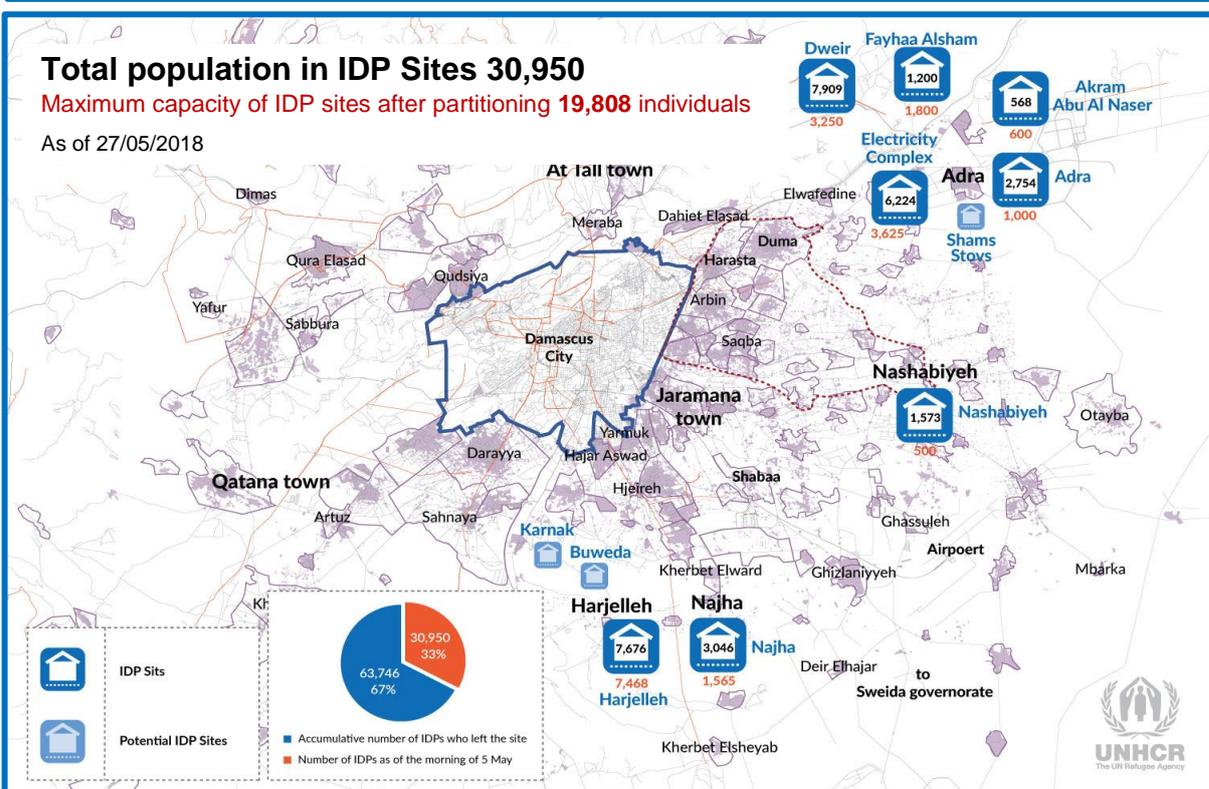


UNHCR SYRIA SITUATION REPORT FOR THE EASTERN GHOUTA AND AFRIN HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES As of 29 May 2018

EASTERN GHOUTA

- Nearly 95,000¹ individuals arrived to the IDP sites almost three months ago, including nearly 31,000² currently residing in eight IDP sites in Rural Damascus and nearly 64,000³ who have left the shelters, through the 'sponsorship'⁴ programme as well as to return to their areas of origin⁵, including 12,866⁶ individuals that as of 27 May have returned to their habitual residence in Eastern Ghouta. The majority of the IDPs that are leaving the sites are residing in Herjellah, Dweir and Electricity complex, and returning to Saqba, Hamouriyeh and Douma.
- UNHCR is advocating for the principle of family unity to be respected when IDPs return to their areas of origin and in all the IDP sites. UNHCR multifunctional teams conducted several missions to the IDP sites, namely Dweir, Fayhaa Al Sham, Najha, and Al Nashabiyeh from 21 to 28 May. The missions revealed an increasing trend of return to the collective shelters of IDPs who had earlier left the shelters; owing to having exhausted their coping mechanisms outside the sites, including their own and host families' resources. Another reason for IDPs returning to the sites is to be able to register, receive security clearance and leave the sites to their areas of origin.



¹ Figures were provided on the 15 May by the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment (MOLAE), who is heading the High Relief Committee.

² Figures were provided by Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) 23 May.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Mostly women and children, have been released from the IDP sites, 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.

⁵ IDPs was allowed to start returning to their areas of origin in Eastern Ghouta on 15 May.

⁶ Figures were provided by SARC 27 May.

Emergency response update



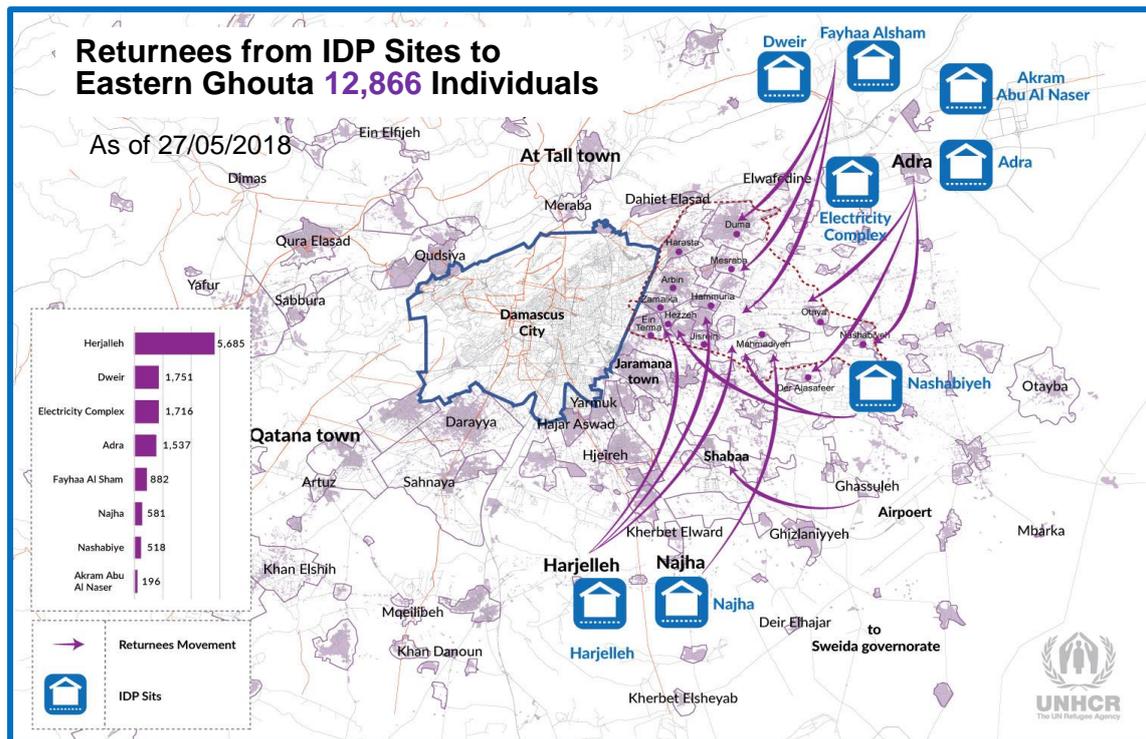
Protection

Response:

- UNHCR's partner SSSD continues to provide child protection services for children in Fayhaa site, including recreational activities such as sports and vocational training courses for female adolescents. In Najha site, UNHCR's partner SARC is conducting recreational activities for children and providing Psychosocial Support (PSS) to children in Al Nashabyieh site.
- UNHCR's partners SSSD and ADRA are providing educational activities for the 9th grade students in Fayhaa and Najha sites respectively in preparation for their final national exam taking place in August. However, the number of students has decreased with the increase of number of IDPs leaving the sites, including some returning to their areas of origin.

Departures from the sites to Eastern Ghouta:

- According to SARC some 30 per cent of the IDP population in the sites, nearly 13,000 IDPs, have since 15 May returned to their places of origin in Eastern Ghouta.



- In Dweir, Fayhaa and Najha and other sites, IDPs that want to return to their habitual residence, with the exception of males between 18 and 25 years who did not do their military service, have to register their names with the site manager. Once security cleared, these IDPs are able to leave the site with buses provided by the Government of Syria (GoS). Meanwhile, the IDPs who had left the sites through the 'sponsorship' programme and wishing to return to their places of origin have to come back to the sites to register themselves and obtain security clearance before they could return to their areas of origin or previous residence.

- In Al Nashabyieh site, the local security is allowing the IDPs to leave the shelter as long as their movement is within Al Nashabyieh area, and the Municipality started issuing residence cards to returnees to facilitate their movement inside Eastern Ghouta.



Shelter

Currently eight IDP sites are populated, namely; Harjellah Adra School Shelter, Adra Electricity Complex, Najha, Nashabiyeh, Dweir, Fayhaa Al Sham, and Akram Abu Nasser.

Response: UNHCR partner ADRA completed the establishment of a communal kitchen in Najha site, which started functioning to provide hot meals to the IDPs. Volunteers from the IDP community are currently in charge of keeping the kitchen tidy, while a cook from MSJM on site on a daily basis. The site was also equipped with external water pipes used by all population for washing kitchen utensils and clothes. Moreover, lockable and lighted toilets for women and showers are now available on each floor.



Non-food items (NFIs)

Response:

- UNHCR purchased and dispatched more than 11,000 pairs of shoes (croc style) to five collective shelters to respond to the urgent needs of the IDPs. The shoes were provided for men, women and children. Additional pairs of shoes are being purchased and will be distributed to cover all the existing needs. UNHCR multi-functional teams are visiting the sites and monitoring the distribution.



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).



Protection

- Restriction of movement is still experienced by IDPs; however, on 21 and 22 May, up to 300 vehicles carrying IDPs from Afrin crossed to Afrin city. These families are coming from Tal Refaat, Fafin, and the surrounding areas.
- All IDPs who crossed to Afrin are requested to go first to Afrin city to obtain the movement permission paper valid for one month from the local council to cross through Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) checkpoints to reach the rural areas.



Shelter response

- Some IDP families from Afrin are hosted in Shabaa camp (nearly 90 families/450 individuals), Fafin camp (700 families/3500 individuals), As'r camp (300 families/1500 individuals), and Aloushieh camp (66 families/330 individuals).
- UNHCR's partner SARC completed the installation of 300 shelter kits in 357 individual empty houses in Tal Refaat town currently sheltering 784 families/4,012 individuals from Afrin. The 300 shelter kits included the manufacturing and installation of 1,281 timber doors and 642 timber windows as well as the distribution of 300 tool kits.
- A community-based initiative installed showers in a collective shelter in Kafr Naya village benefitting 150 IDPs.



NFI response

- UNHCR conducted a mission to Allousia camp on the 28 May to monitor the first distribution of NFIs in the camp. 130 IDP families from Afrin had registered with SARC to receive NFIs. SARC distributed 154 NFI kits, including; blankets sleeping mats, mattresses, kitchen sets and solar lamps.



Health

- IDPs from Afrin were provided with health services through UNHCR-funded community centre in Ashrafieha neighbourhood in Aleppo. UNHCR's partner SSSD provided health awareness sessions benefitting 145 IDPs from Afrin, while 51 IDPs received medical in-kind assistance.

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