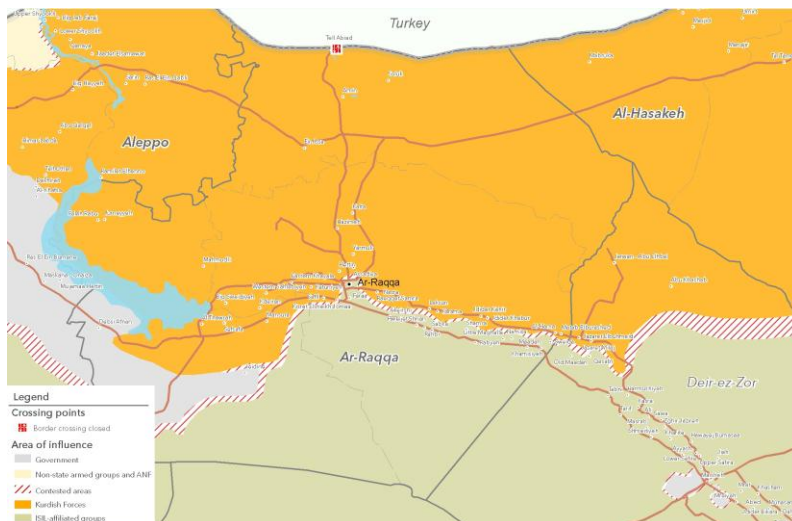




This report is produced by the OCHA Syria Crisis offices in Syria, Turkey and Jordan. It covers the period from 8 – 19 June 2017. The next report will be issued on or around 28 June 2017.

Highlights

- Heavy fighting between the SDF and ISIL in Ar-Raqqa city continued as the SDF made advances in the northwestern and eastern parts of the city.
- Since early June, an estimated 50,000 people have been displaced in Ar-Raqqa governorate, some for short periods. Of these, 7,655 IDPs have so far been verified by CCCM cluster as remaining displaced for longer periods. The situation continues to be fluid, with new displacements coexisting with rapid return movements to areas taken over by SDF.
- Those fleeing the fighting in Ar-Raqqa city continue to face a number of protection risks, including punitive measures put in place by ISIL, threats posed by landmine and other weapon contamination, family separation, forced recruitment at check points, as well as the removal of identification and restricted movement upon entering displacement camps.
- In the wake of SDF advances, the conduct of hostilities in Ar-Raqqa city is of grave concern for the protection of civilians. The humanitarian community continues to call for all parties to the conflict to uphold their obligations under IHL to spare the civilian protection from harm and to consider their protection and safety as paramount.
- Following approval by the Government of Syria, WFP successfully completed a first trial delivery from Homs to Qamishly via Aleppo to assess the road conditions and the security situation along the route.



177,847

people displaced from
1 April – 15 June
(101,921 during May –
15 June)



91,777

people reached with
food assistance from
8 -15 June



24 tons

Of medicines were
dispatched to IDP
sites in Al-Hassakeh,
Qamishli, Mabrouka
and Karama



7,500

Children and
pregnant and lactating
women reached with
nutrition assistance between
8-16 June



Situation Overview

Ar-Raqqa Governorate

During the reporting period, fighting between the SDF and ISIL in Ar-Raqqa city continued, including an escalation in aerial bombardment and ground fighting. The SDF made significant advances in the northwestern and eastern parts of the city.

The humanitarian situation inside Ar-Raqqa city remains dire, with the majority of the population reportedly facing deteriorating conditions. There are growing concerns over reports of increased shortages of essential commodities such as food, medicine, water, electricity and fuel. Although there is one functioning hospital that serves the area, a severe shortage of medical staff and supplies are reported.

Displacements out of Ar-Raqqa city are proving difficult to track. OCHA estimates that approximately 50,000 people may have been displaced from the city and surrounding areas during the first two weeks of June, including an estimated 25,000 people from Hawi Elhawa, Yaroub and Khatoniyah, Rabeah, Qahtaniah, Yarmouk and Hiten who are still displaced in informal settlements in the western countryside of Ar-Raqqa.

In the southern countryside, 200 families were reportedly displaced to the western countryside of Ar-Raqqa governorate on 13 June, after the SDF made advances in the Eastern Sahl village. Displacement into Al-Thawrah (Tabqa) town was also reported from areas to the south, where government forces recently made significant advances against ISIL. It is estimated that about 300 families from the southern Raqqa countryside and about 150 families from Oqeirbat, in the eastern Hama countryside, arrived to Mansura town.

According to SARC Hama, there is a significant number of displaced moving from Ar-Raqqa towards Hama Governorate with an estimated 3,038 families (consisting of 15-22 people each) reportedly reaching Hama since early May. Most of the families are from Tal Abiad and are settling in Hama city with few numbers moving to rural areas. SARC is registering, assessing and distributing lifesaving supplies including NFIs and food based on assessments of needs. SARC clinics, in addition to the pharmacy are providing health services to the displaced for free.

Of the reported displacements, the CCCM cluster, has so far verified 7,655 displacements (remaining displaced for longer periods than 24 hours) recorded since early June across the governorate with verification efforts continuing. Of the displacements recorded by CCCM, the majority took place within Ar-Raqqa governorate (4,064) particularly to Ein Issa and Jurneyeh sub-districts. The cluster also recorded 2,768 displacements to Aleppo governorate moving particularly to Al Bab, Menbij and Jarablus sub-districts.

Further displacements are anticipated as ground hostilities move closer towards the city center. While people will continue to flee to camps north of Ar-Raqqa city, particularly to the Ein Issa camp in Ein Issa sub-district, large numbers of people are also expected to flee further into ISIL-controlled areas towards Deir-ez-Zor city and possibly south toward the Rukban camp, along the Jordanian-Syrian border. While no accurate figures exist for the remaining population inside Ar-Raqqa city, the UN currently estimates the number of people remaining in the city to be between 50,000 to 100,000 people. UNICEF warns that an estimated 40,000 children are in the line of fire.

Meanwhile, in the northern countryside, 20,000 people from Rafqah, Adnaniah, Sqorah and both eastern and western Salhabiah towns were reportedly given permission by the SDF to return to their homes on 10 June, after several weeks of displacement.

Reports of civilian casualties as a result of the ongoing hostilities continue to emerge. One humanitarian organization recently reported that 40 people were killed and 100 were wounded since the offensive on Ar-Raqqa city started on 6 June.

Deir-Ez-Zor Governorate

Throughout the reporting period, airstrikes continued to target Deir-ez-Zor city, particularly concentrated in the ISIL-controlled neighborhoods of Al-Tayem and Thardah. Heavy ground fighting around Deir-ez-Zor city continued as Government of Syria (GoS) forces repelled ISIL attempts to establish control over the southern entrance to the city, which has been besieged since July 2014. High level altitude humanitarian airdrops continue as a last resort option. Inside Deir-ez-Zor city, generators remain the only source of electricity as fuel is scarce, but they are only being prioritized to supply civilian infrastructure, such as hospitals, water networks and bakeries.

The map displays the Euphrates River region in Iraq, with administrative districts outlined in black. The river is shown in blue, flowing from the north to the south. Yellow dots represent oil fields, and blue dots represent water bodies. Major cities and districts are labeled, including Baghdad, Basra, and Tikrit. The map is color-coded: yellow for oil fields, blue for water bodies, and grey for land. A legend in the bottom left corner identifies the symbols used for oil fields and water bodies.

Hitteen Farm

Hitteen farm was inhabited by some 500 families (2,500 people), with returns to the farm delayed because of mines contamination reportedly by ISIL. Approximately 4 per cent of the houses/ infrastructure is reportedly destroyed.

IDP gathering in Al-Qahtaniya and Hitteen

The IDP gathering extends over a 10 km area and is comprised of random tents (made of sugar and wheat bags) hosting some 750 IDP families (3,750 people) from Al-Qahtaniya, Hitteen and other areas. IDPs purchase commodities from Al-Adnaniya and other areas and can also obtain some medicines from Al-Adnaniya pharmacy. However, IDPs do not have access to safe drinking water and have therefore resorted to drinking unsafe water from the irrigation canals. Some mines have been planted in the area as well as nearby Hitteen. Some IDPs stay in the open space under trees. Priority needs include water, bread and possible returns to their places of origin when conditions allow.

Rabi'a Farm

The local population has not yet returned back to the farm, given the proximity of armed clashes to the area. Some 750 families (3,750 people) previously inhabited the farm and have all since been displaced to various locations. Approximately 300 IDP families from Rabi'a farm are gathering next to the farm. Their needs are similar to those in Al-Qahtaniya and Hitteen.

Update on IDP camps/sites:**Mabrouka**

Reports received suggest that 203 out of 231 IDP families in Mabrouka camp are requesting to be released from the camp to move to their preferred locations. The remaining 28 IDP families expressed desire to stay in the camp until they can return to their villages of origin. The documentation of IDPs has been collected by the Self Administration, with IDPs prevented from moving out of the camp or to proceed to areas of their choice. The OCHA and UNHCR teams in Qamishli are advocating with the KSA for the free movement of IDPs from the camp, to allow them to move to areas of their choice.

Ein Issa

Reports suggest that approximately 3,500 IDPs are currently present in Ein Issa camp. Both water and shelter needs are sufficiently covered through water trucking and provision of tents respectively. WFP has resumed regular distributions. While health partners have temporarily paused mobile clinics due to decreased needs, they are maintaining support to static clinics from Ein Issa to Tel Abyad. Overall, the needs in the camp are adequately covered.

At-Tawahina

The number of IDPs in At-Tawahina continues to fluctuate daily, with approximately 400 families transiting regularly through the site. Distributions of NFIs and food is taking place and water tanks have been installed. Partners report difficulties accessing the area due to high levels of ERWs contamination.

Tabqa city

An estimated 5,000 IDPs are currently present in Tabqa city, with the arrival of an additional 15,000 IDPs expected in the coming weeks from eastern rural Hama. The water supply and waste management services are being provided, with food and NFI distribution also ongoing. Despite ongoing demining efforts, some partners have highlighted access restrictions as a result of contamination.

Karama & Hamrat

Some 40,000 IDPs are estimated to remain in the camp. Food and NFIs have been distributed and an NGO has deployed a health point. Nonetheless, partners report security concerns with regards to the access roads to the camp and within the camp itself. Partners also report difficulties in managing the crowds during distributions. There are further concerns over restrictions on the IDPs freedom of movement (all ID cards of IDPs have been taken by the camp administration).

New assessments

On 15 June, a rapid needs assessment was conducted in Mansoura. The estimated population is 35,000 people, including about 7,500 IDPs (most of them herders with their cattle) from the east Aleppo countryside, Maskana, the eastern countryside of Homs and Hama as well as the southern countryside of Ar-Raqqa governorate. Most of the IDPs are living in about 450 traditional handmade tents, while others were accommodated by the host community. There are no health facilities in the area; light medical cases are treated locally in the private clinics (there are doctors and pharmacies with limited medicines), while serious cases are transferred to hospitals in Menbij, Ain Alarab or Tell Abiad (200 km- at least 4 hours drive). There are reported cases of measles, chickenpox, scabies and diarrhea. While food commodities are available in the local market, a significant number of people (approximately 30 per cent) cannot afford them. The main water tank was reportedly destroyed by ISIS, with people now depending on unsafe and costly water trucking, with a litre sold at 1 SYP. There is no electricity, although some generators are available.



Access

Response

On 8 June, the Government of Syria granted approval to WFP to conduct deliveries of food and non-food items from Damascus to Qamishli, via Aleppo. Following the approval, on 16 June WFP successfully completed a first trial delivery to assess the road conditions and the security situation along the route, delivering 3,000 food rations (115.14 mt). Following the first successful trial, WFP will conduct a second delivery to Qamishli using the same route. Ten trucks were loaded on 17 June at a WFP warehouse in Homs with 11,500 food rations (441.255 mt). Following receipt of all necessary facilitation letters, the ten trucks are scheduled to depart from Homs on 19 June.

Humanitarian response



Protection

Situation

In the wake of SDF advances, the conduct of hostilities in Ar-Raqqa city is of grave concern for the protection of civilians. The protection sector, at all levels, continues to call all parties to the conflict to uphold their obligations under International Humanitarian Law (IHL) to spare the civilian protection from harm and to consider their protection and safety as paramount.

Most of the newly displaced population tends to originate from Ar-Raqqa city. Consulted populations continue to report on a series of restrictive measures enforced by ISIL to deter movements of civilians seeking safety outside the urban area where the conflict is unfolding. There are anecdotal reports of retaliations against families attempting to flee, with the destruction of their cars and assets, as well as harassment and punishment. Exiting the city remains a perilous journey due to the contamination of the area with explosive hazards. It is reported that people flee at night as they fear being targeted by snipers. An additional obstacle is allegedly represented by the fees exacted by smugglers to assist families wishing to flee, which seems to have significantly increased due to the risk of retaliation and being caught in the line of fire. For many families already living in poverty, such options remain unaffordable.

Movement of population to and from the sites, particularly Mabrouka and Ein Eissa, continues amidst persisting challenges with regards to the application of screening and sponsorship procedures. As the conflict intensifies in Ar-Raqqa, security measures including screening and the regulated exit from sites through sponsorship requirements, remain in force. Protection actors continue to be engaged in implementing practical solutions to mitigate adverse consequences caused by these measures to the displaced population. Direct advocacy with security and civil local authorities or indirect advocacy through other stakeholders continue, with calls for the introduction of protection-sensitive guarantees when any of these procedures are applied, as well as practical support to the population in retrieving their identity documents or in medical evacuations.

The presence of children in camps remains significant with a number of cases of unaccompanied and separated children detected. In Mabrouka and in Al Journieh, both UNICEF and UNHCR are trying to support the re-establishment of family links, where the location of the parents is known. The departure of the children from the sites is facilitated where caregivers are present to support the children along the way until they reach the destination and re-join their families. In cases where families are identified, protection actors maintain contacts with children and families in areas of displacement as well as accompanying caregivers until they reach their final destination.

Response

UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA and their local protection partners maintain their presence in the camps, particularly in Mabrouka and Ein Eissa, while other protection services are also provided to the out-of-camp population in Al Journieh, Tal Abyad and Ras el Ain. Protection by presence on the sites is critical to facilitate solutions and support the exit of the most vulnerable cases from camps. The communication on the sponsorship system to the affected population, organizational flaws and delays by the enforcing authorities remain of concern.

Through its teams, UNHCR protection staff are working to ensure that identity documents confiscated at the various checkpoints are released, sorted and properly restituted to the individuals before they leave. Delays in the restitution of identity documents can cause families to leave the camps as soon as they obtain sponsorship and without their documentation, thus exposing them to further risks during displacement and as they attempt to reach their final destination. Awareness and sensitization initiatives with IDP families on the importance of not leaving the camp without their identity documents are being carried out.

UNICEF and partners have continued running Child Friendly Spaces in Mabrouka and other sites, carrying out recreational activities in addition to awareness sessions on child protection and risk education.

UNFPA and partners have continued distributing sanitary napkins to improve conditions of IDP women and girls. 1,000 Sanitary Napkins were distributed in Ras Alain and Tal Abyad for 500 women of reproductive age. 384 sanitary napkins were also provided to 192 women in temporary settlements close to Shaddadeh area (Hassakeh Governorate). In addition, the organization started raising awareness on GBV and on the specific needs of women and girls.

Challenges

Overall, the situation continues to be fluid, with new displacements originating mainly from Ar-Raqqa coexisting with rapid return movements to areas taken over by SDF. The challenge for protection partners remains the ability to respond effectively, in multiple locations, to the needs of persons on the move or gathering in spontaneous settlements, sometimes located dangerously close to the frontlines. Challenges in finding partners with protection expertise in the area constitutes another obstacle.

While the opening of the Aleppo-Menbij road for humanitarian actors is a positive development, allowing increased prepositioning and delivering of assistance to displaced population in sites on route, protection activities require physical access to be supported by steady presence and contacts with communities, so as to detect needs and interact with all segments of the population, particularly those with specific needs.



Food Security and Agriculture

Response

Between the 8 and 15 June, the Food Security sector, through its partners from within Syria and cross-border, distributed various types of food assistance to a total of 91,777 beneficiaries across Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hassakeh, and Der Ez-Zor governorates, and reached an additional 2,438 beneficiaries with daily rations of bread.

In total:

- Some 78,422 beneficiaries in Ar-Raqqa governorate (Tell Abyad, Ar-Raqqa and At-Thawrah districts), were reached with 4,062 ready-to-eat food rations and food rations, covering food needs for five to ten days for a family of five or six and with 11,210 general food rations covering the food needs of a family for a month.
- Some 2,428 beneficiaries in Al-Hassakeh governorate (Ras Al-Ayn District – Mabrouka Camp) were reached with 421 general food rations covering food needs for a month (2,105 beneficiaries) in addition to the daily distribution of 37,410 loaves of bread during the reporting period (covering bread needs for 2,428 beneficiaries)
- Some 11,250 beneficiaries were also reached with 2,250 general food rations covering needs for a month in Deir ez-Zor governorate (Kisreh District – Abu Khashab)

Distributions were carried out as follows:

Area of distribution 	Number of beneficiaries 	Type and quantity of assistance 	Notes 
Tell Abyad sub-district	2,250 beneficiaries	450 GFRs	covering food need for a month for a family of 5
Suluk sub-district	250 beneficiaries	50 GFRs	Covering food needs for a month for a family of 5
Ein Issa camp	6,000 beneficiaries	1000 RTERs	Covering food needs for 10 days for a household of 6
Outside Ein Issa camp	14,050 beneficiaries	2,810 GFRs	covering food needs for a month for a family of 5
Al-Kalta (Raqqqa sub-district)	666 beneficiaries	111 FRs	covering food needs for 10 days for a family of 6
Al-Hamrat informal settlement (karama sub-district)	10,000 beneficiaries and 2,000 children	2,000 RTERs and 200 boxes of Plumpy Doze	covering food needs for 5 days for a family of 5
	9,500 beneficiaries	1,900 GFRs	covering food need for a month for a family of 5
Jurniyeh sub-district	17,500 beneficiaries	3,500 GFRs	covering food need for a month for a family of 5, reaching around.
Taqba City	5,706 beneficiaries	951 FRs	covering food needs for 10 days for a family of 6

	12,500 beneficiaries	2,500 GFRs	covering food need for a month for a family of 5
Abu Khashab informal settlements (Kisreh sub-district)	11,250 beneficiaries	2,250 GFRs	covering food need for a month for a family of 5
Mabrouka Camp (Ras Al-Ayn)	2,105 beneficiaries	421 GFRs	covering food need for a month for a family of 5
	2,428 beneficiaries	37,410 loaves of bread	covering daily bread needs



Nutrition

Key Developments

A team of nutrition sector coordinators and a UNICEF nutrition specialist visited Ein Issa and Mabrouka camps in northern Raqqa governorate and Al Hole camp in Hassakeh to assess the overall nutritional situation and response to date.

Acute malnutrition was not seen from rapid screenings made during the mission but signs of chronic malnutrition and sub-optimal feeding practices were widely seen, with IDPs in Mabrouka camp experiencing the worst situation. A MUAC screening conducted in Karama, Suluk and Mabrouka camps over the reporting period among children under five and Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) indicated low acute malnutrition rates, with 8 of the 255 screened children suffering from moderate acute malnutrition and 1 with severe malnutrition. Another MUAC screening in Al Hol among 164 children revealed that 4 children have acute malnutrition while, out of 70 PLW screened, only 1 had acute malnutrition. All identified cases received nutrition treatment.

Response efforts

During the reporting period, UNICEF and WFP partners provided preventive nutrition supplies and treatments for acute malnutrition to around 7,500 children under five and pregnant and lactating women. Through UNICEF partners, 1,400 children under five were provided multiple with micronutrient powders, 830 children with Plumpy doz, and 600 children with high energy biscuits; while 330 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) were provided multiple micronutrient tablets. During the same period, 5,698 children were provided with fortified spread (Plumpy doz) through a WFP partner in addition to the general food distribution. The camps and areas reached with this nutrition assistance are Ein Issa, Mabrouka, Al Houli, Jurnayeh, Taqba, Abo-khasab, Suluk, Tal Abyad and Karama.

During the second week of June, two UNICEF partners provided treatment of 2 severely malnutrition children with therapeutic spread (RUTF) and managed 3 moderate cases of acute malnutrition with supplementary plumpy provided by WFP in the IDP camps. So far, around 100 children identified with acute malnutrition received treatment, although subsequent follow up proved to be challenging given frequent movements of the population. A cross border partner in Ein Issa has started nutrition activities for children under five years through screening and treatment of severe malnutrition which will complement already ongoing efforts.

In close coordination with UNICEF and WFP, the sector developed a monthly response plan including regular visits to the camps and a distribution plan for preventive nutrition supplies to the IDP camps. In addition, the process of developing a mapping tool for the Raqqa response which is shared across hubs through the WoS nutrition sector is ongoing. This tool will promote complementarity between the implementing partners as well as strengthening coordination between UN agencies, DoH and NGO partners.

Key Gaps and Challenges

Movements of IDPs in different directions including in and out of the camps like Ein Issa is making treatment of malnutrition and proper follow up of cases difficult. Distance and security still poses a challenge for partners to provide services to IDP children and women in some camps, like Karama.



Health

Situation:

Since the confirmation of the first VDPV2 in May 2017, AFP surveillance has been intensified in Deir-ez-Zoir, especially in Al Mayadeen district. Until the end of epidemiological week 23 (till 11 June) a total of 60 AFP cases have been reported.

The total number of VDPV2 cases is 6 cases from Deir-ez-Zor. Coordination is ongoing to conduct two vaccination campaigns in Deir Ez-Zor governorate and Shadadi district in Al Hassakeh governorate:

- The mOPV-2 vaccine is expected to arrive in Damascus from the global stockpile by June 28.

- The first round of vaccinations will be conducted after receiving vaccine and using mOPV2 while the second round will be within 2-3 weeks from the first round and mOPV2 & IPV will be used.
- Children below 5 years of age (770,000 children) will be targeted for mOPV2, while children between 3-23 months of age (135,000) will be targeted for IPV.
- The tentative dates for the vaccination campaign are 8-13 July.

Response:

Coordination to improve and scale up quality health response to manage trauma cases from Raqqa is ongoing and it includes:

- Technical and operational support is being provided to the Kurdish Red Crescent (KRC) by cross border actors;
- Information is being collected on existing private health facilities in Ar Raqqa governorate as an option to set up and support trauma and further enhance referral pathways given the limited outreach of Aleppo and Al Hassakeh based health actors.

WHO dispatched 10 tons of shipment of medicine and medical supplies to Al-Hassakeh Department of Health, in coordination with UNHCR; 8 tons to Al-Qamishli national hospital; 6 tons to Mabrouka, Ein Issa, Al-Karama camps at Al-Raqqa.



Education

UNICEF and Al Birr wa Al Ihsan NGO continued providing school bags and stationery in Menbij during the first two weeks of June. In addition to 6,590 children in Menbij, a total of 25,110 school-age displaced children (8,390 boys and 8,270 girls) hosted by communities in Tell Abiad, Suluk, Ein Issa, Jurneyyeh, and Menbij have benefited from education support since April to date.

A total of 59 grade 12 students (32 girls, 27 boys) from IDP/host communities in Tell Abiad district of Ar-Raqqa governorate travelled to Al-Hassakeh city to take part in the national grade 12 exam from 30 May to 15 June, as no exam centres are available in their home towns in Ar-Raqqa. UNICEF, in cooperation with other sector partners, ensured a coordinated response to meet the needs of these students. UNICEF and its partner GOPA covered the basic needs including food, travel expenses, hygiene kits and exam preparatory classes, while the Ministry of Education (MoE) provided accommodation and UNHCR supported them with NFIs (mattresses & blankets). Earlier in May, similar support was provided to a total number of 216 grade 9 students (112 boys, 104 girls) who travelled to Al-Hassakeh to participate in the national grade 9 exam.



Logistics

The Damascus-Qamishli airlift operation continues operating at full capacity, conducting two flights a day, six days a week. Around 1,102 m³ of urgently needed Food, Education, Operational Support and Shelter commodities have been airlifted to Qamishli between 8 and 14 June. Following approval received from MOFA to send humanitarian assistance by road to Qamishli, WFP dispatched 3 trucks as a trial on 14 June from Homs to Qamishli. These trucks successfully arrived in Qamishli on the evening of 16 June. A second convoy from Qamishli departed Homs on 19 June.

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