

Highlights:

- An escalation in military activity has led to the displacement of almost 6,000 registered IDPs, most of whom have been displaced from North East Dar'a Governorate to other opposition held areas. The number of IDPs is likely to be higher with unconfirmed reports currently being verified through IDP registration.
- Currently humanitarian access has not been significantly impacted, with the main access routes for cross-border assistance still operational. There have been reports of restrictions on civilian movements, including to Government of Syria held areas. In anticipation of this escalation of hostilities humanitarian partners have pre-positioned humanitarian supplies.
- This current escalation of military activity has led to considerable levels of displacement, **verified reports as of the 20 June confirm 5,890 IDPs have been displaced.** Informal reports place the figure at around 12,000 while local councils report figures as high as 25,000.
- The military escalation and fears that it may be sustained have led to price increases for some basic commodities, including fuel and gas and has impacted rental prices. If there is a significant increase in displacement, the likely subsequent hike in rental prices will impact people's shelter options.

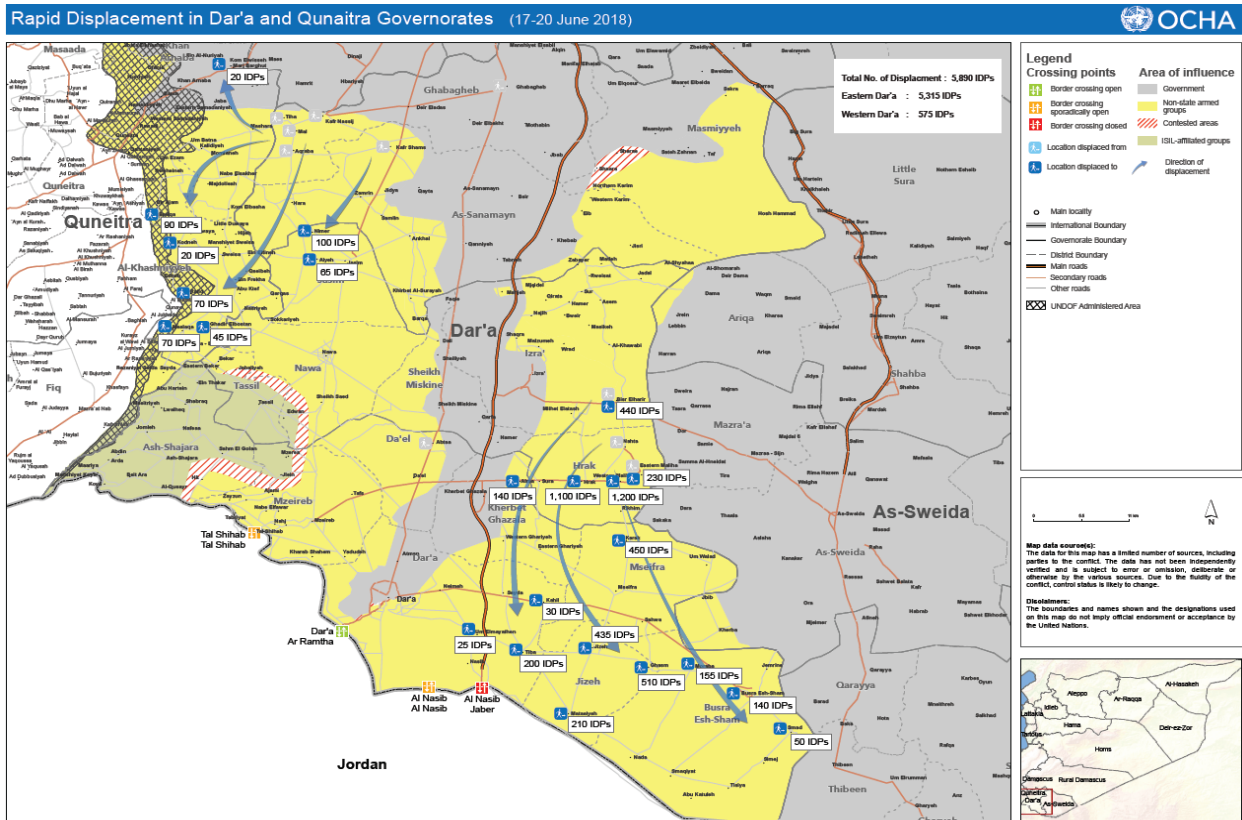
Situation Overview:

On 16 June, a military escalation was reported in North West Dar'a Governorate impacting a number of communities including Sama, Kafr Shams, Namar, and Al-Hara.

On 20 June, ground clashes, supported by aerial bombardment, began from Sweida Governorate in the East. This impacted a number of communities in North East Dar'a Governorate including villages in Laja, Hirak, Nahta, Bisr Elharir, Eastern Maliha, and Sama.

In response, opposition non-state armed groups (NSAG) have sought to counter the offensive in Laja and on the highway to Nassib-Jaber Free Trade Zone with some retaliatory fire impacting communities in Government of Syria areas in Dar'a and Sweida. There are concerns that these new developments will negatively impact negotiations and the South West de-escalation agreement.

Tens of civilians have reportedly been killed by the conflict, including children. NGO partners also confirmed a humanitarian worker among the dead in Nahta on 20 June as a result of aerial bombardment. Notable displacement has already occurred, and a serious risk of further military escalation in South West Syria exists.



Forced Displacement:

Overall, verified reports confirm more than **5,890 IDPs** have been displaced as a result of the recent military escalation, as of 20 June. This number is likely higher and is expected to rise as more IDPs are registered and should fighting, and particularly aerial bombardment, be sustained. A number of communities have nearly entirely evacuated, due to the impact of the fighting or fears that they may be impacted due to their proximity to potential front lines.. The vast majority of the displacement has occurred within opposition held areas.

- Since the start of intermittent heavy weapons fire on the North West Dar'a Villages of Aqraba, Tiha, Mal Kafr Nassij, Kafr Shams, more than **575 IDPs** have fled towards opposition held North West urban centers as well as to IDP camps in Qunaitra. Unconfirmed reports indicate that an additional 2,000 individuals may have been displaced.
- The main wave of displacement (more than **5,315 IDPs**) has been witnessed along the front line from North East Dar'a to South East Dar'a Governorate. Military movements and dynamics in the area, have spread the belief among surrounding villages that the strategic highway between Dar'a and Sweida could be the target of a military escalation. As a result, IDPs have moved from Bsir al-Harir, Eastern Maliha and Nahta towards urban centers in South East Dar'a.
- Limited displacement into Government of Syria controlled areas has been reported to date, mainly to Sweida Governorate. At the same time, there have been reports of restricted movement for civilians attempting to move further into Government of Syria controlled areas in Dar'a Governorate.

Communities Hosting New June IDPs (Displacement as of 20 June)	Pcode	Total	Communities of Origin	
Eastern Dar'a	Beqlawa camp (by Bisr Elharir) (بصرالحريز)	C6105	440	Bisr Elharir بصرالحريز C6105 Eastern Maliha المليحة الشرقية C6117 Nahta ناحطة C6118
	Mataeiyyeh	C6041	210	
	Jizeh	C6043	435	
	Moraba	C6008	155	
	Ghasm	C6042	510	
	Hrak	C6116	1100	
	Alma	C6011	140	
	Western Maliha	C6114	1200	
	Eastern Maliha	C6117	230	
	Karak	C6047	450	
	Tiba	C5992	200	
	Kahil	C5998	30	
	Smad	C6004	50	
	Um Elmayathen	C5996	25	
	Busra Esh-Sham	C6002	140	
Western Dar'a	Namar	C6112	100	Tiha الطيحة C6085 Mal المال C6080 Kufr Nassij كفر ناسج C6089 Kufr Shams كفر شمس C6063 Ghabagheb غباغب C6083 Abtaa أبطع C6031 Aqraba عقربا C6079
	Ghasm	C6042	50	
	Al Aalia	C6793	65	
Qunaitra	Ahl Ash-Sham camp (by Breiqa) (بريقة)	C6269	90	Tiha الطيحة C6085 Mal المال C6080 Kufr Nassij كفر ناسج C6089 Kufr Shams كفر شمس C6063 Ghabagheb غباغب C6083 Abtaa أبطع C6031 Aqraba عقربا C6079
	Aukasha camp (by Breiqa) (بريقة)	C6269	45	
	Al-Karamah camp (by Rafid) (الرفيد)	C6296	70	
	Kodneh	C6299	20	
	Kom Elwisseh	C6285	20	
	Maalaqa	C6298	70	
	Ghadir El-Bostan	C6293	45	

Humanitarian Access:



Humanitarian (open): To date, the military escalation has not substantively impacted the main access routes for cross border actors into Syria. The following key routes remain open:

- South-West Dar'a towards North-West Dar'a /Qunaitra (open)
- West to East crossing inside Syria (open)
- Ramtha UN Convoy crossing from Jordan (open)



Medical evacuations (partial): If the military escalation is sustained, it is anticipated there will be an increased need for medical evacuations out of Syria into Jordan. However, in ensure that the response capacity is in place there is a pressing need to address access challenges to ensure smooth entry into Jordan and funding constraints to fund treatment.



Commercial and civilian access routes between Dar'a and Qunaitra and Sweida (suspended): affected by conflict and road closure by Government of Syria forces, although some crossings remain open for civilian access.

Impact on Market Prices

- **Fuel (up to doubled):** In response to the possibility of an increase in hostilities in the South West and the current actual escalation in violence, traders have raised the price of basic fuel products since 17 June. Gas prices in sampled Eastern Dar'a villages have risen from 335 SYP/liter to 400 SYP/liter; diesel from 370 to 400 SYP/liter; while a canister of cooking gas has jumped from 4,500 SYP to 6,000-8,000 SYP. The price of cooking gas is more sensitive to instability than diesel because cooking gas canisters are sent back to Government held areas to be refilled, whereas a portion of diesel stores are warehoused in opposition held areas. If the escalation is sustained or worsens, these price will likely increase further and will impact livelihoods and humanitarian programming, including the costs for water pumping for drinking and agriculture, the running of bakeries, and electricity for medical wards.
- **Housing (up to doubled):** Likewise, in advance of an expected increase in demand, rental prices in some areas have nearly doubled and become more conditioned. For example, a house that was 25,000 SYP/month has now risen to 40,000 SYP/month with three months rent being requested in advance in some sampled villages. While most IDPs are hosted by families, in the event of substantial displacement, the hosting capacity of the community will be overwhelmed with many of the IDPs likely to end up without appropriate shelter. Price increases will also make the available shelter capacity less sustainable for IDPs.

Preparedness and Response

- Humanitarian partners supporting cross border operations into southern Syria have been actively planning for such an escalation since the first quarter of the year. Efforts have been made to pre-position supplies in key locations throughout both Governorates of Dar'a and Quneitra. However, capacity is relatively limited particularly with respect to shelter response. These efforts have included close planning with the humanitarian operations team in Damascus and also the humanitarian operations team in Jordan.
- With these current developments, humanitarian agencies have heightened their readiness to respond and efforts are underway to translate preparedness planning into operational response to significantly increase ongoing humanitarian efforts, particularly if the military escalation is sustained in the South West and the numbers of displaced continues to increase.

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