



This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 5 to 11 July 2018.

Highlights


- Following a military escalation and a series of local reconciliation agreements, the Government of Syria (GoS) have taken control of eastern rural Dar'a, including the Nasib border crossing. This has triggered the return movement or onward displacement of most IDPs that had previously settled in the Nasib border area.
- Despite the return of tens of thousands of IDPs, it is estimated that up to 234,500 people remain displaced across south-west Syria. Some 70 per cent of them, around 160,000 people, are currently located in Quneitra, some in close proximity to the Golan area, with limited access to humanitarian assistance.
- The United Nations and humanitarian partners have mobilized a response, both cross-border and from within Syria, reaching tens of thousands of people with critical life-saving assistance. A further scale-up of assistance is needed to support populations in need across the whole affected area.
- The UN and partners require a total of \$84.8 million to support 300,000 affected people with protection and assistance across south-west Syria.

 up to
234,500


people remain displaced in south-west Syria

 up to
160,000

IDPs are located in Quneitra, some in close proximity to the Golan area

 **103,900**

beneficiaries reached to date with shelter and NFI assistance

 **\$84.8**

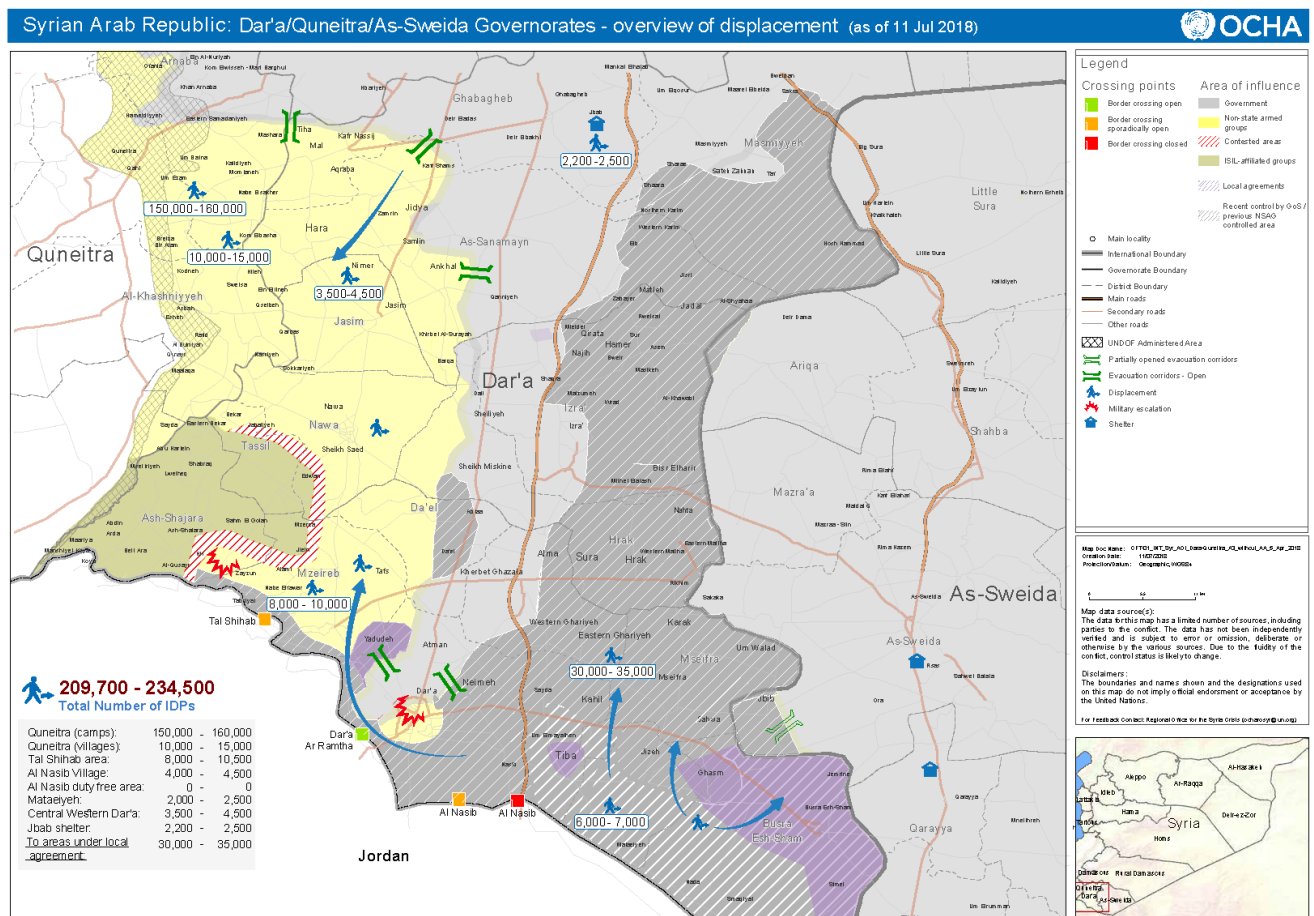
is the funding requirement identified by the UN and partners to assist those affected

Situational Overview

Following a military escalation and a series of local reconciliation agreements, the GoS, on 6 June, took control of eastern rural Dar'a and, on 9 July, of the adjacent border area, including the Nasib crossing, Ramtha and Tal Shihab. All IDPs that had been displaced to the Duty Free area by the Nasib border crossing with Jordan have since left the area, and tens of thousands are estimated to have returned to their areas of origin, while others remain in displacement. At the same time, fighting in the Yarmouk area, which is currently controlled by an ISIL-affiliated group, has led to some initial displacement towards Quneitra. If fighting were to continue, further displacement can be expected. Generally speaking, the situation on the ground remains fluid and subject to sudden changes, and requires the humanitarian community to constantly adapt their response plans and activities to the new situation on the ground.

The return movement in the eastern part of Dar'a has resulted in a reduction in the overall number of IDPs; however, up to 234,500 individuals remain internally displaced across the affected areas. Up to 160,000 people, close to 70 per cent of the displaced population, are located in Quneitra, some in close proximity to the Golan area, with some 6,000 – 15,000 in the area under UNDOF supervision. While the Government of Israel has made it clear that no IDPs will be permitted to enter into its territory, they reported to have provided 30 designated aid operations to IDPs in the area. The living conditions for the IDPs are dire, with many located in open areas, camps and informal settlements. Tens of thousands of IDPs are without adequate shelter and remain exposed to high temperatures and desert winds. A couple of impromptu medical points and field hospitals provide some basic medical services to IDPs, and a local NGO is distributing remaining food rations and bread from cross-border deliveries and other stocks. However, anecdotal reports indicate that food quantities are merely sufficient to cover the needs of some 25 per cent of the IDPs. The United Nations and partners currently have no access, be it cross-border or cross-line, to IDPs in Quneitra, and continue to advocate for unimpeded access to provide assistance and protection to all affected populations.

Since 17 June, some 20,000 IDPs are estimated to have used established corridors or informal routes to cross into GoS-controlled areas. These IDP families have largely settled in host communities, in arrangements often facilitated by family or tribal affiliations, or in established collective shelters. This includes some 2,200 – 2,500 individuals remaining in the Jbab shelter in north Dar'a, and some 53 families from Dar'a in the Rassas collective centre in As-Sweida, after 22 were authorised to leave the site.



Fighting and insecurity throughout south-west Syria has led to price inflation and further exacerbated the needs on the ground. In some communities, the prices have increased by 276 per cent for bread, by 150 per cent for bulgur and by 180 per cent for lentils. Furthermore, communities report that major fuel supply routes are severed and the cost of transportation fuel in comparison to May has increased by 189 per cent to 422 per cent. Such price increases further negatively affected the ability of the humanitarian community to deliver services, such as water trucking and mobile medical services. Many protection services, including for GBV, child protection and the psycho-social support, were suspended due to the displacement of staff of the organisation providing services, lack of access and security concerns.

The last cross-border convoy was dispatched on 25 June, with the convoy scheduled for 27 June and a second for 28 June currently stationed at the Ramtha crossing, waiting for permission and security guarantees to be dispatched to Tal Shihab. The recent shift in control along large parts of border, currently under GoS, complicates the continued delivery of cross-border assistance. Many cross-border partners have also been displaced in many areas impacting the continued delivery of assistance and services. From within Syria, WFP, through SARC, has distributed ready-to-eat food rations to an estimated 16,550 people in As-Sweida, Dar'a, Rural Damascus and Quneitra and monthly food rations with wheat flour to an estimated 45,050 people in the Jbab camp in As-Sanaymyn and in Abtaa and Da'el in West Dar'a, as of 11 July. Multi-sectoral assistance, including food, WASH, shelter/NFIs and health have been provided to those residing in collective shelters in Jbab and Rassas.

Further deliveries from inside Syria are planned for the coming days, and on 12 July, a multi-sectoral UN team will conduct a rapid assessment in a number of villages receiving food assistance.

The UN and partners continue to call for humanitarian access to all IDPs in need of assistance, regardless of where they are located, and reconfirm their readiness to expand the humanitarian assistance throughout the south-west, either from within Syria or from across the border in Jordan. The UN further calls on all parties to the conflict to facilitate the provision of humanitarian aid and protection to people in need, in line with their obligations under international humanitarian law.

Humanitarian Response



Shelter and NFIs

Needs:

- Large-scale displacement in south-west Syria remains a serious concern, especially in areas of Quneitra which are characterized by limited absorption capacity and services leaving many without shelter and basic items. Shelter and NFI needs are well beyond the available stocks and far exceed the capacity on the ground. Ongoing rapid needs assessments have highlighted that shelter and NFI materials are among the most important needs of the displaced population and their host communities.
- Additional needs for approximately 34,300 seasonal clothing kits for children between 6 months and 14 years, and 1,700 new born baby kits have been reported.



103,900

beneficiaries reached to date with shelter and NFI assistance

Response:

- As of 10 July, the Shelter/ NFI sector (Jordan hub) has distributed shelter and NFI materials to approximately 88,400 individuals in non-government controlled areas in south-west Syria. Sector partners also carry out regular rapid needs assessments in IDP sites and host communities.
- Pre-positioned shelter items, including shelter kits and tents (family-size and big-size tents), can cover the shelter needs of more than 67,000 individuals. Shelter sector partners have already installed shelter kits and tents sufficient to benefit 1,480 individuals. In parallel, the upgrading of unfinished building and the installation of additional shelter kits continues.
- Some 1,211 IDP families in As-Sweida Governorate received NFIs, provided from various agencies, through SARC. As of 7 July, a sector partner was able to assist more than 1,100 displaced families in Jbab IDP site, and other partners were able to distribute 2,605 summer clothing kits.
- A total of 4,500 core relief item kits for contingency stock have been dispatched to warehouses of partners in Dar'a and Quneitra.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Stocks for various non-food items, including tarpaulins, sleeping mats, kitchen sets, jerry cans and blankets, and shelter materials prepositioned in south-west Syria are depleting quickly. While some partners are able to procure locally, this has its own challenges, including increased prices and/or the unavailability of key commodities.
- Challenges with regards to the response from Damascus range from limited operational sector partners, limited access, as well as security constraints which limit the needs assessments in sites and shelters in Dar'a and parts of As-Sweida governorate.
- Rapid population movement and multiple displacements has complicated follow-up deliveries; limited partner capacity in some areas further hampers the response.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- WASH needs among the affected population are acute. There are reports of insufficient access to clean water and sanitation services, threats of outbreaks of water-borne disease, and protection and privacy concerns linked to insufficient WASH facilities. Basic WASH services (water supply, sanitation/ sewerage, solid waste collection and disposal and provision of WASH supplies) in areas of displacement and returns are urgently needed, particularly to promote healthy and hygienic behaviour and to avoid any possible outbreak of disease.
- WASH Sector partners reported that many water supply systems and water trucking services stopped due to a lack of fuel or significant increases in the price of fuel.



103,500

beneficiaries
reached to date with a
variety of WASH services

Response:

- Between 19 June and 9 July, 11,513 hygiene kits have been distributed by WASH cross-border partners to IDP families, benefitting an estimated 57,565 IDPs.
- Following a scale-up of the provision of water trucking services, some 38,728 IDPs benefited from such services across West Dar'a and Quneitra on a daily basis between 2 to 9 July. However, shifts in conflict lines mean that access to several IDP camp locations has been lost, resulting in the suspension of daily water trucking in these locations.
- A total of 17 water tanks (2,000 litres capacity) have been distributed to provide emergency water storage to 1,220 IDPs across south-west Dar'a.
- Damascus hub partners supported approximately 5,000-6,000 IDPs in Dar'a, As-Sweida and Quneitra, who are living in temporary shelters, with provision of latrines/bathing spaces (38), safe water through water trucking services, installation of storage tanks and critical hygiene supplies. In addition, all partners supported IDPs who have exited through corridors or crossing points with the provision of water bottles and hygiene supplies.
- WASH partners have committed hygiene supplies and maintained stocks to benefit approximately 150,000 people, provided timely access and approvals are obtained from the concerned authorities. WASH partners also stand ready to install WASH facilities and provide services to IDPs and host communities, with priority given to the most severe assessed needs.


Gaps and Constraints:

- A lack of partner capacity on the ground due to displacement, as well as a lack of funding, increased fuel prices and limited supplies are key constraints. The suspension of cross-border deliveries has resulted in WASH sector partners being unable to send hygiene kits and materials for the construction of emergency latrines to implementing partners inside Syria, which has negatively affected the operations.
- Access constraints and lengthy approval processes are hindering the roll-out of detailed assessments of existing WASH infrastructure and services.
- Further verification and confirmation of IDP movements is urgently required to better plan the immediate and medium-term WASH response under the "do no harm principle" to sustain social cohesion amongst IDPs and the host population.



Needs:

- Recent Rapid Needs Assessments conducted in various communities across south West Dar'a and Quneitra highlight that one of the top priority needs of IDPs is food. IDPs are reporting various food-related negative coping mechanisms, such as skipping food for the entire day, reducing the number of meals eaten in a day, limits to portion size at mealtimes and restricting food consumption for adults in order for children to eat.
- As assessed in 21 communities, several major food supply routes are now severed and prices for basic food commodities have spiked exponentially when compared to May. In some communities, the prices have increased by 276 per cent for bread, 150 per cent for bulgur and 180 per cent for lentils. Furthermore, communities report that major fuel supply routes are severed and the cost of transportation fuel in comparison to May has increased by 189 percent to 422 percent.


240,676
 beneficiaries reached in the second line of response and **88,465** beneficiaries reached in the first line

Response:

- Food Security Sector partners responded or plan to respond to new IDPs along three lines of response: immediate and short term assistance (via Ready to Eat Rations - RTERS), provision of one-month food via in kind Monthly Food Rations (FRs) or cash/voucher transfers (MPCG); and complementary support to access bread. Since the offensive started on 17 June, the response to the newly displaced was triggered in a short time from the pre-positioned food by WFP in both eastern and western Dar'a. Since then, other sector partners have also demonstrated their capacity on the ground by providing food assistance at pace with the fluidity of the situation. The response figures are broken down by dates due to the rapidly changing context which included movement of people, changed access status and growing insecurity.

Jordan hub response:

- First Line Response:** Between 5 to 11 July, three NGOs provided Ready to Eat Rations and cooked meals to 4,524 households (22,620 IDPs) in West Dara and Quneitra. To date, 14,383 households or an estimated 71,915 IDPs were reached with first line response.
- Second Line Response:** Between 5 to 11 July, four NGOs provided food assistance to meet two – four weeks monthly food needs of 12,330 households (61,650 IDPs). This includes 9,100 Food Rations and 3,230 Cash Grants. To date, 38,611 households or an estimated 193,055 IDPs have been reached with second line response.¹
- In addition, 8,785 households (43,925 IDPs) received bread assistance in Ajami, Hara, Jasim, Tabrayiat and Tal Shihab.

Syria hub response:

- First Line Response:** As of 11 July, WFP distributed 3,310 Ready to Eat Rations (an estimated 16,550 people) in As-Sweida, Dar'a, Rural Damascus and Quneitra.
- Second Line Response:** As of 11 July, WFP distributed Monthly Food Rations (with Wheat Flour) to 9,010 households (an estimated 45,050 people) in Jbab camp in As-Sanaymyn and in Abtaa and Da'el in West Dara.

Gaps and Constraints:

- The gaps and constraints as reported in last situation report, remains valid with particular concern for access and addressing the needs of both IDPs and host population from Yarmouk valley and those in Quneitra.

¹ Note: There could be overlap in people reached between first and second line response.

- Livelihoods and agriculture activities are mostly suspended by sector partners due to high levels of insecurity, however, the conflict and displacement is subject to put additional stress to maintain the seasonal livelihoods of the communities in south-west Syria.
- Tension and incidents in distribution points continues to be reported, and the safety and security of humanitarian staff on ground has been highlighted as a key concern by sector partners.
- Assessments, tracking of IDP figures, several informal settlements spreading out and overstretched capacity and resources (transportation and shortage of fuel) on ground continue to pose challenges for partners.



Needs:

- Protection risks are exacerbated by the emergency situation and the high rate of displacement, the sub-standard living conditions in areas of displacement, including with respect to GBV, child protection, and exposure to explosive hazards. There are concerns that overcrowding in the IDP sites and makeshift shelters and a lack of WASH facilities put people at particular risk for GBV.
- Many protection services delivered cross border, including for GBV, child protection and psycho-social support, were suspended due to the displacement of staff, lack of access and security concerns. While there are limited services still available, these are miniscule in comparison to the needs and size of the IDP population. Services need to be scaled-up and materials, such as dignity kits, are urgently needed to address the hygiene needs of women and girls on the move.
- There is an increased need for direct or indirect risk education and safety awareness, and the scope of medical support available for survivors of explosive hazards outweighs the current victim assistance capacity.
- People in IDP sites are largely in need for psycho-social support after prolonged exposure to hostilities or due to the challenging routes towards safety. Specific interventions for women and girls of reproductive age, and activities to improve the well-being of children are also signalled as growing needs. Access is being expanded through mobile teams to rural areas of Sweida and Daraa where IDPs have settled and it is likely that the protection needs of the population will be largely similar.
- The proper integration of protection and GBV-sensitive measures in the response of other sectors, particularly in the IDP sites, remains critical, and partners on the ground need to be better made aware of protection mainstreaming concepts.
- While family separation amongst the population that crossed into Government controlled areas was reported as a common phenomenon, the presence of unaccompanied children has so far been limited.
- Civil status documentation is emerging as a growing need, including for children, in order to improve the mobility of the civilian population in areas of displacement.

17,000

beneficiaries reached to date via the Jordan hub with protection services

Response:

- Protection actors still present in the areas are developing and compiling a range of protection messages for dissemination across Dar'a and Quneitra on topics including mine risk education, prevention of family separation, protection against exploitation, psycho-social support for children, protection of pregnant women and babies, safe movement, civil status documentation and other issues.
- Three child friendly spaces remain operational in Quneitra. Child protection partners are re-organizing personnel to deliver mobile responses in coordination with other protection actors. A small child protection case management capacity for highly vulnerable cases, including unaccompanied and separated children, remains operational in western Dar'a with mobile coverage expanded to displacement sites in Quneitra to respond to referred cases. Child protection partners also maintain a presence at the corridors and in the

IDP sites to detect major protection risks for children, including family separation, provide psychological first aid and safety messaging.

- Partners are carrying out a mobile outreach GBV response to reach new IDP settlements with information on available services and referrals, disseminating common emergency GBV prevention messages and providing psychological-first aid and stress management support. Twelve Women and Girls Safe Spaces in Quneitra and Dar'a are responding to the IDP influx while continuing to provide GBV case management services. To support hygiene needs of the newly displaced, the water supply has been increased.
- Contamination impact surveys of sites with high IDP concentrations have taken place in Western Dar'a and Quneitra, and messages for the safe behaviour in case of shelling or bombardment is included in risk education activities. Risk education awareness is being mainstreamed into other sectoral activities, alongside remote trainings and re-trainings of field teams who carry out the risk education activities.
- Protection activities are also being provided and scaled-up in the formal IDP sites and areas of high IDP concentration, particularly with PSS, child protection services and legal awareness/ assistance. A specialised partner mobilised their First Legal Response program in Daraa outreaching about 400 families residing in the urban and semi urban area.
- Integrated GBV/RH teams continue to reach rural areas and Daraa' city and have also obtained access to the Jbab site to provide needed services for women and girls.
- In general, all protection partners are reinforcing their mobile response, including from the static facilities operating out of Dar'a, AsSweida and Izra.
- Child protection partners have continued to maintain a presence at the humanitarian corridors and in the IDP sites to detect major protection risks for children, including family separation, provide psychological first aid and safety messaging.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Operational space and humanitarian access for local responders both to warehouses and to people in need is increasingly shrinking. Furthermore, many local responders themselves have also displaced which further limits the response capacity. This particularly affects the ability of partners to identify and provide services to unaccompanied and separated children. Due to the aforementioned challenges, many protection activities have been suspended while others are provided on an on-and-off-again basis.
- A lack of funding, slow approval processes or the lack of approvals further affect the ability of protection partners to respond to the significant needs on the ground. The replenishment of stocks, particularly of dignity kits and kits for the provision of clinical management of rape also presents a significant challenge.



Needs:

- IDPs staying near the border areas and in camps lack protection and access to essential services, which increases their health vulnerability and puts them at risk for further complications related to new and/or already existing medical conditions.
- Trauma care, emergency obstetric care, treatment for snake/scorpion bites, mental health and psycho-social services, and the continuation of treatment for chronic health conditions are amongst the acute health needs.
- Medications for diabetes and other non-communicable diseases, psychotropic medicines, analgesics and other essential medicines continue to be in short supply in NSAG-controlled areas.
- There remains a critical shortage of fuel for mobile medical units and hospital generators in NSAG-controlled areas.



30 tons

of medicines and medical materials from Damascus to health facilities

Response:

- The Amman and Damascus hubs' Health Sector partners, along with SARC and local health authorities in both Syria and Jordan, and a number of UN partners continue to coordinate closely in order to address both the acute and routine health needs of the population in the affected areas.
- Health services are being delivered at the border, in NSAG-controlled areas and in GoS controlled areas. These include medical consultations and treatments through mobile medical units, temporary static facilities, and primary and secondary health care via those hospitals and clinics that remain operational.
- Across south-west Syria, mental health and psycho-social support services are being delivered, and referral of trauma cases to hospitals in Dar'a, Damascus and Jordan is taking place. Furthermore, Damascus-based partners, together with MOH, are working to ensure immunization services and nutrition screening are restored and/or expanded to areas that recently changed control.
- Approximately 30 tonnes of medicines and medical materials were sent from Damascus to health facilities in GoS-controlled areas. UN convoys at the Ramtha border are still suspended. Health partners currently have thirteen trucks carrying 85 tons of emergency medical response supplies on standby and ready to cross the border once it opens.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Access to the IDP population and affected areas remains constrained, resulting in gaps in the delivery of health services. Areas of Dar'a that recently changed control are not yet fully accessible by health partners. Although convoys with essential medical supplies are ready to cross the Ramtha border, essential supplies can also be sent from Damascus. Both security and the need for official clearances constrain the capacity for operational response.
- Rapid changes in military operations and areas of control affect the access situation and needs on the ground, requiring changes in response plans.

**Nutrition****Needs:**

- Key nutrition needs in the affected areas of Dar'a and Quneitra are the screening and treatment of acute malnutrition of children between 6-59 months, pregnant, and lactating women, as well as infant and young feeding support and counselling for all caregivers with children aged 0-24 months.
- The influx of unsolicited and untargeted donations of infant formula is widespread. A systematic control and monitoring of donations of breastmilk substitute is urgently required, and compliance with the Whole of Syria breastmilk substitute standard operational procedures and international guidance on infant feeding in emergencies is critical.
- Blanket supplementary feeding, including Plumpy'Doz and high energy biscuits (HEB), and micronutrient distribution for children 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women, remains a key need.

Response:


- Conflict escalation and mass displacement has affected all nutrition activities. Currently, there are no screening activities and treatment options for acute malnutrition cases in Dar'a communities that are not under GoS control, and only one community-based management of malnutrition centre is operating in Quneitra.
- Damascus is now responding to the nutrition needs in areas that recently changed control. Children under five years were screened for malnutrition and referred to support with appropriate interventions, while pregnant and lactating women were supported with micronutrient supplementation. Additionally, high energy biscuits and Plumpy'Doz were distributed to pregnant and lactating women and children aged 6-59 months.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Although the nutrition sector was able to preposition supplies in South Syria, the warehouse is currently inaccessible and nutrition supplies cannot be shipped to partners. In addition, all pathways to deliver nutrition supplies across the Jordan-Syria border are now closed.
- The majority of nutrition partner programmes have been suspended due to insecurity, staff displacement or the inability to work in GoS-controlled areas.
- Focal points for the control of infant formula donations are lacking and need to be assigned.


Education
Needs:

- It is estimated that 107,000 school aged children (5-17 years) are affected by the ongoing conflict in south-west Syria. There have been limited needs assessments at this time, however, the need of children and youth for psycho-social support is likely high based on the current situation.
- Due to mass displacement and school closures during the summer holiday, schools are used as shelters, and it is anticipated that schools will be in need of emergency rehabilitation when the academic year will start in September.
- Education Sector partners have reported the loss of a number of staff members, as well as material damages of offices and learning facilities in eastern Dar'a due to the continued shelling and bombardment.
- An immediate provision of learning activities for affected children is vital to bring gradual normalcy to their lives ahead of the new school year commencing.



107,000
school-aged
children affected by
hostilities in Syria

Response:

- The Education Sector is updating a capacity mapping of 20 education partners working in the south of Syria to inform reprogramming when needed. Alternative ways of providing education are being explored through mobile modalities. The Sector is further monitoring and mapping resources and access points with its partners to re-establish its programming approach.
- The Sector is further monitoring the attacks on education facilities in close collaboration with partners and the child protection sub-working group.
- The Education Sector is working on ensuring the immediate resumption of formal and non-formal education for affected school aged girls and boys (5-17 years), including children with disabilities in line with INEE Minimum Standards for Education.
- The Education Sector is focusing to deliver education interventions through the provision of formal and non-formal education, safe learning spaces, education supplies, psycho-social supports, capacity building and back to school campaigns.
- The Sector is planning to activate mobile teams to conduct rapid assessments and to raise awareness on life-saving Protection messages.
- Education Sector partners are prepared to conduct remedial education and to provide life skills activities along with psycho-social support through meaningful recreational activities.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Education activities in eastern Dar'a are suspended due to the continuing escalation in hostilities.
- Access to the south for the assessment of the education situation has been impeded by the fragile security situation.
- The rapid change of the situation on the ground makes it challenging to implement the education emergency response plan.

- Education Sector is facing challenges regarding the availability of trained staff. Moreover, education sector partners have been unable to track their trained field staff due to break-down of communication system in the South.
- There is a lack of existing shelters to implement longer activities. The current education emergency activities are limited to a maximum duration of 90 minutes.



Logistics

Needs:

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

Response:

- The logistics sector has been providing logistical coordination and information management support to organizations responding to the ongoing emergency, both from Jordan and from within Syria. Free-to-user transport from inside Syria to affected areas in the south of the country is made available upon request, 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. The current capacity in terms of storage and transport is being assessed to optimize use of available logistical resources.

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