At least 205 dead, 200,000 displaced in northwest Syria

The UN and humanitarian community are working to respond to the needs of hundreds of thousands of Syrians following a recent escalation in hostilities in and around Idleb and the de-escalation zone, resulting in at least 205 civilians dead at the time of writing and hundreds injured.

Between 1-16 May, the CCCM cluster registered some 201,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Aleppo and Idleb. That brings the total number of IDPs displaced from northern Hama and southern Idleb to 239,647, between 1 April and 16 May, 2019.



HRP 2019 Funding

3.32 billion requested (US\$)

499.1 million received (US\$)

15 % funded

Source: OCHA FTS 23 May 2019

According to the latest OCHA figures, approximately 90,000 individuals are now in camps and reception centres, most of them in areas located along the Turkish borders, while some 110,000 people are living outside camps.

The UN continues to receive daily reports of the violence, including of military operations and aerial attacks on population centres and civilian infrastructure, as well as the usage of barrel bombs. Much of the areas affected are situated along the international Lattakia-Aleppo and Hama-Aleppo highways (M4 and M5).

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a total of 20 health facilities have been impacted, including 10 in Hama Governorate, 9 in Idleb and 1 in Aleppo. At least four health workers have been killed. Of the 20 facilities – collectively servicing at least 200,000 women, children and men – only one is reported to be back in service. On 8 May, an ambulance was hit and its driver killed in Idleb. At least 17 schools and three IDP settlements have also been affected.

Reports indicate whole communities have been abandoned, and that large numbers of people have sought refuge in the open, facing dire humanitarian conditions and lack of assistance.

The latest upsurge in violence compounds an already dire humanitarian situation on the ground; particularly for people living in Idleb – an area approximately twice the size of Luxemburg and one of the most densely populated areas of the country. In the de-escalation zone of Idleb, there

are 3 million people, of whom 1.3 million people are already internally displaced, many of whom have been displaced multiple times. The total number of people who are internally displaced in the area is expected to increase with these new waves of violence.

In addition to responding to the evolving needs of people, humanitarian partners are assessing the impact of the recent escalation and scaling up their operations. On an ongoing regular basis, humanitarians provide support to an estimated 1.2 million people in the area each month.

With the increase in violence and additional risk to the population and humanitarian teams, at least 16 humanitarian partners have suspended their programmes in areas of northern Hama/southern Idlib due to the violence. Cross-border operations from Turkey continue, with humanitarians responding to meet the needs of the newly displaced, as well as receiving communities. This includes pre-positioning essential stocks, including food for 125,000 people, and surging health and protection services to areas where people are displacing.

In line with the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), a readiness and response plan to support 700,000 people was updated earlier this year in the event of any escalation in the crisis, is being updated. The plan aims to enable humanitarian actors to be ready to respond, and provide protection, and life-saving humanitarian assistance for affected populations from Idlib, northeast Latakia, northern Hama and northern and western/south-western Aleppo governorates. The six-month plan is based on humanitarian needs projected to arise based on developments projected by humanitarian actors from the Gaziantep hub for cross border operations into northwest Syria from Turkey. A similar preparedness/response plan was also developed for actors operating within Syria to respond to a potential influx of 100,000 displaced to Government-controlled areas.

While displacement trends remain fluid, it is expected the people who displaced or are affected, will require emergency food assistance, emergency health and specialized nutrition support, WASH, shelter and protection assistance. It is essential that principled humanitarian action is enabled throughout areas where people seek safety, and that humanitarians have unfettered access to those in need.

Situation in Al Hol camp

The UN and its partners are working to respond to the needs of over 1.6 million people in need of assistance in northeast Syria, including residents of Al Hol camp in Al-Hasakeh Governorate, as well as those in neighbouring Deir-ez-Zor Governorate.

On average, humanitarian actors are reaching an estimated 600,000 people in need on a monthly basis with some form of humanitarian assistance.

Despite these efforts, needs across the three governorates (Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hasakeh, Deir-ez-Zor), remain significant.

Al Hol Camp

Al Hol camp has witnessed a significant increase in its population in recent months following military operations against the last remnants of ISIL in Hajin and Al Baghouz, as well as elsewhere in Deir-ez-Zor.

Home to 12,000 people in December 2018, the camp's population now stands at close to



74,000, having doubled between February and March this year. According to [OCHA's latest sitrep](#) on Al Hol camp, over 90 per cent of new arrivals are women and girls, with more than 25 per cent estimated to be children under five and some 50 per cent of children under 12, while an estimated 8 per cent are pregnant or nursing mothers; many of them under 18 years of age.

The absence of men and adolescent boys – as young as 15-years-old - has triggered concern over separation and detention upon exit from Al Baghouz or at screening points during transit, with no information provided to the families of their whereabouts. This has resulted in specific protection concerns and is generating unrest amongst families in the camp. The provision of interim care services, documentation, family tracing and reunification continues to remain a priority.

To respond to the large and sudden influx of people at the camp, the UN and its partners have mobilized a large scale response effort. New arrivals are provided with food, shelter, NFIs, WASH, hygiene items, dignity kits and critical medical and protection services.



Conditions at the camp, however, remain dire, with critical needs across all sectors. While the decrease in new arrivals has relieved pressure on emergency services in reception areas, there continues to remain a pressing need to scale up more specialized protection services, as well as to increase water and sanitation service levels in the camp.

Access to third-country nationals at Al Hol, including 30,000 Iraqis, who require health, nutrition and protection assistance, continues to remain a challenge while local hospitals are overwhelmed and health services strained. Additional resources are urgently needed to meet the extensive needs of residents, as well as IDPs across the northeast.

With the end of hostilities along the Euphrates River, a number of families have started to spontaneously return to their areas or origin in southern Deir-Ez-Zor. Return movements are expected to increase in the coming period. Efforts to support these movements with necessary assistance will need to be scaled up.

An estimated 150,000 of people are reportedly living in dire conditions in the Hajin area east of the Euphrates river, with access to clean and safe water, and shelter, being the key needs. In March 2019, humanitarian partners in Qamishli scaled up their provision of assistance and food to some 15,700 households, and an inter-agency convoy to the Hajin area was approved by the Syrian authorities. Preparations to bring food, nutrition, non-food items and WASH supplies to Hajin, Sosa, Abu Hamam, Al Bahra and Gharanji are now underway.

Thousands continue to leave Rukban as first step towards a durable solution

The UN continues to advocate for durable solutions for residents of Rukban as thousands of people leave the remote settlement to their places of origin in recent weeks.

Since March, over 13,000 people have left the area in southeastern Syria near the Jordanian border voluntarily, arranging their own transport to a transit centre at the edge of the 55 km perimeter. From there, they were transferred temporarily to five collective shelters in Homs City.

The great majority of arrivals spend less than 24 hours in the collective shelters in Homs, before moving on to stay with relatives or return to their places of origin or choice. The UN has assessed the shelters in Homs and found conditions to be acceptable.



Currently, the UN is providing support through the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) to all those transiting in the shelters

including food, nutrition, water, hygiene kits, and medical services.

According to an intention survey carried out in Rukban in February 2019, an overwhelming majority of people in Rukban, some 95 per cent of

people, expressed their wish to leave the camp, with 83 per cent wanting to return to their areas of origin.

Meanwhile, serious concerns over deteriorating humanitarian conditions at Rukban continue, with residents having limited or no access to basic goods and services.

Pending the realisation of durable solutions for all Rukban residents, the United Nations continues to advocate for additional life-saving assistance to be provided to the 30,000 people remaining in the camp.

To date, two inter-agency convoys to Rukban have taken place, including one in November 2018 and one in [February 2019](#). The last convoy was the largest and one of the most complex carried out by the United Nations and SARC since the crisis began over eight years ago.

UNMAS provides mine-risk education to groups at risk



[UN Mine Action Service \(UNMAS\)](#)

launched its first training of humanitarian mine risk education facilitators in Damascus on 29 January 2019. The project will raise awareness on the dangers of explosive hazards in communities deemed to be most in need in Rural Damascus, Dar'a, and Quneitra. As part of their training, the facilitators already conducted

risk education activities in affected communities, including Harasta, Kisweh and Duma. The project will eventually be expanded to other areas of the country contaminated with explosive hazards.

UNMAS has developed risk education material specifically adapted to the needs and risks identified in Syria, complementing existing efforts and targeting specific gaps and vulnerable groups recognized in the HRP. On April 4, in observance of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, UNMAS began distributing these materials in Damascus, in areas hosting IDPs, as well as targeting people intending to travel to areas that have been affected by hostilities and potentially contaminated.

UNMAS also launched a one-month awareness-raising campaign via social media, newspapers and SMS to reach people across the country on 4 April, particularly persons in areas where humanitarian organizations are unable to operate.

Explosive hazards continue to remain a major protection concern in Syria, with explosive incidents involving civilians reported in many areas across the country. One in two people live at risk of explosive hazards, with men and boys (88 per cent) disproportionately affected. The presence of contamination endangers the safety of civilians, access to services, and threatens livelihoods. Reducing these risks and impact on civilians is the main focus of humanitarian mine action in Syria.

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OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at www.humanitarianresponse.info | www.unocha.org/syria | www.reliefweb.int