

### LIBYA

The overall humanitarian access to affected population improved slightly during 2017. Following the Sirt military operation by government forces, in the second half of 2016 ISIL lost control of large areas in Libya. Yet it still maintains a few cells in different parts of the country, which poses serious threats to the international presence. lack of sustained humanitarian access across Libya continues to be a challenge to humanitarian partners. Access restrictions, puts the lives of vulnerable people residing in Libya including IDPs, host communities, migrants and refugees at risk. The main causes of access restrictions are periodic clashes among armed groups, existence of mines and UXOs, bureaucratic and varying procedures imposed on movement of humanitarian organizations and inaccessibility due to besiegement and remoteness. Periodic escalations of conflict occur as armed groups contest for territorial control and political legitimacy, putting civilians at high risk. Protection risks to civilians include being caught in cross-fire, targeted attacks, explosive remnants of war (ERW), and restrictions on freedom of movement.

### IRAQ

Towards the end of 2017, almost all areas of Iraq become accessible to humanitarian operations. However, access to services remains a challenge in areas where government services have yet to be fully restored. In the second half of 2016 and first quarter of 2017 humanitarian access continued to improve, especially within the Governorate of Ninewa, following the offensive by the Iraqi Security Forces in June 2016. As the military operation against ISIL continued in the following months, the access situation improved further leading to return of more than 400,000 people to the newly accessible areas especially in Ninewa governorate. After decades of war, the volume of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) renders Iraq one of the most heavily contaminated countries in the world, putting civilians in danger. In Mosul alone, early estimates That it may take over a decade to clear the city.

### SYRIA

Throughout 2017, delivery of humanitarian assistance to people in need remained extremely challenging as a result of active conflict, shifts in frontlines, intermittent closures of border-crossings and checkpoints, as well as exposure to explosive hazards. Moreover, parties to the conflict maintained administrative and deliberate impediments on humanitarian response, in some cases violating the legal obligations to facilitate humanitarian access under International Humanitarian Law. On average, each month in 2017, only 27 per cent of people identified eligible to receive assistance under the UN's bi-monthly plans were reached through inter-agency cross-line convoys. As such, the use of all modalities: regular programmes from within Syria, cross border from neighbouring countries as well as cross-lines, remained essential. On 18 December, UN Security Council Resolution 2393 was adopted, renewing the provisions of resolution 2165 authorizing the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Syria across conflict lines for an additional 12 months. The number of people in need in hard-to-reach and besieged areas decreased during 2017. As of December 2017, there were an estimated 2.90 million people in hard-to-reach areas, including 417,566 people in nine besieged locations. This is compared to some 4.72 million people in hard-to-reach areas, including 643,000 people in 13 besieged locations in January 2017.

### OCC. PALESTINIAN TERR.

Humanitarian access, including the movement of United Nations and non-governmental organization staff, particularly to and from Gaza, remained heavily restricted during 2017. Palestinian staff continued to facing Israeli-imposed movement restrictions, i.e. the denial and delay of duty-related entry and exit permits, with Israeli authorities granting timely exit permits to only 46 per cent of the humanitarian workers who need to exit Gaza for work. In the West Bank, the implementation of humanitarian projects continued to be impeded by Israeli restrictions on access to East Jerusalem and other areas between the Barrier and the Green Line, as well as limitations on projects that involve building, expanding or rehabilitating infrastructure in Area C. Incidents at West Bank checkpoints continued to obstruct and delay the movement of personnel and goods. In addition, international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) faced difficulties obtaining work visas for incoming international staff. The time needed by the Israeli Authorities to process permits for Gaza based national personnel intending to exit Gaza was increased twice during 2017, reaching 55 working days for permits to Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank, and 70 working days for permits abroad. Additionally, between January and December 2017, 43% of requests remained pending with no response by the date of travel. The impact of restrictions on movement via the Israeli-authorized Erez Crossing has been compounded by the almost continuous closure of the Egyptian border at Rafah Crossing. A total of 463 access incidents were reported in 2017, resulting in the loss of 10,802 work hours compared to 1,964 in 2016, primarily due to demands for searches of UN buses, contrary to UN privileges and immunities, and for staff to exit the buses at checkpoints between Bethlehem and Jerusalem in the West Bank.

People Living in HTR/IA Areas In Millions **0.3**

People Living in HTR/IA Areas In Millions **2.9**



People Living in HTR/IA Areas In Millions **2**

### YEMEN

In 2017, humanitarian access in Yemen deteriorated compared to 2016. There are 333 districts in Yemen, of which 52 per cent remain relatively accessible while 36 per cent are perceived to have medium access constraints. In addition, approximately 12 per cent of Yemen's districts (39 districts) are considered to have high access constraints, with more than 76 per cent of them located in the conflict-affected governorates of Taizz, Sa'ada, Marib, Al Bayda, Hajjah and Al Jawf. Administrative difficulties, lack of physical infrastructure and local interference or attempted interference in the humanitarian aid delivery are among the main factors impacting humanitarian access. Approximately 1.7 million people live in districts with the highest access constraints, of whom 0.7 million are in acute need of assistance.

People Living in HTR/IA Areas In Millions **1.7**