

HIGHLIGHTS

As of January 2020, the population of Al Hol is 66,101 people (18,208 HHs); comprising of 46 per cent Iraqis (30,724), 39 per cent Syrians (25,780) and 15 per cent third country nationals (TCNs) (9,597). The population has slightly decreased since our last update, due to some residents returning to their areas of origin. Since June 2019, 4,085 residents have departed Al Hol, including more than 2,622 Syrians and around 1,430 Third Country National (TCN) women and children. In December 2019, 907 IDPs departed for Deir-ez-Zor and in January, 315 IDPs left for Ath Thawra town in Ar-Raqqa under tribal sponsorship arrangements. Among TCNs, in mid-December, 10 Bosnian adults and one child and two Finnish children were repatriated to their countries. On 9 January, the Brussels government announced plans to repatriate ten children living in the camp with their mothers.

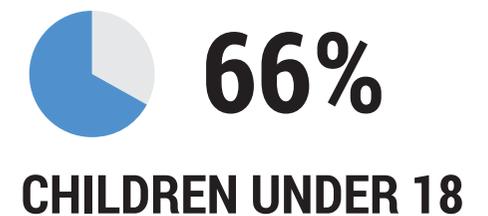


Inclement weather affected the camp over December, with winter temperatures, three significant rainstorms and two sandstorms reinforcing the urgency of shelter intervention and distributions of tents and NFIs. A winterization distribution - including high thermal blankets, sleeping bags, extra plastic sheets and family winter clothing kits - was completed in early November, followed by children's clothes, solar lamps, food assistance, hygiene kits and jerry cans in December, with heaters and the first round of fuel (20 days' worth for each HH) in Phases 1 to 8 and the Annex.

The second round of fuel distributions started mid-December and is ongoing.

Many partners who temporarily suspended activities due to security concerns in October 2019 have resumed work in the camp. Access to primary health care services has improved with 15 static medical points, eight medical mobile teams and three field hospitals functioning. Specialist services are also available through three delivery clinics, two HIV and TB clinics, and two static and two mobile teams for vaccinations and leishmaniasis. A humanitarian partner has confirmed that due to new security measures, their health center in Phase 3 will be operational at all hours. In the Annex, where humanitarian conditions are particularly challenging, five mobile teams are providing primary health services.

However, there is still inadequate coverage of health services overall, particularly as the winter weather puts more residents, including young children, at risk of seasonal illnesses. In just one week in December, mobile teams identified 2,000 medical cases - the majority children - in the Annex, and 73 cases of chicken pox were reported over a three-week period in November. There are five mobile teams providing health, nutrition, reproductive health and immunization services, however there is an urgent need for permanent clinics, particularly in the Annex, Phases 6 and 8. Health services in the Annex are also required beyond 17.00 hours; and the relatively fewer referrals from the Annex to field hospitals during December indicate Camp Administration place greater restrictions on Annex residents' freedom of movement.



The three field hospitals, while functional, continue to operate under full capacity. The lack of ambulances is also affecting the referral system, mainly from the Annex.

Heavy rains in December resulted in flooding and damage to a large number of tents, mainly in Phases 5, 6 and 8. Approximately 350 families, mostly from Phases 6 and 8, were immediately voluntarily relocated to the reception area, with a longer-term plan to relocate all ten accommodation blocks in Phases 6 and 8 to higher ground. Assessments and replacement of flood-damaged tents is completed with over 2,700 tents replaced. In addition, around 200 tents were relocated within the Annex due to flooding. Emergency flood mitigation measures were immediately applied to drain water away from the tent area and longer-term measures followed and completed in part of the Annex and Phases 2 to 4, including pipes and canals dug in Phases 5 and 6 and longer underground pipes planned in locations between Phases 5, 6 and 8.

Tent replacement is completed in all phases and is ongoing along with the site graveling in the Annexes.

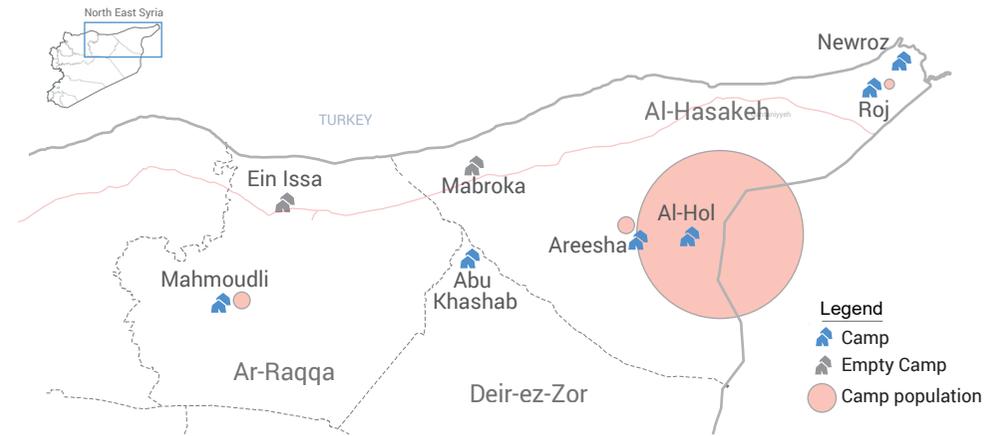
A number of repair and construction projects were completed in December, including a new fence around the Annex distribution, flood mitigation, and road construction around Annex 5. Site preparation is completed in Annex 3 and will commence soon in Annex 4 to accommodate 400 families. There is still a gap of 46 communal kitchens, with shelter partners prioritizing building kitchens to those worst affected by the flooding. Additionally, a shortage of cooking stoves has resulted in a number of kitchens not being used.

Camp Management are procuring cooking stoves to fill this gap.

Water quality was a critical issue in November and December due to noticeable turbidity in Phases 1, 2 and 4. However, the WASH sector subsequently addressed the issue, with turbidity now only reported in Phase 1, with action ongoing. WASH partners halted the trucking of unsafe drinking water and instituted additional measures to test water at the main gate. In testing, all camp water tanks passed the quality standard, however 20 per cent of jerry cans were contaminated. A UN partner commenced assessment of latrines and committed to cover all maintenance requirements, with particularly sub-standard latrines noted in Phases 4 and 5. WASH partners have started restoring the latrines alongside a mobilization campaign to inform community maintenance practices. In addition, 120 latrines were installed for people with special needs, following discussions with the protection team and Camp Administration on appropriate and accessible locations.

The sewage system in Phase 5 will be completed soon and Camp Administration is following up on the suspension of garbage collection in Annex 5.

After recent disruptions due to insecurity, most education partners have resumed activities. As of December, 54 per cent of children at the camp were registered to attend schooling, however attendance rates remain low, with only 24 per cent of those registered. One partner is planning to expand their center in Phase 1 to accommodate more children and students for their 6th grade examinations, which will allow them to reintegrate into the formal education system.



Approximately 124 Iraqi children are registered at a learning center in Phase 4 following a targeted campaign, with 250 now in total registered at this particular center. Education partners continue to particularly focus on Phase 2 and the Annexes which have low registration rates. A new learning center in Phase 7 will cater to children between six to 17 years and also has a kindergarten for three to five-year-old children.

Most protection partners have resumed their activities although gaps still remain, particularly in Phases 5, 7 and the Annex, on key protection services including sustained and structured psychosocial support. On 13 October, 24 children hosted in the Interim Care Center in Ein Issa camp were evacuated following the launch of Turkish-backed military operations in Northeast Syria to the city of Raqqa. Raqqa City Council hosted the children for two months and on 16 December, the children were relocated to a UN-supported Interim Care center in Al Hol. A advocacy campaign was launched to raise

KEY MESSAGES

While sustaining and scaling up humanitarian assistance remains a focus, **durable solutions** for residents are needed. In December and January, more than 1,200 IDPs and TCNs departed the camp. However, lack of return prospects for some (including Iraqi and TCNs) must be addressed, noting that any returns must be fully informed, voluntary, safe and dignified.

Particularly harsh winter weather has impacted conditions, with heavy rains and flooding causing flood and damage to large numbers of tents. Humanitarian partners have applied urgent flood mitigation measures and replaced over 2,800 tents and NFIs to the affected population.

Most humanitarian actors have returned after a temporary suspension in October. Health teams are working across the camp. However, access to the Annex remains challenging for all sectors and referrals to field hospitals for Annex residents remains comparatively low.

awareness on how to procure necessary documentation, such as national IDs, marriage and death certificates for both IDPs and Iraqis. Additionally, protection partners conducted a needs assessment of elderly persons, conducted home visits and awareness sessions for caregivers and established two clubs (one for women, one for men) for the 1,096 elderly currently registered in the camp. A new center in Phase 4 offers educational, vocational, psychosocial, medical and other support to women and girls.

Overall, the security situation in the camp worsened since the last update. On 1 January, two murders of a man and a woman were reported, with two other attempted murders reported in Phases 2 and 8, and kidnapping attempts of three children. On 19 December, residents gathered at the Annex to protest the restriction of movement outside the camp, and gunfire to disperse the crowd resulted in the death of one child. Additionally, 14 tents were burned in December, causing one death. Incidents of theft also continue to be reported, including at the distribution site in Phase 5, in communal kitchens and clinics.

Lack of capacity to provide security in the Annex to activate distribution sites remains a challenge for Camp Administration to provide timely and adequate assistance and is affects all sectors.

