

# UNHCR SYRIA SITUATION REPORT FOR THE EASTERN GHOUTA AND AFRIN HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

As of 9 April 2018

## EASTERN GHOUTA

- 89,683<sup>1</sup> civilians have left Eastern Ghouta, including 44,667<sup>2</sup> currently residing in eight collective shelters in Rural Damascus and more than 45,000<sup>3</sup> who have left the shelters, primarily through the 'sponsorship'<sup>4</sup> programme.
- The situation in the collective shelters is stabilizing; and UNHCR together with its partners are on the ground identifying needs and ensuring responses thereto. UNHCR continues to advocate for the freedom of movement of the displaced civilians, once they have been security cleared, without additional requirements, such as sponsorship by a direct family member. Also, as an agency and protection sector lead, UNHCR continues to advocate for respect to the principle of family unity to be respected at all stages of the evacuation/flight and in all the collective shelters.
- UNHCR multi-functional teams' daily missions to the various collective shelters continue. As of 9 April, 40 missions have been conducted by UNHCR's field, protection, and shelter teams to Dweir, Herjallah, Najha, Fayhaa al Sham, Kherbet al Ward, Karnak, Nashabiyeh, Akram Abu Al Nasser, Adra Schools and Adra electricity complex.
- UNHCR and its partners continue to respond to the needs of the IDPs in the collective shelters; legal counselling was provided to nearly 22,000 individuals, representing nearly half of the total population in the eight collective shelters; core relief items, including high thermal blankets, kitchen sets, sleeping mats, mattresses, solar lamps, sleeping bags, hygiene kits, jerry cans to the population of the collective shelters, were provided to over 60,000 individuals; shelter support was provided through the installation in two collective shelters of 3 rub halls and 50 family-size tents in two collective shelters, in addition to the provision of 2,200 shelter kits, of which more than 1,000 have been installed in various collective shelters.
- The Shelter Sites Management Structure and the Rapid Registration Form designed by UNHCR and agreed among all UN agency Heads, have been tabled for discussion and finalization with SARC and relevant governmental structures.

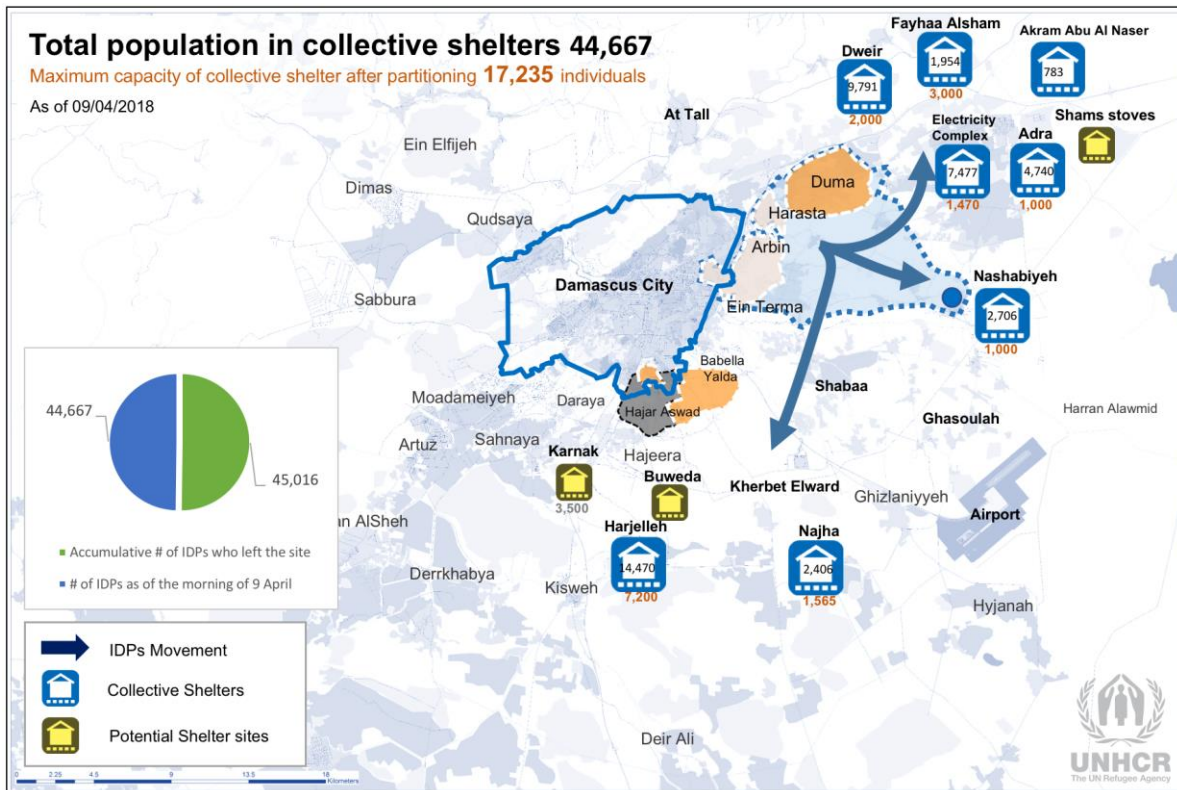
<sup>1</sup> Figures provided by the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment (MOLAE), who is heading the High Relief Committee.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Mostly women and children, have been released from the collective shelters, primarily through the 'sponsorship' programme, whereby women with children under 15 and men over 55-65 are allowed to leave the shelter, subject to availability of a sponsor.

## IDP population in collective shelters



## Emergency response update

### Protection

**Needs;** the displaced families should be granted freedom of movement and be allowed to leave the shelters as entire families, once they have been security screened. This would help decongest the crowded collective shelters, while at the same time mitigating the risk of family separation.

### **Response;**

- 30 lawyers and Outreach Volunteers (ORV) from UNHCR’s partner, Syria Trust, are present in collective shelters on a daily basis, assessing protection needs and conducting interventions as necessary and possible in the given circumstances. Among the conducted activities are legal counselling and identification of unaccompanied minors as well as persons lacking documentation, particularly unregistered new-born children. As of 8 April, 22,000 individuals in various collective shelters were provided with legal counselling by Syria Trust, who also revealed that more than 32,800 individuals are in need of legal interventions before administrative bodies and/or in courts.
- In addition to providing counselling, UNHCR partner, Syria Trust, together with staff from the Civil Registry, initiated registration of applications for identity cards and other civil documents in three collective shelters (Dwier, Nashabiah, and Herjaleh); 300 applications for ID cards have been received so far.
- Moreover, Syria Trust legal team has visited Erbin in Eastern Ghouta, where an estimated 5,000 families (30,000 individuals) continue to reside. The needs assessment conducted

by the team, including through meeting with community leaders, revealed that civil registration and documentation (e.g. identity papers; marriage and birth registration, etc.) as being among the population's priority needs.

### Gaps and constraints;

- UNHCR multifunctional teams' regular missions to collective shelters revealed that the risk of family separation and financial considerations were the two main impediments for the displaced people to leave the collective shelters through the 'sponsorship' programme. To this effect, as of 7 April, out of the 4,650 individuals who had registered to leave the Harjallah collective shelter through the 'sponsorship' programme, less than 30 percent (1,300 individuals) left, while over 70 percent (3,350 individuals) decided to remain in Harjallah owing to financial constraints and/or to avoid family separation. In Dweir, some families who had left the shelter have returned due to financial constraints. Also, nine families (women and children) who had previously left Fayhaa collective shelter, returned recently to reunite with their husbands/fathers as well as because of financial limitations. In Najha collective shelter, some 10-15 IDPs (women, children and elderlies) leave the shelter through the 'sponsorship' programme on a daily basis; however, 30 families who had previously left returned to the shelter, due to lack of free accommodation outside the collective shelter.
- With some 45,000 women, children and elderlies having left the eight collective shelters, the composition of the inhabitants has changed, with visibly more men around, who are, meanwhile, urging to be included in the 'sponsorship' programme so that they could reunite with their families who had left the collective shelters.
- The presence of unaccompanied/separated children continues to feature as a protection concern in all collective shelters. Whereas accurate numbers are difficult to obtain in the absence of a proper registration system, the information received from SARC suggests the presence of 70 and 200 unaccompanied/separated children in Nashabiyeh and in Herjallah collective shelters respectively.



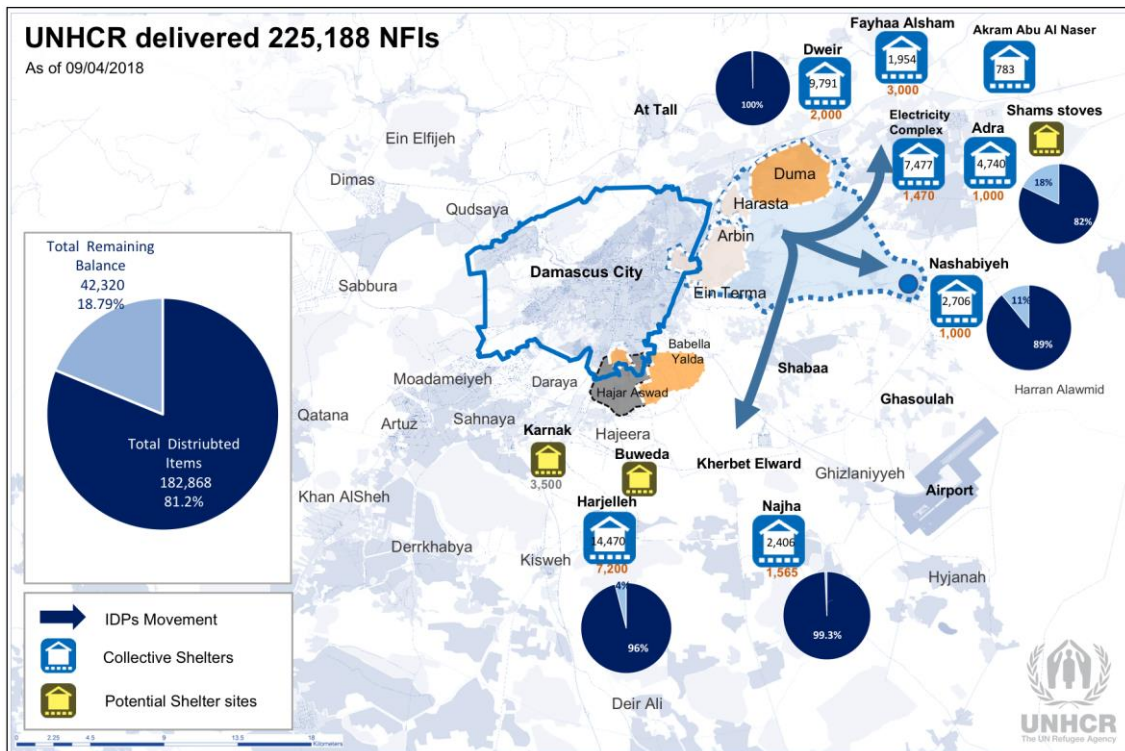
### Non-food items (NFIs)

**Response:** SARC has distributed 80 per cent of the NFIs provided by UNHCR, thereby covering the needs of the needs of the displaced in all the eight collective shelters.

- As of 9 April, UNHCR has delivered, through its partners, 225,188 non-food items, including high thermal blankets, kitchen sets, sleeping mats, mattresses, solar lamps, sleeping bags, hygiene kits, jerry cans, for distribution to the displaced people from Eastern Ghouta. Of these, 182,868 have already been have already been distributed to 63,716<sup>5</sup> individuals in Dweir, Herjallah, Adra, Najha and Nashabiyeh.

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<sup>5</sup> Including 44,667 individuals living in the collective shelters, and additional 19,049 individuals that have left the collective shelters.




## Shelter

Currently eight collective shelters are populated, namely; Harjallah, Adra School Shelter, Adra Electricity Complex, Najha, Nashabiyeh, Dweir, Fayhaa Al Sham, and Akram Abu Nasser. Potential shelter sites are; Al Karnak, Al Bueda, Shams Stoves and Harjallah 1.

**Needs and gaps:** The collective shelters remain congested, with a total population of 44,667 individuals against the shelters' maximum capacity, 17,235 individuals, (i.e. an average occupancy rate of 250 percent).

**Response:** To decongest the collective shelters, and to prepare for eventual new displacements from Duma/Eastern Ghouta, UNHCR is effecting site preparation work in new sites, namely Karnak and Harjallah 1, together with UNICEF, SARC and other partners. UNHCR has ready in stock in Rural Damascus 750 family tents to install in these sites.

- In the meantime, to bridge the shelter gaps, UNHCR has provided to SARC 2,200 shelter kits and 3 rub halls. Two rub halls are installed in Akram Abu Al Nasser collective shelter and one is installed in Adra Electricity complex. 413 shelter kits were installed in Adra Electricity complex and Adra Schools, 475 shelter kits were installed in Dweir collective shelter, 50 shelter kits were installed in Akram Abu Al Nasser collective shelter, 50 shelter kits were installed in Fayhaa Al Sham and 59 shelter kits were installed in Harjallah.
- The rehabilitation of three schools in Adra city by UNHCR partner SIF continues to advance, with rehabilitation works on 168 rooms out of 180 having been completed.
- UNHCR's partner ADRA has completed the installation of 4 sheds (big size tents) in Harjallah. ADRA is also rehabilitating a school in Najha collective shelter, which will benefit 552 individuals; rehabilitation of 48 rooms have been completed.

## AFRIN - Emergency response

- Some 137,000 IDPs have left Afrin and are in Tal Refaat (some 100,000), Nubul (some 20,000) and Zahraa (some 10,000).
- On 9 April, UNHCR together with other UN agencies conducted an Inter-Agency mission to Tal Refaat surroundings, including the villages of Kechtaar, Deir Jmal and Zyara and Shahbaa camp. The mission revealed that the displaced people are not allowed to move freely outside of the villages/camp. They can neither return to their homes in Afrin nor travel further towards Aleppo city, even though some of them have houses there. Other identified gaps include lack of civil documentation; need for legal assistance, particularly for unregistered new-born children; need for psycho-social support and support to persons with specific needs. The displaced in the various villages, and even some in the Shahbaa camp, are residing in makeshift shelters, with no access to schooling. UNHCR, in collaboration with other UN agencies and partners, is embarking on a response to address the identified concerns.



### Protection response

- UNHCR continues to respond to the protection needs of the IDPs from Afrin through protection services, including child protection, legal aid, prevention and response of SGBV and services for persons with specific needs, provided by UNHCR-funded community centres in Nubul and Aleppo city, as well as through mobile units and ORVs reaching out to surrounding villages.



### NFI response



- As of 9 April, NFIs have been distributed to 51,000 individuals, including 6,000 individuals/1,000 families in Nubul and 3,000 individuals/500 families in Zahraa and 42,000 individuals/7,000 families in Tal Refaat and the surrounding villages.



### Shelter response

- UNHCR has delivered 1,400 shelter kits to its partners, including 600 delivered to GOPA and ADRA to respond to the shelter needs in Nubul and Al Zahra, and 800 provided to SARC to respond to shelter needs in Tal Refaat.
- UNHCR's partner SARC is working to complete the assessment of houses to accommodate IDPs in Tal Refaat, and has assessed some 711 houses for 4,480 individuals.
- UNHCR has 1,000 family size tents in its warehouse in Aleppo, which can be delivered to partners when and if needed to respond to the shelter needs.
- UNHCR's partner GOPA finished installing 100 shelter units in Nubul, which will benefit some 1000 IDPs. UNHCR's partner ADRA completed the installation of 77 shelter kits in Hangars in Nubul, which will benefit some 900 IDPs.

### CONTACTS:

Toloe Masori, Reporting Officer Syria,  
[masori@unhcr.org](mailto:masori@unhcr.org), Cell: +963 9933 578 59