

## OCHA Syria | Flash Update #2

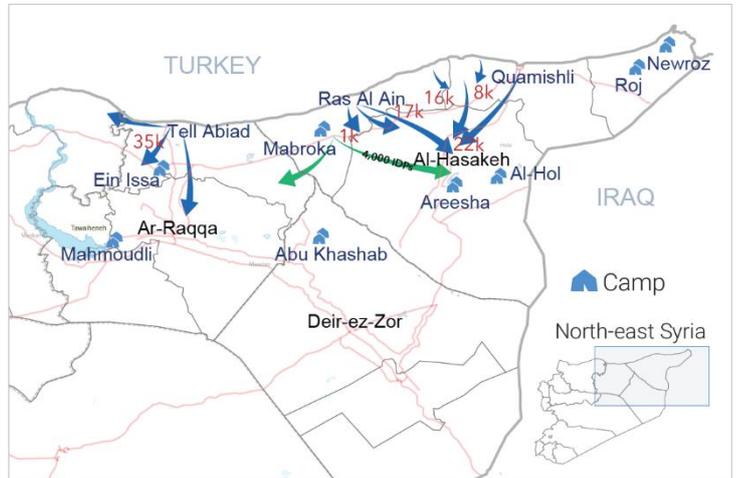
Humanitarian impact of the military operation in north-eastern Syria  
11 October 2019



*This update is compiled with inputs from different sources, reflecting developments as they unfold and/or as they are reported to OCHA Syria. The situation on the ground is fluid and volatile. While striving to be as comprehensive as possible, information in this update, especially with regards to numbers of displaced people and civilian casualties, is susceptible to revisions as further information becomes available.*

### Highlights:

- Heavy fighting and advances continue with some changes in control reported in areas along the border. Reportedly, about 100,000 people have been displaced in the last two days; an estimated 35,000 people from Tell Abiad and surrounding areas; and an estimated 65,000 people from Ras El Ain. There are reports of further displacements though numbers are not yet known.
- There have been reports of casualties and injuries on both sides of the border. The UN is working to verify additional reports of casualties on both sides.
- The Mabroka displacement camp, hosting about 5,000 people, started evacuating people on 11 October due to insecurity in the area. Camp management have indicated similar relocation plans for Ein Issa camp, which hosts 13,200 people.
- The water situation in Al-Hasakeh city and rural areas is deteriorating. The Allouk water station in Ras Al-Ain, which supplies Al-Hasakeh city and surrounding areas remains inoperable after being hit on 9 and 10 October. Technical teams attempting to repair the station have been unable to access due to ongoing hostilities. Efforts are being made by the UN to advocate for access for the technical team to restore the water station. An estimated 400,000 people are affected by the suspension.



### Situation overview

Turkey launched a military operation in north-east Syria on 9 October. Shelling and airstrikes were reported along the north-east Syrian/Turkish border, from Jarabulus to the west of the Euphrates and to the Turkish/Syrian/Iraqi border. Reportedly, over 180 locations were hit along the border between Syria and Turkey in and around Ras Al-Ain, Tell Abiad, Ein Issa and Al Malikeyeh and areas 5 kilometers east of Quamishli city. Ground offensives were also launched in different areas in Ras Al-Ain, Tell Abiad and Ain Al Arab. Heavy fighting continued to be reported throughout 10 and 11 October, with some changes in control reported in areas along the border. On 10 October, two shells also hit Al-Gharbiyah and Hilaliyah neighbourhoods in Quamishli city.

### Humanitarian impact

Humanitarian impact remains difficult to ascertain as the situation is fluid and volatile. While hostilities reportedly have mostly targeted security positions, or unpopulated areas, casualties have been reported on both sides of the border. The UN is working to verify additional reports of casualties on both sides.

Large population movements from areas along the border have been reported, with a constant flow of people seen moving along various main roads. Based on initial reports, about 100,000 people are estimated to have been displaced since 9 October. Most residents in Tell Abiad and Ras Al-Ain are believed to have left the cities and surrounding areas. At the time of publication, population movements were reported as follows:

- An estimated 35,000 people displaced from Tell Abiad city and its surrounding villages towards Ar-Raqqa city and surrounding villages, and to rural Ein Issa and rural Ain Al Arab in Aleppo Governorate.
- An estimated 65,000 people displaced from Ras Al Ain, Derbasyeh, Quamishli and Amuda cities and its northern rural village areas towards Al-Hasakeh and Tal Tamr sub-districts.

Reports of further displacements continue though numbers are not yet known. While most people have reportedly reached relatives or host communities, an increasing number of people yesterday arrived at collective shelters in Al-Hasakeh city and Tal Tamr. As people continued to arrive, schools are being used as collective centres, with at least five schools so far reportedly hosting people in Al-Hasakeh city and two schools hosting people in Tal Tamr. Assessments are taking place to identify key needs. Humanitarian actors are mobilizing to respond.

## Situation at Mabruka and Ein Issa displacement camps

On 10 October, camp authorities informed the UN that about 5,000 people living in the Mabruka displacement camp would be evacuated to Areeshah camp starting the following day, due to insecurity in the area. About half of the people moved out on 11 October. Some of the Mabruka residents who come from Ar-Raqqa and Deir Ez-Zor governorates are reportedly being allowed to return to their areas of origin. Similar movement, due to insecurity, may follow for Ein Issa camp, hosting about 13,200 people. Some partners are reportedly repositioning their medical and ambulance teams from Al Hol, Areesha, Ein Issa and Al Roj camps to other affected areas, which could cause a decline in the provision and quality of health services at these camps.

## Impact on civilian infrastructure

On 9 October, shelling hit the electrical line of the Allouk water station, 10 kilometers east of Ras Al Ain city, that services over 400,000 people in Al-Hasakeh city and surrounding areas, including Mabruka, Al Hol and Areesha displacement camps. The electrical line was fixed so that the water supply could resume the following day, but was then hit again rendering it inoperable.

The water situation in Al Hassakeh city and rural areas is deteriorating. Local authorities as well as members of the community are attempting to fill the gap through water trucking in the affected areas. The Al-Hasakeh Governor has requested UN support to provide 10 small water pumps and 10 water trucks to support Al-Hasakeh city residents with water. As insecurity in the area continues, the efforts are being made by the UN to advocate for access for the technical team to restore the water station.

Since 9 October, markets, schools and clinics in Ras Al Ain are closed and a curfew remains in place. Up until 10 October, only the National Hospital was operational, with few humanitarian actors available only for emergency cases. Other reports received on 10 October indicated that the hospital in Ras Al Ain, is out of service and cases were being transferred to the hospitals in Tal Tamr, Al-Hasakeh and Ein Issa.

In Tell Abiad, water and electricity are not available; the reasons behind the disruption of services are currently unclear. On 10 October, the national hospital in Tell Abiad closed following the withdrawal of one INGO and national employees, and the medical teams moved to Raqqa city due to insecurity.

## Humanitarian response and coordination

On 10 October, several humanitarian teams conducted multi-sectoral needs assessments in areas where displaced people arrived to identify priority needs and respond as soon as possible. Humanitarian partners on the ground continued to implement humanitarian activities and programming across accessible areas. The UN continues to work with the sub-national relief committee and parties on the ground to facilitate humanitarian response. All parties in the area have committed to facilitate and provide all necessary support to the UN and its humanitarian partners to continue implementing the humanitarian and emergency response.

## Readiness planning

A recent stock-take of readiness measures found sufficient stocks in place for a first phase response in most sectors, including food, nutrition, health, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene, as well as protection, to respond to the needs for one to two months. In view of the fluid situation on the ground, an update of this stock-take is being conducted, including any new gaps and additional resources that may be needed to scale up the response. Given rapid developments, humanitarian planning figures are also being revised.

### For further information, please contact:

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For more information, please visit <https://www.unocha.org/syria>

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

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