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Syrian Arab Republic: Al-Hasakeh
Situation Report No. 3 (6 – 12 July 2015)

This report is produced by OCHA Syria in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued on 14 July. It covers the period from 6 – 12 July 2015.

Highlights

- Civilians remain at risk due to the sharp increase in VBIEDs over the past week, as well as and continued shelling on neighborhoods in Al-Hasakeh city. More than 10 VBIEDs detonated in Al-Hasakeh city and nearby areas in the last week, all attributed to ISIL.

- As of 12 July, almost 50,000 IDPs, out of the 120,000 estimated displaced from 25 June, were identified as sheltering in the north of the city as well as northern sub-districts of the governorate -- some 16,000 IDPs (3,000 households) have reportedly returned to Al-Hasakeh city since 3 July.

- 30 schools in Al-Hasakeh city were damaged, while 42 schools are now in use as IDP shelters. The 32,500 students already enrolled in these 72 schools, located in Al-Hasakeh city and northern sub-districts, are expected to require education assistance if the schools are not available for education at the start of the 2015-16 school year in September.

- Humanitarian partners have provided at least 50,000 people with multi-sectoral assistance since the onset of the escalated fighting in Al-Hasakeh city.

Note: Information in this map is based upon ongoing IDP identification and preliminary response monitoring at the sub-district level. For more information visit: www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/syria

Situation Overview

Fighting continues in Al-Hasakeh city, particularly in Al-Nashwa, south Al Villat, Panorama and south east Red Villat neighborhoods, and southern suburbs. Though no civilian casualties have been reported, civilians remain at risk due to shelling on areas under the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) control and a spate of VBIEDs in areas under the Government of Syria (GoS) and YPG control. More than ten VBIEDs attributed to ISIL were detonated in Al-Hasakeh city and Abdul Aziz Mountains from 8 to 12 July.

Of the 120,000 people estimated displaced by the fighting in Al-Hasakeh city from 25 June, almost 50,000 IDPs were identified as sheltering in the north of the city as well as northern sub-districts of the governorate (as of 12 July), including in Al-Hasakeh (26,400), Al-Malkeyyeh (760), Amuda (7,525), Darbasiyah (3,550), Jawadiyeh (250), Qahtaniyyeh (215), Quamishli (28,665), Ras Al Ain (4,750), Tal Tamer (400) and Ya’robiyah (300). The Department of Social Affairs (DoSA) estimates at least 15,000 IDPs (3,000 households) have returned to Al-Hasakeh city since 3 July but most are staying with relatives or in the shelters rather than returning to their homes. DoSA confirmed the opening of 44 new shelters in a range of spaces in Al-Hasakeh city, including government buildings, wedding halls and schools, in order to accommodate about 6,000 IDPs (1,200 households). Some of these IDPs were families that were unable to proceed past Kurdish manned checkpoints leading to Amuda and Quamishli due to lack of sponsorship from a family resident in those areas. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) is reportedly conducting identification of the IDPs in these shelters and providing them with food and WASH assistance.

Though shops in Al-Hasakeh city center remain closed, 25 per cent of the workshops in the industrial zone are functioning. Food and basic commodities are available at moderate prices. The national hospital has resumed provision of some services, though the Children’s hospital remains closed.

Protection actors in Quamishli continue advocacy with the Kurdish self-administration to enable freedom of movement of the IDPs and reunification of separated families from Gere Rash/Tal Aswad camp. UNHCR confirms that 30 families were reunified over the past week and all students have been allowed to leave the camp. Yet, as of 12 July, some 550 IDPs (110 households) are currently sheltering at Gere Rash/Tal Aswad camp; some 70 per cent have not chosen to move there. This IDP population largely represents Arab households which were originally from other governorates, such as Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor.

Reports continue to surface regarding the confiscation of identification documents of IDPs, as well as refugee and asylum seekers from Iraq, at Kurdish manned checkpoints, allegedly for security checks. The UN has successfully advocated with the Kurdish self-administration in Quamishli to establish a standard procedure whereby the affected individuals should claim their IDs at the nearest Asayish center. UNHCR confirms that all Iraqi refugees and asylum seekers recovered their confiscated IDs, while the process for IDPs is ongoing.

The Education Sector estimates that almost 36,500 children, 16 per cent of the 227,973 pre-primary, primary and secondary students enrolled in school in Al-Hasakeh governorate have been affected by the fighting. Thirty schools in Al-Hasakeh city, in which 13,500 students were enrolled, have been damaged as a result of the recent fighting, particularly in Al-Nashwa, Gweiran, Al-Felat, Al-Sakan, Shababi and Alayleyeh neighborhoods. At least 42 schools in Al-Hasakeh city, Amuda, Darbasiyah and Quamishli are now being used as collective shelters to accommodate IDPs from Al-Hasakeh city, affecting an estimated 19,000 children from IDP and host communities who were enrolled in the schools. If these 72 schools are not available for education by the beginning of the 2015-16 school year in September, the 32,500 students enrolled will be in need of education assistance. Many Department of Education (DoE) officials returned to Al-Hasakeh city and have resumed their duties.

Humanitarian actors continue to scale up response in northern sub-districts and Al-Hasakeh city. UN agencies have not been able to access Al-Hasakeh city due to the security situation but local authorities, such as Directorates of Education and Health, have re-opened. International NGO, Accion contra la Faim (ACF), has temporarily relocated its office and staff to Quamishli but commutes daily to Al-Hasakeh city to provide WASH assistance to IDPs.

Humanitarian Response

Humanitarian partners (UN, International and National NGOs, Red Cross/Red Crescent movement) continue to respond to the identified needs of people displaced due to the intense fighting in Al-Hasakeh city, distributing assistance to those sheltering in accessible locations and for further needs and coordinating response with amongst those operating from within Syria and across the border. Protection, food, WASH, NFI and shelter needs are identified as being amongst the most pressing. Access to education at the start of the school year in September

1 Ministry of Education’s 2015 EMIS data
for students enrolled in schools that were damaged during the fighting or are now serving as collective shelters is a looming issue. UNHCR is coordinating the identification of IDPs, compiling, correcting and removing duplication of data received from all partners in order to update a special database developed for IDPs from Al-Hasakeh city in Quamishli. Further, the process of identification was expedited by establishing separate desks for identification and distribution in each site in Quamishli city.

**Food Security and Agriculture**

**Needs:**
- One international NGO partner reports that food continues to be the most frequently reported need, as identified by 99% of households assessed for assistance.

**Response:**
- 30,125 IDPs (10,025 households) in Al-Hasakeh city, Al-Malikeyyeh, Amuda, Darbasiyah, Quamishli, Ras Al Ain, Tal Tamer and Ya’rrobiiyah have been provided with food assistance by WFP since the escalation of fighting. Distribution monitoring is ongoing daily. An additional 13,653 IDPs (2,257) in Amuda, Al-Malikeyyeh, Darbasiyah and Quamishli have been provided with food parcels by an international NGO.
- SARC too has distributed food and non-food items to IDPs (numbers unknown)
- 500 meals are provided daily to IDPs residing in two collective shelters in Quamishli. These meals are prepared by a local partner supported by WFP and UNDP using WFP food rations as well as meat and vegetables purchased in local markets.
- WFP is assessing the feasibility of providing bread to IDPs staying in makeshift shelters.

**Gaps & Constraints:**
- As more returns are reported, it is important to verify needs among returnees, and identify humanitarian response gaps.

**Coordination:**
- Whole of Syria Food Security Sector is in close coordination with the Food Security and Agriculture Sector and other partners.

**Shelter and Non-Food Items**

**Needs:**
- NFI Sector partners have identified 41,057 IDPs from Al-Hasakeh city sheltering in Amuda, Al-Malikeyyeh, Darbasiyah, Quamishli, Ras Al Ain and Ya’rrobiiyah.

**Response:**
- 16,868 IDPs in Amuda (4,699), Al-Malikeyyeh (773), Darbasiyah (940), Quamishli (10,200), Ras Al Ain (200) and Ya’rrobiiyah (56) have been provided with NFIs by UNHCR and two international NGOs.
- UNHCR scaled up distribution activities for IDPs from Al-Hasakeh in the 4 distribution points in Quamishli managed by Al Ihsan, Al Wosen, Armenian Association and Al-Birr.
- Around 10,000 displaced women, men and children in Quamishli, Westa and other rural areas in Al-Hasakeh governate have been provided with locally procured 6,809 basic NFIs including mattresses, baby diapers, summer blankets and clothing kits (underwear). Distribution is ongoing.

**Gaps & Constraints:**
- 24,190 IDPs from Al-Hasakeh who have been identified have not been reached with NFI assistance.
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:
- 10,171 IDPs accommodated in 56 collective shelters in Al-Hasakeh sub-district and other locations, the majority of which are schools, require WASH assistance.
- Gere Rash/Tal Aswad camp lacks adequate sanitation facilities, particularly grey water drainage channels and handwashing facilities.

Response:
- 42,665 IDPs residing in collective shelters or with host communities in Al-Hasakeh city, Al-Malikiyyeh, Amuda, Darbasiyah, Quamishli, Ras Al-Ain and Tal Tamer have been provided with the following WASH supplies by UNICEF: family hygiene kits, baby hygiene kits, basic family water kits, washing powder, soap, jerry cans and plastic garbage bags. Distribution is ongoing, targeting over 60,000 people. UNICEF has contingency stock of WASH supplies sufficient to meet the needs of an additional 49,000 people.
- 747 IDPs have benefitted from the recently completed construction and rehabilitation of WASH facilities in four collective shelters in Quamishli city. 16 IDP households from Al-Hasakeh city are newly accommodated at one collective shelter in Quamishli city in which rehabilitation of WASH facilities by ICRC and SARC was completed.
- 2,625 people in Al-Hasakeh city were provided with 147 cubic meters of potable water by UNICEF through SARC, while rehabilitation of WASH facilities in two schools designated as collective shelters is ongoing. An additional 432 IDPs will benefit from rehabilitation of WASH facilities in collective shelters by ICRC, through SARC.
- Five IDP collective shelters in Al-Hasakeh and Quamishli cities have been provided eight water tanks (1,000 liters) by Accion contra La Faim (ACF). Water trucking to the collective shelters in Al-Hasakeh city is ongoing, with 167 m³ of water already delivered.
- Two WASH facilities (12 latrines and 12 shower rooms) are under construction in Gere Rash/Tal Aswad camp by an international NGO operating from Iraq, while two WASH facilities (4 latrines and 4 shower rooms) are under construction by the Al-Malikiyyeh municipality.

Gaps & Constraints:
- WASH Sector members report challenges accessing water resources due to insecurity, which complicates water trucking interventions.

Coordination:
- All actors working in Al-Hasakeh are in close coordination to ensure needs are met and duplication is avoided.

Health

Needs:
- The continued fighting has exacerbated an already fragile health system. In the latest WHO/HeRAMS report, 83.5 per cent of the public health centers in Al-Hasakeh governorate were reported as non- or partially functional.
- Increased coordination is necessary between health systems managed by the Government of Syria and Kurdish self-administration and other actors to improve the response.
- Directorate of Health officials are back to duty in Al Hasakeh city and the directorate is fully functioning.

Response:
- Three diarrhea kits, sufficient to treat 1,200 cases of diarrhea, have been provided to the newly opened National Hospital in Al-Hasakeh city.
- Three diarrhea kits, sufficient to treat 1,200 cases, have been provided by UNICEF to the re-opened national hospital in Al-Hasakeh city. UNICEF also plans to provide 14 incubators to the hospital to support establishment of a neonatal section as a means of covering the gap in services caused by closure of the children’s hospital.
- Primary health care services – including maternal, child, and nutrition care – are being provided via a health center in Nasirah neighborhood in Al-Hasakeh city and community outreach volunteers by UNICEF and Armenian Association.
- UNICEF with the Directorate of Health (DoH) is in progress of establishing 50 ORS corners in 50 health centers across governorate including health centers in hard to reach areas such as Shadada district.
- 55 IDP households in Quamishli received anti-lice shampoo from UNICEF, while 505 IDPs (442 children and 63 pregnant and lactating women) staying in newly established collective shelters in Hemo, Demkhia, Tartab, Hilko and Znood in Quamishli city are being provided with primary health care services – including maternal, child and nutrition services – through Dar Assalam health center and a mobile health clinic by UNICEF and Armenian Association. Costs for referrals and medicines for chronic diseases have been covered for free. A psychosocial support specialist has joined the team to enable identification of trauma cases within children and enroll them into PSS program.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Insecurity has hampered Health Sector members’ ability to assess the extent of damage to health facilities.
- Coordination between all actors active in health sector must be strengthened.

Protection and Community Services

Needs:
- IDPs, refugees and asylum-seekers from Iraq reportedly continue to have their identification documents (IDs) confiscated by Kurdish-manned (Asayish) checkpoints, allegedly for security checks.

Response:
- All refugees/asylum seekers having been able to recover IDs which had been confiscated by the Kurdish self-administration, though advocacy remains ongoing for affected IDPs. UNHCR and senior officials of the local self-administration in Quamishli agreed a standard operating procedure for the return of confiscated documents to their custodians, whereby the affected individuals should approach the nearest Asayish center to claim their confiscated documents.
- Around 30 families were reunited and all students routed to the Gere Rash/Tal Aswad camp were allowed freedom of movement as part of UNHCR follow up with local authorities to ensure freedom of movement and respect of family unity, particularly of IDPs confined to the camp and families split between camp and urban settings, including students routed to the camp by mistake.
- UNHCR continued to strengthen the protection component of the IDP identification process by flagging specific needs in the identification database and referring cases to partners and service providers, including: 628 people with chronic diseases; 30 people with critical medical conditions; two people with hearing disabilities; 16 people with severe physical disabilities; four people with mental disabilities; 24 women-headed households; one lactating and three pregnant women; and four unaccompanied elderly people.
- Mobile health teams from the on-going UNICEF and Armenian Association program were deployed to address the identified health needs of 509 children and women IDPs living in five collective shelters in Quamishli, following a PSS assessment conducted by UNICEF and Al-Ihsan charity.
- 543 children (198 between 6 to 12 years and 345 between 6 to 12 years) from the IDP and host communities in Al-Malikeyyeh, Jawadiyeh, Mabaade and Quamishli were provided PSS support via mobile teams’ activities in collective shelters and existing Child Friendly Spaces. 300 children in Gere Rash/Tal Aswad camp will be provided with PSS activities next week.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Delays between the identification of IDPs from Al-Hasakeh city and distribution of relief supplies was observed, primarily in Quamishli, until Al-Ihsan Association reached the backlog accumulated by SARC and Al-Birr NGO initiated NFI distribution in eastern Quamishli on 12 July.

Education

Needs:
- At least 30 schools in different neighborhoods of Al-Hasakeh city, including Al-Nashwa, Gweiran, Al-Felat, Al-Sakan, Shababi and Alayleyeh, have been reported damaged to varying degrees as a result of the recent fighting. Therefore, an estimated 13,500 children enrolled in these schools are in need of education assistance. Further, the total number schools across Al-Hasakeh that have been damaged during the conflict has increased to 114.
• At least 42 schools in Al-Hasakeh city, Amuda, Darbasiyah and Quamishli are being used as collective shelters by IDPs displaced due to the recent fighting in Al-Hasakeh city, affecting an estimated 19,000 children enrolled in the schools. The total number of schools used as collective shelters across Al-Hasakeh governorate has now increased to 52.

Response:

• The Directorate of Education (DoE) is urgently preparing to open 60 school clubs at different locations outside of Al-Hasakeh city in order to respond to the immediate education and psychosocial needs of approximately 30,000 affected children (IDPs and host communities). In support, UNICEF plans to dispatch 50 Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits, 290 recreation kits and 353 boxes of ‘school in a cartoon’ to school clubs.

• UNICEF and Al Birr Association continue to provide education assistance (together with PSS) to approximately 200 children living in IDP collective shelters in Quamishli city, including 50 children recently displaced from Al-Hasakeh city.

• UNICEF, Secours Islamique France (SIF) and the DoE continue to assess the condition of schools targeted for ongoing rehabilitation projects based upon the new security situation and IDP movements.

Gaps & Constraints:

• Insecurity and road blockages impede access of partners and education personnel, particularly within Al-Hasakeh city, limiting the ability to assess the situation and implement activities.

• Collecting information is challenging due to poor communication.

Coordination:

• Education Sector Working Group in Al-Hasakeh is monitoring the situation, particularly the assessment of education infrastructure and spaces, in order to minimize the impact of the continuing insecurity in Al-Hasakeh city and IDP displacement on students as they begin a new academic year in September.

Nutrition

Needs:

• More than 12 cases of moderate and severe acute malnutrition were identified amongst IDP children from Al-Hasakeh city residing with families in Quamishli. These children have been enrolled in the community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) program.

Response:

• 500 IDP children under five years living in seven shelters and Roj camp were provided with nutrition assistance by UNICEF and partner Armenian Association, including High Energy Biscuits (HEB), plumpy doz and multiple micronutrient (MMN).

• An additional 76 IDP children under five living with families in Quamishli were provided with two months of nutrition supplies by Armenian Association, in order to support the families to return to Al-Hasakeh with assistance. UNICEF is coordinating with the Department of Social Affairs to provide nutrition assistance to children under five living with families in Al-Hasakeh city.

• 950 IDP children under five living in Ras Al Ain will be targeted by UNICEF in the next week.

• UNICEF has contingency stock of nutrition supplies sufficient for 43,000 children under five.

Early Recovery and Livelihoods

Needs:

• IDPs who are residing in collective shelters may have lost their sources of livelihoods. Due to the existing vulnerability, IDP families living in shelters are expected to run out of savings within a few weeks.

• The shops at the city center of Al-Hasakeh city are still closed, while 25% of the workshops in the industrial zone of Al-Hasakeh city have resumed their works.

• Tens of shops in the main street in Al-Nashwa area have been damaged.

Response:

• 11 IDP collective shelters and Hemo church in Quamishli city will finish pest control campaigns conducted by UNDP in coordination with UNHCR. UNDP plans to conduct a pest control campaign at Gere Rash/Tal Aswad
camp this week. An assessment is being planned in all collective shelters in Al-Hasakeh city to expand pest control campaigns.

- 1,000 loaves of bread are being distributed daily to residents of Al-Hasakeh city by traditional bakery established by UNDP to provide job opportunities to IDPs and their host community members.

Constraints & Gaps:

- Three UNDP projects which employ more than 185 people have been affected by the current security situation and are working at a reduced capacity.
- Assessment of damage to community infrastructure and properties remains constrained due to ongoing fighting.

Coordination:

- Early Recovery and Livelihood Sector members are in close coordination with other life-saving sectors to provide critical assistance, including daily meals at a local NGO kitchen, and meet gaps.

Logistics

Response:

- The Logistics Cluster is on stand-by to support the humanitarian response if and when requested.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster

Response:

- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) is on stand-by to support the humanitarian response if and when requested.

Background on the crisis

Humanitarian needs in Syria have increased twelve-fold since the beginning of the crisis, with 12.2 million now in need of humanitarian assistance, including more than 5.6 million children. More than half of all Syrians have been forced to leave their homes, often multiple times, making Syria the largest displacement crisis in the world. An estimated 4.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in hard-to-reach and besieged locations. Palestine refugees are particularly affected, with 560,000 in need of assistance.

In 2014, four out of every five Syrians were living in poverty, and almost two-thirds were living in extreme poverty. 9.8 million People are considered food insecure, including 6.8 million in high priority districts. Water availability has decreased to less than 50 per cent of its pre-crisis levels, and 11.6 million people are in urgent need of access to clean water and sanitation. More than half of Syria’s hospitals have been destroyed or badly damaged and, it is estimated that only 43 per cent of hospitals are fully functional. An estimated 1,480 women give birth in dire conditions every day due to the weakening of the healthcare system. Outbreaks of communicable and vaccine-preventable diseases (including polio and measles) have increased. Roughly one-quarter of schools have been damaged, destroyed or are used as collective shelters or for purposes other than education. An estimated 1.2 million houses have been damaged or destroyed and more than 1.6 million people are in need of shelter. Due to multiple displacements, 9.9 million are in need of life saving and essential NFIs.

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