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Highlights

- Since 14 March, over 67,000 people have been displaced to north-western Syria and northern rural Aleppo from East Ghouta in Rural Damascus and the Al-Qadam neighbourhood in Damascus city, following agreements between the Government of Syria and the non-state armed groups. Those who moved continue to report their mental and physical exhaustion due to the experience of living under siege and bombardments for many years.
- The UN and humanitarian organizations face a funding gap of an estimated \$100 million to provide life-saving assistance and services to the IDPs, who were displaced to northern Syria. This is in addition to the \$95 million required to assist those who displaced to areas in rural Damascus, remain in areas of East Ghouta that recently shifted control including those who remained in Duma city.
- The Turkey Humanitarian Fund (THF), which has been an integral part of the humanitarian response over the past years, is almost depleted. Urgent support is needed to ensure that the THF is capable to fund humanitarian activities, when emergencies occur.
- In their efforts to respond to the people displacing from East Ghouta and Al-Qadam, humanitarian organizations are using rapidly depleting available resources to provide emergency assistance and services. The reprioritization of activities to enable a crisis rapid response to the affected population draws resources away from addressing other critical needs.



+67,000 IDPs

arrived in northern Syria from East Ghouta and Al-Qadam neighbourhood since 14 March



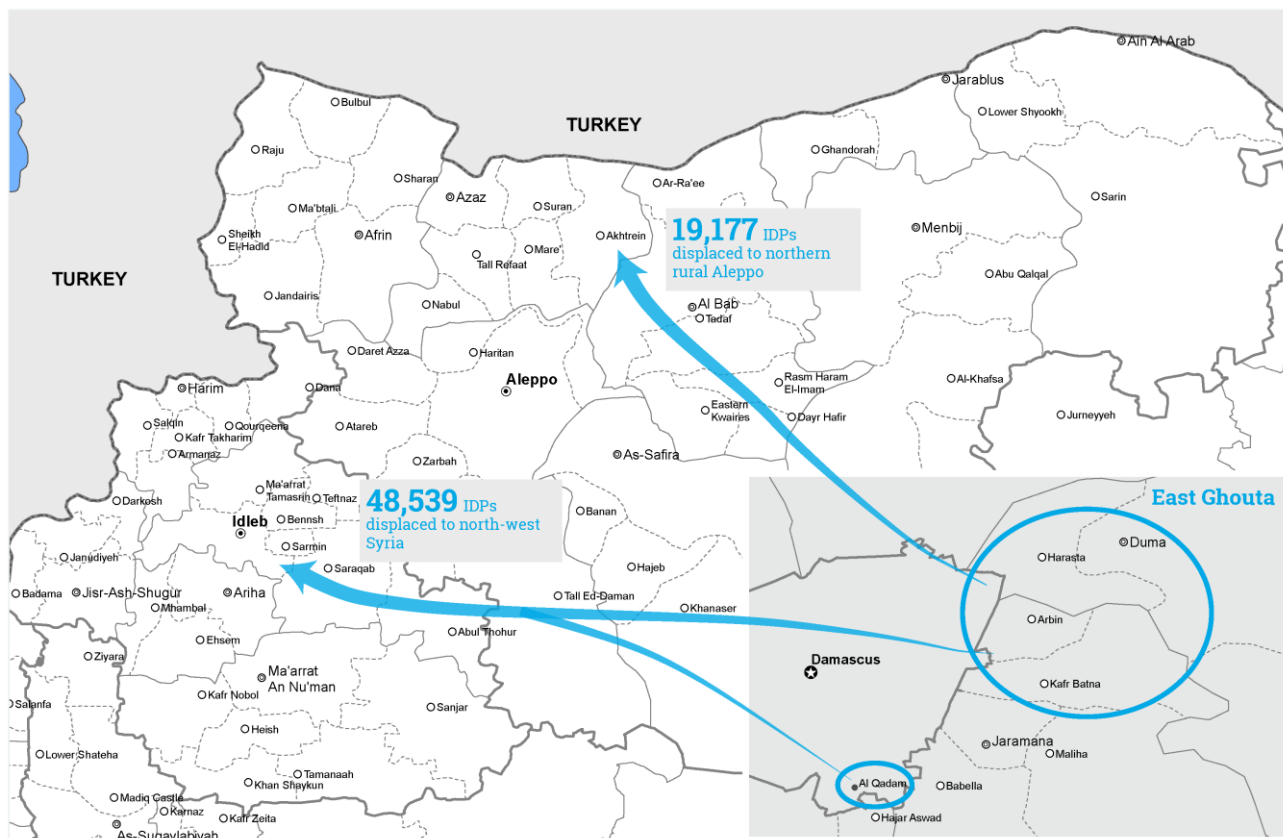
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NGO-run reception centres are operating at full capacity in north-western Syria (Idlib and northern rural Aleppo)



\$100m

funding needs identified to ensure an adequate and dignified response to 67,000 newly arrived IDPs and an anticipated additional population being displaced through future agreements (to a total of an estimated 120,000)



Situation Overview

The arrival of internally-displaced people (IDPs) from the communities in East Ghouta, which have come under agreements between the warring parties, to northern Syria continues. On 8 April, an agreement was reached in Duma city, the last non-state armed group held area in East Ghouta, after which several displacements to northern rural Aleppo took place. It is estimated that over 20,000 individuals in total were displaced from Duma city to north-western Syria and northern rural Aleppo, bringing the total number of IDPs who arrived in northern Syria from East Ghouta and Al-Qadam neighbourhood, between 14 March and 15 April, to over 67,000 individuals. As of 19 April, there are no further displacements from Eastern Ghouta expected. The UN expects further displacements in the near future to northern Syria from other locations controlled by Non-State Armed Groups where negotiations reportedly are happening.

The movement of IDPs from East Ghouta to northern Syria was reportedly arduous. Humanitarian organizations operating in northern Syria noted that the recently arrived civilians from East Ghouta reported being subjected to verbal and physical abuse during their transport to the north, particularly at checkpoints. On 14 April, it was reported that a bus transferring IDPs came under gunfire, while passing through the countryside of Homs governorate. The shooting reportedly resulted in the death of an eleven-year-old child.

In north-western Syria, overcrowding and lack of shelter availability remain a major concern. It is estimated that over 1.2 million IDPs are currently present in Idleb governorate, which marks a 25% increase from the data gathered in August 2017. And while NGO-run reception centers play a key role in providing temporary shelter and emergency assistance to the new arrivals, they are not designed as longer-term durable shelter options. It is expected that within days after arriving, people living at the reception centers begin to search for proper accommodation. Through its partners, the Shelter and NFI Cluster continues to map out available shelter options.

The unstable security environment in north-western Syria remains of concern to the newly-arrived IDPs, many of whom are exhausted from the experience of living under siege, aerial attacks, and bombardment for years. Airstrikes continue to be a regular occurrence, as does the infighting between the armed groups on the ground, which results in repeated disruptions to civilian life and service provision by humanitarian organizations on the ground. A prominent example of the impact of hostilities on service provision, is when several health organisations issued a statement on 16 April announcing that they were compelled to suspend non-emergency services, in response to the active fighting that took place in the vicinity of the National Hospital in Ma'arrat An Nu'man town on 15 April. In addition to the general insecurity affecting IDPs and host communities alike, anecdotal information indicates that IDPs from Duma city – particularly men in their twenties and thirties - are being stopped and harassed at Hayyat Tahrir Al-Sham checkpoints in the north-west.

In northern rural Aleppo, efforts are being made to identify additional shelter options for the new arrivals. Expansion work of the Duyuf Al-Sharqia IDP camp in Al-Bab town is ongoing, which will increase the capacity of the camp from 450 to 750 households. The camp is currently hosting 350 families. The CCCM Cluster reported that a camp was established in Al-Bil village, east of Azaz town, with a capacity of 550 tents and 32 containers for latrines and showers. All the tents are currently occupied by IDPs from East Ghouta. A second camp in the same village is being established, with a provisional capacity of 350 tents.

In their efforts to respond to the IDPs from East Ghouta and Al-Qadam neighbourhood, humanitarian organizations are using rapidly depleting available resources to provide emergency assistance and services to these new IDPs. The reprioritization to enable a crisis rapid response to the affected population draws resources away from addressing other critical needs.



Protection Cluster

Needs:

People arriving from East Ghouta are reporting that they are distressed and/or traumatized from the experience of living under siege and their subsequent displacement. They are exhausted and expressed fear for their future, as well as, for their family members, friends and property left behind. They need psychological first aid and ongoing psychosocial support.

Many children were separated from family members during the movement and others arrived unaccompanied. Cluster members noted that recently arrived civilians from East Ghouta report experiencing verbal and physical abuse during their flight, particularly at checkpoints.

There is a significant need to mitigate protection, including Child Protection (CP) and Gender-based Violence (GBV), risks throughout the different areas of the emergency response, especially for distributions and the selection of locations and types of shelter for displaced women, men, girls and boys.

IDPs in unfamiliar areas are more vulnerable to explosive hazards incidents. There is a need therefore to strengthen risk education campaigns, with a special focus on new IDPs.

Response:

The Protection Cluster, CP, GBV and Mine Action Sub-Clusters members continued their emergency service provision. Between 3 April until 16 April, 21 Cluster members provided 12,269 protection interventions to IDPs and affected host community members, providing response in 24 sub-districts in Idleb and Aleppo, in both temporary reception sites as well as in communities, serving 63 communities, reaching 5,699 individuals (1,631 girls, 1,419 boys, 2,276 women, and 886 men).

In line with the Cluster's emergency response package, the main services protection actors provided are as follows:

- Psychological First Aid for 633 girls, 666 boys, 517 women and 360 men;
- Psychosocial Support for 563 girls, 643 boys, 88 women, 51 men;
- Dignity Kits distribution for 397 girls and 1,216 women;
- Risk education for 443 girls, 492 boys, 403 women, and 501 men; and
- Referrals of GBV survivors and child protection cases to specialized GBV and CP services.

The Child Protection Family Tracing and Reunification Taskforce has identified, reunified and started tracing of unaccompanied and separated children from East Ghouta.

During the first week of April, seven Cluster members conducted rapid protection monitoring, speaking to 418 individuals (188 Females and 230 Males) in Idleb and Aleppo.

Gaps and Constraints:

The Protection Cluster and Sub-Cluster members are responding with already-overstretched protection teams, due to the displacement of over 400,000 individuals in the first six weeks of 2018. Resources allocated for regular programming is shifted to this emergency response, leaving critical gaps in other locations where resilience and community-based initiatives could further pre-empt reactive emergency responses. An additional impact is the diversion of human resources and attention from more specialized GBV and CP services (especially case management).



Shelter and Non-Food Items

Needs:

- Almost all IDPs arriving to Idleb or northern rural Aleppo are initially hosted at the reception centers. All arriving displaced people need sustainable shelter. As such, there is a need to identify alternative shelter solutions in other shelters, collective shelter and/or IDP sites.
- The shelter capacity in Idleb governorate is already depleted and people are living in overcrowded conditions. Northern rural Aleppo has capacity but access remains limited.
- All IDPs from East Ghouta are in need of NFI assistance upon arrival to north-western Syria.
- There is a need to increase the shelter space through: i) newly built shelters, ii) rehabilitation of damaged unoccupied shelters, iii) creation of shelter extensions, iv) completion of unfinished buildings, v) conversion of other structures such as garages, commercial units etc. into shelters, and vi) adapting buildings into collective shelters.
- Given the lack of available spaces, there is a need for cash for rent support to the newly-arrived IDPs.
- Given the overcrowded conditions within Idleb and the north-west in general, and to reduce overcrowded and substandard conditions in existing occupied shelters, there is a need for: i) shelter rehabilitation, ii) light shelter rehabilitation and iii) distribution of shelter kits.
- There is a need to conduct a shelter availability assessment to identify additional shelter capacity through various intervention options.

Response:

NFIs:

- The Shelter and NFIs Cluster members remain fully mobilized and the NFI response is ongoing in both in-site and urban areas, including reception centers.
- As of 31 March, over 37,900 IDPs were assisted with non-food items (this figure does not include any assistance provided after 1 April 2018).

Shelter:

- The CCCM and S/NFI Clusters continue to update the mapping of the available shelter space and the related needs (the mapping tool can be accessed [here](#))

- Following recent challenges regarding the shelters in Kafar Hamra town, the SNFI Cluster held a meeting on 10 April with organizations working in this specific location, and included the Protection Cluster and OCHA. The meeting concluded that available shelter options in Kafar Hamra town must be ruled out due to housing, land and property issues.
- As of 31 March, a total of 9,000 IDPs from East Ghouta received shelter assistance.
- Together with IOM, the SNFI Cluster coordination team is developing a Shelter Availability mapping exercise to be conducted in Idleb with the aim of identifying buildings that could be used as shelters, either through cash for rent, light rehabilitation, or upgrade through Shelter Kits. To this end, the S/NFI Cluster coordination team developed a Potential Shelter Identification Mapping Form in a Kobo format. The training of the enumerators is expected to start in the third week of April, while the data collection should begin in the fourth week of April.
- The CCCM and S/NFI Clusters continue to advocate and actively look for shelter solutions alternative to sites.

Gaps and Constraints:

- The lack of available shelter options remains the key challenge in the response;
- The lack of alternative geographical areas where to receive IDPs besides Idlib and Northern Aleppo;
- Lack of available funding for shelter rehabilitation and other shelter activities such as cash for rent;
- The unplanned nature of the arrivals; and
- New challenges on cash transfers from Turkey to Idleb.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster

Response:

Displacement tracking:

- Of those who have arrived from East Ghouta and Al-Qadam neighbourhood in northern Syria, 12,860 individuals have arrived to CCCM member reception centres in Mezanaz, Maaret Elekhwan, Al Bab and Azaz.

CCCM reception and assistance:

- Four reception centres managed by CCCM members and funded mainly by the Turkey Humanitarian Fund, played a key role in supporting East Ghouta arrivals. On 15 April, it was agreed that partners will expand the capacity of the reception centers to accommodate 1,000 additional arrivals.
- Duyuf Al-Sharqia IDP Site, in Al-Bab, is currently hosting 360 HHs (1,750 individuals). Due to the continuous arrivals, 45 additional rub halls were installed. This will increase the planned capacity from 450 HHs to 750 HHs. A need for additional NFIs for the planned expansion was reported.
- Cluster members have worked to ensure that people arriving have temporary shelter in line with the Protection guidance. However, as noted by the Shelter/ NFI cluster, sustainable accommodation must be found for people going forward.
- Below is an up to date summary of reception centers and camps that have received IDPs from East Ghouta:

Name of Reception Centers and camps	Location	Current Population (# of Individuals)	Departures (# of Individuals) since April 14	Gaps
Al Bab	Al Bab, Aleppo	2,010	99	No gaps
Azaz	Azaz, Aleppo	1,777	39	No gaps
Maaret Elekhwan	Maaret Tamsrin, Idleb	494	31	No gaps
Mezanaz	Atareb, Aleppo	893	0	No gaps
Duyuf Al-Sharqia Camp	Al Bab, Aleppo	1,750	0	No Gaps
Al Bil	Azaz, Aleppo	2,499	0	No Gaps
Extension of Al Bunian Al Kuwaiti Camp	Harim, Idleb	439	0	No Gaps
Al Rahma RC	Harim, Idleb	118	0	No Gaps
Ghouta Sharkiye camp	Harim, Idleb	954	0	No Gaps
	TOTAL	10,934		

- **Al Rahma Reception Center**, which has a capacity 1,000 IDPs, was established by a CCCM member in response to East Ghouta displacement. The camp is operational now and currently hosts 26 HHs (118 IDPs).
- A partner of the Food Security and Livelihood and CCCM Clusters is distributing 3,700 ready-to-eat rations in northern rural Aleppo to respond to the food needs of new IDPs.
- **Al-bil 1 camp**: 550 tents were installed and all are occupied by families from East Ghouta. 32 containers for latrines and shower and 500 NFI kits were provided. An organization is providing hot meals. While there is no urgent need for now, there is a possibility of a shortage of food baskets in the very near future.
- **Albil2 camp**: Establishment of 350 tents and other infrastructure work is ongoing.
- A CCCM Cluster member is establishing a site in Azaz with a capacity for 1,750 individuals. The infrastructure work on the site remains ongoing.
- A CCCM Cluster member is establishing a site in Idleb with a capacity for 6,000 individuals. The infrastructure work on the site remains ongoing.
- CCCM Cluster members are also closely working to expand the **Al Abiad camp**, in Idleb, where an extra 250 households will be hosted.
- The CCCM Cluster is closely working with S/NFI, FSL and WASH clusters to ensure multi-sectoral assistance is provided to IDP sites and collective centers responding to the East Ghouta displacement
- The CCCM Cluster is carefully reviewing other potential space of collective centers and IDP sites and making sure they are in line with the Shelter Identification Guidance Note before deciding to send additional items to these locations.

For further information, please contact:

Trond Jensen, UNOCHA Turkey Head of Office, jensen8@un.org

Mobile Turkey: (+90) 530 041 9152

Annette Hearn, UNOCHA Turkey Deputy Head of Office, hearns@un.org

Mobile Turkey: +90-535-021-9574