

UNHCR SYRIA SITUATION REPORT FOR THE EASTERN GHOUTA AND AFRIN HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES As of 16 April 2018

EASTERN GHOUTA

- Since the last update on 9 April, some 3,000 civilians have left Eastern Ghouta, making the total of individuals 92,235¹, including 45, 258² currently residing in eight IDP sites in Rural Damascus and more than 46,000³ who have left the shelters, primarily through the 'sponsorship'⁴ programme.
- On 14 April, the United States, the United Kingdom and France conducted airstrikes targeting several Syrian military positions and installations allegedly connected to the chemical weapons capabilities in Damascus, Homs and Hama. No displacement was caused by these airstrikes.
- The last group of AOGs and their families left Douma, Eastern Ghouta on 14 April and were transported to Idleb with the 22nd convoy, making the total number that have left to Idleb since 22 March, 46, 825.
- Meanwhile, on 14 April the Investigators from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) arrived to Syria to begin their investigation into the alleged chemical weapons incident of 7 April in Douma.
- With the internally displaced having been in the IDP sites over five weeks, the situation in the sites is stabilizing; UNHCR continues together with its partners on the ground to identify the needs and respond accordingly. UNHCR is advocating for the freedom of movement of the displaced civilians, once they have been security cleared, without additional requirements, such as sponsorship by a direct family member. However, due to the limitations of the 'sponsorship' programme a small number of individuals are leaving the IDP sites, even though they continue to be congested. UNHCR continues to advocate for respect to the principle of family unity to be respected at all stages of the evacuation/flight and in all the IDP sites.
- Following an interruption for a few days, UNHCR multi-functional teams' daily missions to the various IDP sites resumed on 16 April, with a UNHCR-UNICEF joint mission to Al Karnak site, which is under preparation.
- UNHCR and its partners continue to respond to the needs of the IDPs in the IDP sites; legal counselling was provided to nearly 22,000 individuals, representing nearly half of the total population in the eight IDP sites; core relief items, including high thermal blankets, kitchen sets, sleeping mats, mattresses, solar lamps, sleeping bags, hygiene kits, jerry cans to the population of the IDP sites, were provided to over 60,000 individuals; shelter support was provided through the installation in two IDP sites of 3 rub halls and 50 family-size tents in two IDP sites, in addition to the provision of 2,200 shelter kits, of which more than 1,000 have been installed in various IDP sites.
- Discussion on the Shelter Sites Management Structure designed by UNHCR and agreed among all UN agency Heads, had advanced and is expected to be concluded soon. As to the discussion on the Rapid Registration Form, it has been delayed due to a decision on the part of the authorities to re-assign the registration task to Syria Trust, but shall resume shortly.

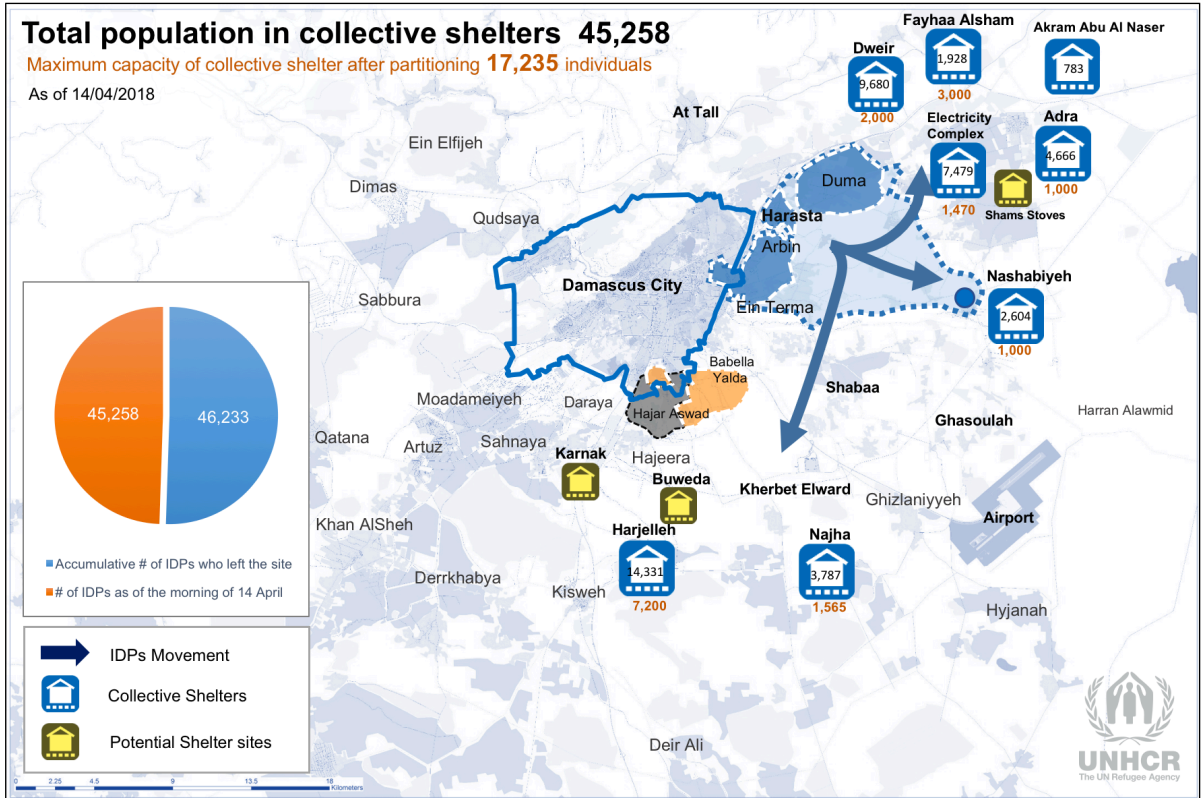
¹ Figures provided by the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment (MOLAE), who is heading the High Relief Committee.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Mostly women and children, have been released from the IDP sites, primarily through the 'sponsorship' programme, whereby women with children under 15 and men over 55-65 are allowed to leave the shelter, subject to availability of a sponsor.

IDP population in IDP sites



Emergency response update



Protection

Needs; the priority needs of the displaced families continue to be freedom of movement, implying ability to leave the shelters as entire families, once they have been security screened. This would help decongest the crowded IDP sites, while at the same time mitigating the risk of family separation. Lack of civil documentation and need of registration of marriages and birth of new-borns continue to feature among the priority needs of the IDP population.

Response;

Legal Aid Services provided for IDPs from EG in the IDP sites (10 to 15 April 2018)						
	Death registration	Birth registration ⁵	Family card	ID card	Marriage and birth registration ⁶	
Daily average	49	241	127	518	290	
%	3.99%	19.68%	10.34%	42.27%	23.72%	
Total	863	4,255	2,236	9,139	5,128	21,620

⁵ Cases, where the IDPs have previously registered their marriages and are in need of birth registration for their new-born children.

⁶ Cases, where the IDPs are in need of both marriage registration as well as birth registration for their new-born children.

- UNHCR's partner, Syria Trust (ST), is present in IDP sites on a daily basis, assessing protection needs and conducting interventions as necessary and possible in the given circumstances. 30 lawyers and Outreach Volunteers (ORV) from ST conducted legal counselling and identification of unaccompanied minors as well as persons lacking documentation, particularly unregistered new-born children. UNHCR partner, Syria Trust, together with staff from the Civil Registry, continued registration of applications for identity cards and other civil documents in four IDP sites (Dwier, Adra, Akram Abu al Nasser, and Harjallah). The IDPs needs relate primarily to identity card, with 42 per cent, followed by marriage and birth registration with 24 per cent.
- Following a verification exercise conducted by Syria Trust, as of 15 April, 21,621 individuals in various IDP sites were provided with legal counselling, and nearly 32,000 individuals are in need of legal interventions before administrative bodies and/or in courts. Early marriage and unregistered marriages were revealed as being widespread in Harjallah, with 60 percent of marriages in this site unregistered.

Gaps and constraints;

- Since last update on 9 April, some 1,600 IDPs (women, children and elderlies) have left the eight IDP sites through the 'sponsorship' programme. This represents less than four per cent of the total current population (45,258) in the IDP sites. UNHCR concerned that low departure rate from the IDP sites is due to the limitations of the 'sponsorship' programme IDP sites causing family separation, as well as the IDPs financial constraints.



Non-food items (NFIs)

Response: SARC has distributed 82 per cent of the NFIs provided by UNHCR, thereby covering the needs of the displaced in all the eight IDP sites.

- As reported on 9 April, UNHCR has delivered, through its partners, 225,188 non-food items, including high thermal blankets, kitchen sets, sleeping mats, mattresses, solar lamps, sleeping bags, hygiene kits, jerry cans, for distribution to the displaced people from Eastern Ghouta. Of these, 182,868 have already been distributed to 63,716⁷ individuals in Dweir, Harjallah, Adra, Najha and Nashabiyeh.



Shelter

Currently eight IDP sites are populated, namely; Harjallah (14,331), Adra School Shelter (4,666), Adra Electricity Complex (7,479), Najha (3,787), Nashabiyeh (2,604), Dweir (9,680), Fayhaa Al Sham (1,928), and Akram Abu Nasser (783). Another seven potential shelter sites are; Al Karnak, Al Bueda, Shams Stoves, Harjallah 1, Education complex in Sehnaya, Berdeh, Baghdadadi.

Needs and gaps: The IDP sites remain congested, with a total population of 45,258 individuals against the shelters' maximum capacity of 17,235 individuals, (i.e. an average occupancy rate of 258 percent).

Response: UNHCR continues its efforts to decongest the IDP sites, and to prepare for eventual new displacements from Duma/Eastern Ghouta, UNHCR is effecting site preparation work in new sites, namely Karnak and Harjallah 1, together with UNICEF, SARC and other partners. UNHCR partners are on the ground; Syria Trust is preparing the Karnak site, while Premiere Urgence Internationale (PUI) is preparing Harjallah 1. UNHCR has ready in stock in Rural Damascus 750 family tents to install in these sites.

⁷ Including 45,258 individuals living in the IDP sites, and additional 18,458 individuals that have left the IDP sites.

- In the meantime, to bridge the shelter gaps, the UNHCR 2,200 shelter kits, 3 rub halls and 50 family tents provided to SARC are being used. Two rub halls are installed in Akram Abu Al Naser collective shelter and one is installed in Adra Electricity complex; 413 shelter kits were installed in Adra Electricity complex and Adra Schools; 475 shelter kits were installed in Dweir collective shelter; 50 shelter kits were installed in Akram Abu Al Naser collective shelter; 50 shelter kits were installed in Fayhaa Al Sham and 59 shelter kits were installed in Harjellah.
- The rehabilitation of three schools (180 rooms) in Adra city by UNHCR partner SIF have been completed.
- UNHCR's partner ADRA has completed the installation of 4 sheds (big size tents) in Herjelleh. ADRA is also rehabilitating a school in Najha collective shelter, which will benefit 552 individuals; rehabilitation of 48 rooms have been completed.

AFRIN - Emergency response

- Some 137,000 IDPs have left Afrin and are in Tal Refaat (some 100,000), Nubul (some 20,000) and Zahraa (some 10,000).



Protection response

- UNHCR continues to respond to the protection needs of the IDPs from Afrin through protection services, including child protection, legal aid, prevention and response of SGBV and services for persons with specific needs, provided by UNHCR-funded community centres in Nubul and Aleppo city, as well as through mobile units and ORVs reaching out to surrounding villages. More than 986 persons have received protection assistance through UNHCR's partners in Aleppo, Nubul, Zahraa, Ziyara, Khurbat al Hayat and Kafar Naya villages.



NFI response

- As reported on 9 April, NFIs have been distributed to 51,000 individuals, including 6,000 individuals/ 1,000 families in Nubul and 3,000 individuals/500 families in Zahraa and 42,000 individuals/7,000 families in Tal Refaat and the surrounding villages. UNHCR is planning to respond to the needs in Fafin camp by distributing 1,000 rechargeable fans.



Shelter response

- UNHCR has delivered 1,400 shelter kits to its partners, including 600 delivered to GOPA and ADRA to respond to the shelter needs in Nubul and Al Zahra, and 800 provided to SARC to respond to shelter needs in Tal Refaat. UNHCR's partner GOPA finished installing 100 shelter units in Nubul, which will benefit some 1000 IDPs. UNHCR's partner ADRA completed the installation of 77 shelter kits in Hangars in Nubul, which will benefit some 900 IDPs.
- UNHCR's partner SARC has completed the assessment of houses to accommodate IDPs in Tal Refaat and is currently waiting for funds for the installation cost for shelter kits.
- UNHCR has 1,000 family size tents in its warehouse in Aleppo, which can be delivered to partners when and if needed to respond to the shelter needs.

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