



This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 20 – 26 July.


Highlights

- For the past five weeks, sustained hostilities in south-west Syria have continued to affect civilians and civilian infrastructure. While initial displacement numbers have reduced significantly to a current estimate of 165,200 to 182,600 individuals, the needs of IDPs and returnees remain severe, yet, the UN continues to lack sustained access to the affected population.
- While some assistance could be dispatched, the UN continues to advocate for regular and sustained access to provide assistance and protection services to all people in need across all affected areas. The UN continues to seek cross-line access from the Government of Syria to provide assistance and conduct needs assessments in Quneitra Governorate, which is currently hosting a large IDP population.
- Many NGO partners and health staff in areas that recently came under GoS control are concerned for their safety, and have requested security guarantees for their protection and ability to continue operating. The UN calls for the protection of humanitarian workers and health staff, and emphasizes that a continuity of services must be ensured to address humanitarian needs.
- The UN and partners, both from within Syria and cross-border, require a total of \$84.8 million to support 300,000 affected people with protection and assistance across south-west Syria.

 up to
182,618
people remain displaced in south-west Syria

 up to
100,000
IDPs are located in close proximity to the Golan area

 **224,684**
beneficiaries reached to date with WASH emergency supplies and services

 **\$84.8**
is the funding requirement identified by the UN and partners to assist those affected

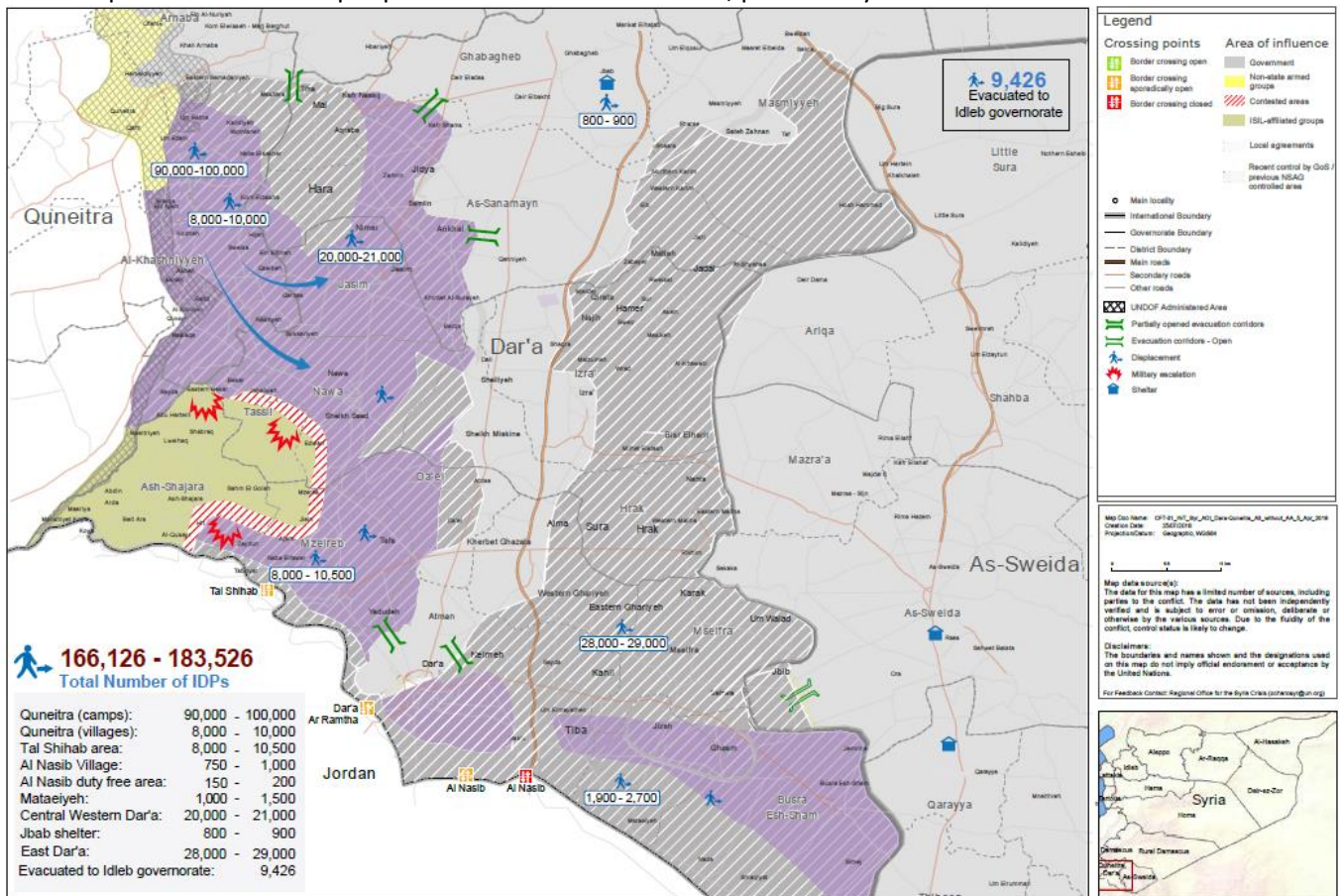
Situational Overview

Following five weeks of sustained hostilities in Southern Syria, as many as 182,618 people remain displaced from their areas of origin. The Government of Syria has made rapid territorial gains over the past weeks, and currently only a stretch of land near the Golan area remains under Non-State Armed Group-control (NSAG), while a 200 km² area is under the control of the ISIL-affiliated Jaysh Khaled Bin Walid Waleed group (JKBW). The United Nations are very concerned regarding JKBW's policy of restricting the freedom of movement of civilians who are trying to leave the area, and only limited numbers of civilians were able to escape. While the current number of civilians trapped in the JKBW-controlled area could not be confirmed, the UN estimated that prior to the escalation of hostilities up to 55,000 people were located in said area, noting that several thousands have reportedly since managed to flee. Those who stay behind remain subject to heightened hostilities. For example, between 21 and 23 July, intense airstrikes were reported on JKBW-held areas in the Yarmouk Basin, including on al-Shajra, Hayt, Tasil, Jellin, Sahn al-Golan, Adwan and Tal al-Jumou', and various reports suggest that at least 32 civilians were killed, including eleven children and three women. On 25 July, an ISIL suicide attack in Sweida city resulted in over 240 casualties and injured at least 170 people.

The UN is further particularly concerned about the humanitarian situation of the 100,000 individuals in the Golan area, who continue to face hostilities and lack access to assistance and services. Cross-border humanitarian actors in the western area report that they only have limited supplies left, while shelter and NFI supplies are already depleted and cannot fully be restocked due to a lack of access and only limited ability to source from local markets.

Humanitarian partners based in Damascus have still not been granted the necessary approvals to access the populations in the Quneitra area, and consequently, there are significant unmet needs that continue to increase at dramatic scale.

Due to developments on the ground and restriction in access to both warehouses and to people in need, the small operational space for humanitarian partners continues to shrink further. Such developments particularly affect the cross-border response, with the last cross-border convoy under SCR 2165 and subsequent resolutions dispatched from Jordan on 25 June. Many local responders and former cross-border partners are currently themselves subject to displacement, which has led to a loss of local capacity and the suspension of most protection interventions and a significant scale-down of others. Furthermore, the suspension of cross-border deliveries has resulted in a slowing down of hygiene kits distribution and has limited the ability to construct emergency latrines. WASH Sector partners have also reported that many water trucking services provided from cross-border partners stopped due to a lack of access, security and the high cost or lack of fuel. The nutrition-related activities of Jordan-based partners in eastern Dar'a have also been suspended. Given this dire situation, the United Nations is urgently appealing for immediate and unimpeded access to all people in need in the south-west, particularly in the Golan area.



With regards to areas that recently shifted control, many NGO partners and health staff in areas that have come under GoS control requested security guarantees for their protection and ability to continue operating. The UN continues to advocate for the protection of humanitarian workers and service providers, including health staff, and emphasizes that a continuity of services must be ensured to address humanitarian needs. Protection of medical staff is not only a legal and moral imperative, but also an operational necessity as according to WHO, less than half of the health facilities across the affected area remain operational, and there is a shortage of medical staff.

While the number of IDPs in south-west Syria has decreased by 10 per cent compared to last week, the number of evacuees to the northern governorates increased significantly from 430 last week to 9,426 individuals as of this week. Many of those evacuated to the north-west were women and children. The United Nations underlines that any evacuation of civilians should be safe, voluntary, well-informed and to a place of their choosing. All people displaced through such agreements must retain the right of return as soon as the situation allows.

Additionally, some 422 White Helmets members and their families were evacuated to Jordan through the Golan heights during the reporting period, and were received by UNHCR which supports their temporary stay in Jordan. Since the south-west Syria offensive began, reports indicate that at least four White Helmets members were killed, tens were wounded and four centers have been destroyed in attacks. The United Nations reiterate that all humanitarians, medical workers and other civilians, can under no circumstances become a target but are protected under international law. We urge all those who are party to the conflict to provide the requested security guarantees to those helping to identify and address humanitarian needs, so that a continuity of service can be guaranteed, and humanitarians and medical workers are protected in accordance with humanitarian law.

Humanitarian Response



Food Security

Needs:

- Needs remain in line with those reported in the last Situational Report.

Response from Jordan-based partners:

- The reported response remains the same as last week, under which the Jordan-based partners were able to reach 24,323 households (an estimated 121,615 IDPs) with the first line response, and an estimated 41,075 households (205,375 IDPs) with the second line response. In addition, between 5 – 15 July 17,935 households (89,675 IDPs) received bread assistance in Ajami, Hara, Jasim, Tabrayiat, Tell Shihab and Rafid.

Response from Syria-based partners:

- First Line Response:** As of 25 July, WFP has distributed 3,771 Ready to Eat Rations (benefitting an estimated 18,855 people) in As-Sweida, Dar'a (Izra, As, Sanaymyn, Dar'a city and the Jbab camp), and Rural Damascus (Kisweh).
- Second Line Response:** As of 25 July, WFP has distributed Monthly Food Rations with wheat flour to 37,716 households (benefitting an estimated 188,580 people) in several locations such as Abtaa, Da'el, East and West Ghariyeh, Sahwa, Kahil, Msferia, Karak, Ghasm, Um Walad, Jizeh, Nassib, Om Almayadah, Elma, El Soura, Al Hrak, West and East Mleiha, Nahteh, Tell Shhab, Al Yadodah, Kharb Al Sham and As-Sanayman (Jbab camp).

205,375

IDPs were reached by Jordan-based partners and **188,580 people** were reached from Syria-based partners in places previously served by Jordan hub under the second line response.

Under the first line response **140,470 IDPs** were reached by Syria and Jordan-based partners

Gaps and Constraints:

- The gaps and constraints as reported in the last situation report remain an issue, with a particular concern for access to the IDPs and host population of Quneitra and those in the Yarmouk valley.
- Livelihoods and agriculture activities were suspended by sector partners due to insecurity. However, conflict and displacement are likely to have actually increased the need for seasonal livelihood activities in the communities in south-west Syria.
- Tension and incidents at distribution points continue to be reported. The safety and security of humanitarian staff on the ground has been highlighted as a key concern by sector partners.
- A lack of assessments, difficulties in tracking IDP figures, several informal settlements spreading out, overstretched capacity and resources as well as a shortage of fuel, continue to pose challenges for humanitarian partners.



Nutrition

Needs:

- Screening and treatment of identified acute malnutrition cases of children between 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women is required, as well as infant and young feeding support and counselling services, benefitting children between 0-24 months.
- The influx of unsolicited and untargeted donations of infant formula is widespread, and proper control and monitoring of breastmilk substitute donations is a priority.
- There is a need for blanket supplementary feeding, including Plumpy'Doz, high energy biscuits and micronutrient distribution, for children between 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women.

 **7,172** children and women have been cumulatively screened for malnutrition

Response:

Jordan-based partners:

- The rapid change in control patterns in south-west Syria has led to a suspension of nutrition activities in eastern Dar'a, and similarly the UN cross-border convoys remain suspended.

Syria based-partners:

- UNICEF, with the Department of Health in Dar'a, supported three integrated health and nutrition rapid response teams who provide health and nutrition services to IDPs through the provision of an integrated package of out-patient medical consultations, vaccination, reproductive health and nutrition services. These interventions are being implemented in the eastern and western countryside of Quneitra, the Al-Jbeliyeh IDPs shelter near to Rafid, Al-Khashniyyeh sub-district in Quneitra and ten newly accessible locations in the western and southern countryside of Dar'a (Tiba, Um Elmayathen, Kahil, Sahwa and Mataeiyyeh).
- A total of 998 children under five years of age were screened for malnutrition and routine immunizations. Twelve of them were diagnosed with moderate acute malnutrition and seven with severe acute malnutrition. All children received the required treatment following their diagnosis.
- A total of 2,483 out-patient medical consultations were provided, including for 206 pregnant women of whom 13 were treated for malnutrition.
- A distribution of high-energy biscuits for children under twelve years and plummy DOZ for under six years is ongoing in a medical point and in a shelter through sector partners.

Gaps and Constraints:


- The nutrition activities of Jordan-based partners in eastern Dar'a have been suspended.
- Syria-based partners are unable to reach beneficiaries beyond government-controlled areas, and suffer from funding constraints.



Shelter and NFIs

Needs:

- Many people remain without shelter and basic non-food items, however, shelter and NFI needs exceed the response capacity of partners, and stocks from Jordan-based partners previously prepositioned inside Syria have been exhausted.

 **108,500** beneficiaries reached to date with Shelter and NFIs¹

¹ Approx. 93,000 by Jordan-based partners and 15,500 by Syria-based partners

- IDP families who are staying with host families are in need of NFI assistance, including new born kits and children clothing kit. Additional NFI needs were reported for approximately 34,300 seasonal clothing kits for children between 6 months and 14 years, and for 1,700 new born kits. However, access remains a challenge, exacerbated by the high mobility of the displaced population, especially in Dar'a.
- A UNHCR assessment of three locations in Sweida Governorate concluded that the level of damage in Dama and Deir Dama was considerably higher than the damage in Aslaha. Doors, windows, electrical items and WASH items were missing in all locations, and a need for non-food items was identified as one of the main needs in the assessed communities.

Response:

- The Shelter/ NFI sector, through Jordan-based partners, within its restricted capacity, responded to the basic needs of the displaced population through the provision of NFI kits, shelter materials (including basic and extended shelter kits) and multi-purpose emergency cash grants in Dar'a and Quneitra governorates. Access permitting, the sector members also carried out rapid needs assessments. As of 22 July, Jordan-based partners of the Shelter/ NFI sector distributed shelter and NFI materials to approximately 93,000 individuals in southern Syria.
- The Syrian-based partners of the shelter sector partners have rehabilitated shelters and installed shelter kits and tents benefiting 4,445 individuals. The installation of additional shelter kits continues in the Jbab sites.
- Some 4,500 NFI kits were prepositioned in different locations in Dar'a and Quneitra governorates, and so far, Syria-based NFI sector partners distributed 2,311 NFI kits in Sweida and Dar'a governorates. In addition, 2,605 children summer clothes kits, 200 new born kits and 5,000 blankets were also distributed in Dar'a city, As- Sanamayn and Baseer.

Gaps and Constraints:


- NFI and shelter materials prepositioned in southern Syria by cross-border partners have been exhausted, and few options remain to get much needed assistance to the population in need. While some partners are able to procure locally, this has its own challenges, including price inflation and the unavailability of key commodities.
- Challenges with regards to a response from Damascus include a limited number of operational sector partners, limited access to south-west Syria, as well as security constraints which limit the assessment of sites and shelter needs.
- There is little information available on the NFI and shelter needs in newly accessible areas. Although SARC, in collaboration with the Dar'a sub-relief committee, are working to assess the needs of IDP families, the capacity of implementing partners in these areas remains limited.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- WASH needs among the host community and IDPs are acute. There are reports of insufficient access to clean water and sanitation services, particularly among the IDPs, posing a serious threat of outbreaks of water-borne disease, while also constituting protection and privacy issues.
- WASH Sector partners have reported that many water supply systems and water trucking services provided from the cross-border partners stopped due to a lack of access, security concerns and a high cost of fuel or the complete lack thereof.


224,684
 beneficiaries
 reached to date with WASH
 emergency supplies and
 services

- Assessments by water sector authorities and humanitarian partners (during the two recent UN missions) further confirmed that many of the electro-mechanical components of the water infrastructure were subject to looting in the eastern parts of Dar'a. This clearly indicates that there is an urgent need to ensure a safe water provision from alternate sources and modalities until the repair/rehabilitation of critical components of the water infrastructure is completed. This may include the mobilisation and the effective regulation of existing private water trucking services for the delivery of safe water to the most vulnerable IDPs and returnees.

Response:

- As of now, some 12,513 hygiene kits have been distributed by WASH cross-border partners to IDP families, reaching an estimated 62,565 people along with emergency water provision through daily water trucking services for an estimated 126,684 IDPs across south-west Dar'a and Quneitra.
- Since 4 July, WASH sector partners have installed 248 water tanks, providing approximately 496m³ of emergency water storage and 248 water tanks sufficient to meet the daily emergency needs of 33,000 people. In addition, cross-border sector partners installed a total of 55 emergency latrines, benefiting 1,100 IDPs.
- The Damascus-based partners have supported approximately 10,000 IDPs in Dar'a, As-Sweida and Quneitra through the provision of a total of 38 latrines/bathing spaces, over 300 m³ of safe drinking water through water trucking services, the installation of storage tanks and the provision of critical hygiene supplies. The number of individuals who collectively benefitted from this quick intervention is approximately 80,000-90,000 people.
- The re-installation of ten electric control panels along with the rehabilitation of 13 boreholes and six submersible pumps were partially completed and remain ongoing as part of a quick repair of the existing water infrastructure in eastern rural Dar'a (Saida, Aumwald, Eastern Herak, Naima and Western Khareh, Kherbet, Ghazala, Alma- Western Ghariyeh) and will benefit approximately 65,000 individuals, both IDPs and members of the host community in these areas.
- The WASH sector has been accelerating the delivery and distribution of up to 30MT of sodium hypochlorite to ensure the disinfection of water delivered through existing water networks in all three governorates, reaching approximately 200,000 people.
- WASH partners have committed hygiene supplies and maintained stocks for approximately 25,000 families and are also ready to assist those in need in line with priority needs based on assessment findings.

Gaps and Constraints:

- The suspension of cross-border deliveries has resulted in a slowdown of hygiene kit distribution and limited the ability to construct emergency latrines. Additionally, the displacement of many partners led to a loss of local capacity, while many cross-border partners were forced to suspend operations.
- A lack of quick and uninterrupted access and approvals is hindering detailed assessments of the existing WASH infrastructure and service provision.
- There is a significant gap of funding commitment among the sector partners to undertake a quick repair of water and sewerage infrastructure as to meet minimum services for both host population and IDPs to ensure social cohesion among the population in two governorates.
- No concrete information is available with regards to IDPs living in Golan area and their immediate WASH needs.

**Needs:**

- While an increase in outreach services can address some of the health needs of the affected population as an interim measure, Primary Health Care facilities that have seen a change in control need to be re-vitalized. Essential services include immunization, reproductive health, nutrition screening, and mental health and psycho-social support services.
- There is a continued need for the supply of life-saving and life-sustaining medicines and consumables to all functional health facilities, whether mobile or static. Access, particularly to Quneitra, remains limited.
- Referral systems and treatment facilities for trauma and secondary/tertiary care require strengthening.
- There is a continued demand for non-communicable diseases treatments across the affected area.

 **246**
Patients referred
for hospitalization to Dar'a
and Damascus

Response:

- The Department of Health and health cluster partners continue to expand mobile clinics, and reproductive health, vaccination and mental health services across the affected areas, increasingly accessing the rural areas.
- Regular shipments of medical supplies are being sent from Damascus to accessible health facilities. Cross-border health partners have started handing over medical stocks to local health authorities.
- There is a high risk for outbreaks of infectious diseases. The early warning system consists of 183 sentinel sites in three provinces.
- Some cross-border health partners are reporting continued capacity to work on the ground in south-west Syria, yet, it is unclear for how long and what level of protection is assured. The three mobile medical units working in Quneitra were temporarily suspended after 17 July, with plans to resume services on 22 July.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Less than half of the health facilities across the affected area remain operational, and there is a shortage of medical doctors.
- Humanitarian access to IDPs and some of the affected population remains constrained and the fluid context requires continuous adaption of the response plan.

**Needs:**

- In areas still under NSAG-control, military operations raise significant concerns for the lives of the civilian population. Advocacy regarding the respect of basic principles of International Humanitarian Law needs to be voiced with all parties to the conflict.
- The current situation has led to the suspension of most protection programming from Amman, while access for Syria-based partners has yet to materialize.
- Individuals returning to areas that have reached local agreements need a variety of protection services, particularly those with specific needs (children, older persons, persons with disabilities). Information on the available services in nearby areas needs to be reinforced.
- Several field missions to areas that recently shifted control have identified the need for the issuing or substitution of personal documentation.
- Risk education needs to be scaled up for IDPs returning to areas where the level of contamination from explosive hazards is expected to be high.

Response from Jordan-based partners:

- 1) Presence of a small operational child protection case management capacity for highly vulnerable cases, including unaccompanied and separated children to respond to referred cases; 2) Most child protection actors suspended activities, while a small number of re-organized personnel remains to identify needs and deliver mobile responses, including psychological first aid and recreational psycho-social support and awareness raising on child protection issues in remaining areas where child protection partners can work; 3) Mobile teams covering seven locations in Quneitra reached approximately 2,000 children with unstructured psycho-social support, before suspending operations due to insecurity; 4) Printed child protection messages distributed in two camps and one host community, with child protection personnel accompanying the distributions to detect child protection needs and provide awareness sessions.
- Twelve Women and Girls Safe Spaces in Quneitra and Dar'a temporarily suspended their activities due to the increased hostilities in those areas. Self-care messages have been disseminated inside Syria to strengthen self-care for frontline workers and case managers.
- Medical units in Tel Shehab and Tafas have tentatively re-opened to provide victim assistance and emergency services to those injured by explosive weapons, and survivors of explosive incidents and their families. A contingency stock of assistive devices and specific needs items were pre-positioned in warehouses but access to these, previously severed, has yet to be confirmed.

Response from Syria-based partners:

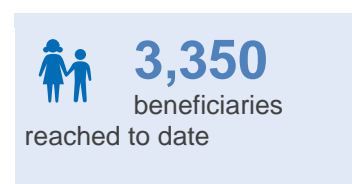
- Protection partners in Sweida Governorate continue to provide gender-based violence risk awareness and child protection services/psycho-social support/ recreational activities within their Community Centers (which are increasingly visited by IDP families) and through mobile teams connected to the Centers. Some 270 children and 100 women have participated in such activities during the week, particularly in Rssas, Salkhad, Shahba and rural locations around Sweida city.
- Static facilities in Dar'a city and in Izra and several mobile teams (protection, child protection, integrated reproductive health/ gender-based violence services) continue to provide support to IDPs in the Jbab site and in surrounding rural areas of Dar'a governorate to both displaced and returning populations. Particular attention continues to be devoted to the situation of women and girls, with the provision of dignity items and psycho-social support. Some 470 women and girls were reached during the week with psycho-social support services by UNFPA partners.
- In the Jbab site, UNICEF partners are operating with four teams of 40 volunteers, each providing child protection services six days a week in the Jbab area. In addition, four case managers are present to follow up on special cases and to refer to specialized services. One child friendly space tent operates in the Jbab site and two shifts of psychological first aid activities are being held for 150 children on a daily basis. Mine risk education awareness is still running for new comers and sessions promoting awareness on violence against children have been held for children and care-givers.
- Legal aid activities are being reinforced by UNHCR-supported specialized national partners. Legal teams conducted a rapid legal response for IDPs in different locations of Dar'a Governorate. Awareness sessions, some 200 legal counselling sessions and 171 legal interventions were provided on different types of personal documentation, particularly on ID cards and birth certificates. An NGO partner followed up on earlier cases of IDPs families displaced to the Jbab settlement area who now back to their areas or origin, and has started civil documentation needs assessments the in Da'el area. Child protection case managers in the Jbab site have referred about 30 undocumented children for follow up by legal aid providers.
- Some missions by UNHCR teams and local protection partners took place during the past week in rural Sweida, in areas that recently shifted control or in areas that previously were in close proximity to front-lines and therefore having witnessed significant displacements (Dama, Deir Dama, north-west of Sweida and Asalha). Information was provided on services available in nearby static facilities and through mobile teams. More extensive protection outreach missions are planned to build stronger relations with the communities and to better understand the needed protection interventions.

Gaps and challenges:

- Due to developments on the ground, operational space and access for local responders operating from Amman is increasingly shrinking, both to warehouses and to people in need. Many local responders themselves are currently displaced. This has led to the suspension of most protection interventions and a significant scale-down or re-programming of others. The possibility of re-programming in displacement areas, however, is getting increasingly difficult due to security concerns. Meanwhile, needs continue to require scaling-up.
- Access to the displaced population in Quneitra, where protection presence is very low, remains restricted for Syria-based protection partners, despite the significant presence of IDPs and needs.
- Beyond funding challenges, some Syria-based partners would be in a position to extend their mobile activities but would also need a swift approval of these implementation modalities, by SARC and competent authorities, to be able to deploy.


Education
Needs:

- A total of 50 schools have been destroyed, and 78 sustained partial damage. In addition, at least 116 schools of the 311 schools assessed by the Department of Education are in need of light rehabilitation. In areas where schools were destroyed and the population is returning, there is a need to set up prefabricated classroom and washrooms.
- It is estimated that many school-aged children have had their education disrupted for more than one school year, therefore accelerated learning needs to be provided.
- In addition, students and teachers are in need of psycho-social support, mine risk education and awareness sessions.

**Response:**

- An initial assessment is currently ongoing by the department of education to 311 school in newly accessible areas.
- An initial intervention by UNICEF and a partner is ongoing, under which three classrooms in the Jbab shelter are implementing a self-learning programme, reaching an estimated 200 displaced children to whom they also distributed stationery. The children though were enrolled in some Department of Education schools functional in the NSAG-controlled areas in rural Dar'a, however, they were not regularly attending schools due to financial or security reasons. In addition, in some schools, subjects like physics and chemistry were not taught and only religious classes were delivered.
- Cross-border partners have managed to provide Education in Emergencies activities in the last couple of days, including self-learning, unstructured education and psycho-social support, unstructured child protection activities, early childhood and recreation in Quneitra, and extending the outreach into ten camps reaching up to 2,520 children. Basic recreational activities for 630 children focusing on arts and group play in safe locations, short sessions on the same area to help children express themselves, a mobilized integrated child protection/education unstructured activities via existing resources (mobile teams, teachers, facilitators, master trainer, education tent and mobile bus) were initiated in Quneitra; through local partners is working on finalizing the mobilization schedule between teachers and facilitators/ assign the existing recreational kits and 'school in a box' to the staff to be used for the sessions and ensure staff are refreshed on Education in Emergencies and Child Protection in Emergencies/Psycho-social support.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Due to the increasing military operations, insecurity and staff displacement, many partners have suspended operations, particularly affecting the UNICEF cross-border programme.



Logistics

Needs:

- Enhanced logistical coordination is needed to avoid the duplication of response efforts and to find viable common solutions to bottlenecks and constraints.
- Due to increasing humanitarian needs, storage and transport capacity in southern Syria also needs to be expanded.


3,338.7mt
 of assistance
 transported on behalf of
 other humanitarian actors

Response:

- The sector has been providing logistical coordination and information management support to organizations responding to the ongoing emergency. Free-to-user transport from inside Syria to affected areas in the south of the country is made available to requesting organizations, access permitting. Mobile Storage Units (MSUs), pallets, diesel, and other logistical assets can be made available to enhance warehousing space and logistical capacity.
- As a service provision sector, the logistics sector will closely liaise with programmatic sectors and tailor its activities to fill logistical gaps and ensure the timely and effective delivery of assistance.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Warehouse space and transport capacity in the south of the country, as well as access, remain the major logistical constraints.

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