

# SYRIA: FLASH UPDATE ON RECENT EVENTS

22 March 2018

This update provides a summary of recent displacement, along with developments from the **UNHCR co-led Sector/Clusters of Protection, Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and Shelter/Non Food Items (SNFI)**.

## KEY DISPLACEMENT STATISTICS (AS OF 13 MARCH 2018)<sup>1</sup>

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- **1,586,550** displacements recorded by the CCCM Cluster in the last 12 months from affected areas of northern and southern Syria:
  - **1,561,776** displacements from affected areas of northern Syria, including Idleb (388,174), Ar-Raqqa (314,338), Hama (281,848), Deir-Ez-Zor (254,975), Aleppo (229,061), Homs (35,601), Al-Hassakeh (13,636), Latakia (1,540) governorates, northern Syria. This also includes around 42,600 displacements under verification. Around 98,000 displacements were recorded in February and March 2018, with the large majority from Idleb Governorate.
  - **24,774** displacements from affected areas of Damascus, Rural Damascus, Sweida and Dar'a, south-western Syria.

## CONTEXTUAL DEVELOPMENTS

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- The UN said in a [statement](#) (19 March) that the conditions of people fleeing from eastern Ghouta and Afrin are desperate, and they are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.
- Since 11 March, the UN [estimates](#) that more than 50,000 people have left besieged areas of eastern Ghouta. Meanwhile, humanitarian access to eastern Ghouta remains extremely limited. The last convoy to eastern Ghouta took place on 15 March with food for 26,100 people in Douma.
- The UN [estimates](#) that nearly 100,000 people have been displaced by hostilities in Afrin district, north-west Syria. The majority, some 75,000 people, have fled to Tal Refaat and the remainder went to Nubol, Zahraa and surrounding villages. The UN has also received reports of civilian casualties, and restriction on movement for many civilians.
- The UN stands ready to deliver multi-sectoral assistance to 50,000 IDPs in Afrin and Tall Refaat sub-district, through the cross-line modality, once approvals and security guarantees are provided.

## UNHCR CO-LED SECTOR/CLUSTER UPDATES

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### Protection

- The Whole of Syria Protection Sector [issued an alert](#) on the situation in eastern Ghouta. Protection partners called for immediate and urgent action to protect hundreds of thousands of civilians living under siege and facing enormous security threats and hardships in eastern Ghouta.
- Protection partners (Syria Hub) are visiting the shelters hosting IDPs from eastern Ghouta on a daily basis. A number of protection concerns have been identified at the collective shelters, such as gender-based violence (GBV) risks (lack of privacy, lights, gender separation), unaccompanied and separated children, and restrictions on the movement of IDPs. Meanwhile, physicians and nurses are providing emergency

<sup>1</sup> Some displacement statistics mentioned in other sections of this report may not be reflected in the "Key Displacement Statistics" as they are in the process of being triangulated by established population tracking mechanisms.

psycho-social support and mental health services to IDPs in the “humanitarian corridors” and in the Dweir collective shelter, servicing around 370 individuals each day.

- The Protection Cluster (Turkey Hub) and eight of its operational members working in eastern Ghouta are meeting weekly to coordinate the ongoing response. Due to active hostilities, most of the protection actors are providing basic services and support to individuals and families sheltering in basement and makeshift underground sites.
- The Protection Cluster (Turkey Hub) continued to provide emergency services to recently displaced communities residing in Idleb and Aleppo governorates. Twelve Cluster members provided 5,420 protection interventions to IDPs and affected host community members between 12-19 March, reaching 3,716 individuals (1,390 girls, 1,227 boys, 716 women, and 383 men) in 21 communities within 14 sub-districts. This includes emergency protection services provided to civilians arriving from Al Qadam neighbourhood in Damascus. The main services provided included psychological first aid, psychosocial support, and mine risk education. Cluster members are continuing to provide child protection and GBV case management, referring individuals for more specialized services, and initiating family tracing. Many Cluster members suspended services in the last week due to insecurity.

### **Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)**

- The CCCM Cluster tracked and responded to the arrival of around 1,350 IDPs evacuated from Al Qadam neighbourhood of Damascus. A first group of 1,055 individuals, later joined by another 88, arrived at Madiq Castle (northern Hama Governorate) on 13 March. A second transport of 203 IDPs, initially headed towards Jarablus, also arrived in Madiq Castle on 16 March. All civilians have been transported to CCCM Cluster reception centres in Mezanaz (Atareb, Aleppo Governorate) and Maaret Elekhwan (Maaret Tamsrin, Idleb Governorate) where they were provided with multi-sectoral assistance by member agencies. The majority of IDPs have since left the centres to seek rental housing. The Cluster continues to monitor new flows into Idleb Governorate and coordinate the response in the reception centres.
- The CCCM Cluster conducted a cross-verification exercise of displacements tracked by CCCM in the communities of Dana, Deir Hassan and Hezreh in Dana sub-district (Idleb Governorate). This exercise was based on data from the Cluster’s IDP tracking mechanism and on a satellite imagery analysis conducted by UNITAR/UNOSAT between July 2017 and February 2018. The exercise confirmed the accuracy of the figures reported by the CCCM Cluster, which point to an increase of 21,200 IDPs across these communities. According to the UNOSAT analysis, shelters in these areas have increased by 120 per cent within six months, which highlights an ongoing shelter crisis in northern Idleb Governorate.

### **Shelter/Non-Food Items (SNFI)**

- As of 20 of March, there are 44,300-53,700 IDPs from eastern Ghouta hosted in six shelters in Rural Damascus. All of the shelter sites are overcrowded and congested. At several collective shelters, people living in the open in schoolyards are desperate and using blankets as partitions to create some privacy. One partner provided over 2,200 shelter kits to make the facilities allocated for collective shelters habitable. Three Rubb halls were also dispatched to be used as temporary shelter for people sleeping in the open, particularly at collective shelters in Adra. In addition, at least 200,000 NFIs have been delivered to IDPs from eastern Ghouta, including mattresses, blankets, high thermal blankets, plastic sheets, winter clothes kits, solar lamps, jerry cans, and kitchen sets to meet the people’s urgent needs.
- In response to the displacement from Afrin, one partner (Syria Hub) dispatched 100,000 NFIs in the last two days. These include mattresses, blankets, high-thermal blankets, plastic sheets, solar lamps, jerry cans, clothes, and other basic aid items. In addition, 1,100 shelter kits have been dispatched, and 1,000 tents are expected to reach Tal Rifaat in the coming days.

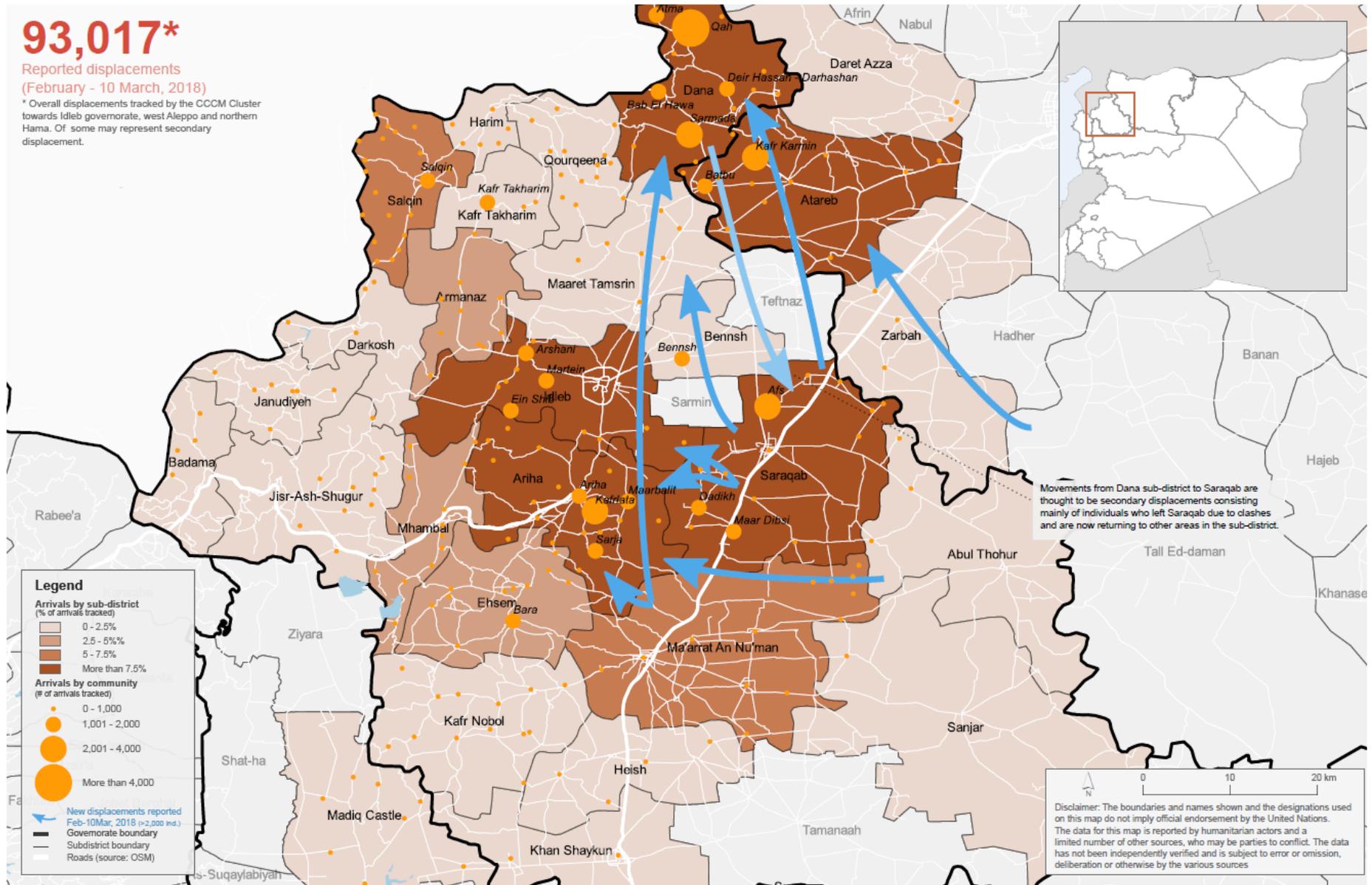
# Syrian Arab Republic (Northern Governorates): New movements in northwest Syria between 1 February and 10 March, 2018



## 93,017\*

Reported displacements  
(February - 10 March, 2018)

\* Overall displacements tracked by the CCCM Cluster towards Idleb governorate, west Aleppo and northern Hama. Of some may represent secondary displacement.



# Syrian Arab Republic (Northern Governorates): Spontaneous returns in northwest Syria between 1 February and 10 March, 2018



## 167,976\*

Reported spontaneous returns  
(February - 10 March, 2018)

\* Overall displacements tracked by the CCCM Cluster towards Idlib governorate, west Aleppo and northern Hama. Of some may represent secondary displacement.

