

2017

SUMMARY OF HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN MONITORING REPORT

JANUARY-JUNE 2017

PREPARED BY THE WHOLE OF SYRIA ISG FOR THE SSG

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC



Credit: UNHCR/Bassam Diab



PEOPLE IN
NEED

13.6M



INTERNALLY
DISPLACED PERSONS

6.3M



PEOPLE LIVING IN UN-DECLARED
BESIEGED & HARD-TO-REACH AREAS

4.5M



PEOPLE LIVING IN HIGH SEVERITY
OF NEEDS COMMUNITIES

5.8M



PEOPLE LIVING IN
EXTREME POVERTY*

69%

INTRODUCTION

Against the backdrop of sustained hostilities, continued besiegement of civilians and limited livelihood opportunities there has been little improvement in the overall humanitarian situation for people living in Syria during the first half of 2017.

Despite some reductions in violence in some parts of the country as a result of a nationwide ceasefire agreement and the proposal for the establishment of four de-escalation areas (DEAs),¹ shifting frontlines and subsequent escalations in hostilities in other areas of the country have driven large-scale population movements and generated humanitarian needs.

In its seventh year, the crisis continues to take a drastic toll on the lives of people in Syria and drive an unprecedented protection crisis.

Some 13.6 million people continue to require humanitarian assistance, while over half of the country's pre-crisis population has been forced from their homes, including approximately 6.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). Although the number of people living in UN-declared besieged² areas

1. In May Iran, the Russian Federation and Turkey signed a memorandum on the creation of four de-escalation areas, where hostilities between the conflicting parties are to cease. The memorandum also stipulates that rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access must be enabled to these areas.

2. The UN uses the term "besieged" as per a number of UNSC resolution on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic (see: UNSC Res. 1624, 2139, 2165, 2191, 2254, 2258). The use of the words siege/ besieged is not endorsed by the Government of Syria.

has declined from approximately 970,000 people as of December 2016 to an estimated 540,000³ as of June 2017, the needs of many people living under siege have further deteriorated. Furthermore, the reduction in the number of people living in UN-declared besieged areas is in part due to local agreements reached between the Government of Syria (GoS) and Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs). These agreements have been reached - without UN involvement - after prolonged periods of fighting and access restrictions and have resulted in the forced displacement of population from these areas.

At the same time, some 69 per cent of the population remains in extreme poverty, with ongoing hostilities and instability contributing to high rates of unemployment and limited access to basic services.

Although humanitarian actors continue to reach millions of people across the country with much needed humanitarian assistance, the provision of humanitarian support to people in need remains extremely challenging as a result of active hostilities, shifting control lines, administrative impediments and restrictions on the movement of people and relief aid by all armed actors. UN cross-line access to people living in UN-declared besieged and hard-to-reach areas has declined in the first half of 2017, with only 27 UN inter-agency convoys reaching people living in these locations

3. These figures are as of the end of June, as reported in the Secretary General's Report to the Security Council on 21 July 2017.

compared to 86 in the first half of 2016. These inter-agency convoys reached a net total of 1,035,000 people during January-June 2016 compared to only 709,600 people during the same period in 2017. Similarly, cross-border partners face an increasingly restrictive environment, with NSAGs- including those proscribed as terrorist groups by the UN Security Council- putting more restrictions on NGOs, particularly in northern parts of Syria. In addition cross-border partners faced access restrictions imposed by the Government of Turkey, inhibiting principled humanitarian assistance to northern Syria, including through the closure of key border crossings. This has hampered efforts to provide assistance to people in need in contested areas in Ar-Raqqqa and Hassakeh governorates.

The Syria Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) for grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict verified 36 attacks against health (facilities and personnel) during the first six months of 2017. Intentional attacks against hospitals and places where the sick and wounded are collected are prohibited under International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and may constitute war crimes. Attacks on health care facilities and workers are also violations of International Human Rights Law.

*Three indices of consumption deprivation are used to measure the depth and incidence of poverty. These include: "overall poverty" based on the upper poverty line, which is the minimum necessary goods and services that a household requires to survive; "extreme poverty" based on the lower poverty line, which is the very basic food and non-food items that a household requires to live; and, "abject poverty" based on the food poverty line.

NEEDS AND KEY FIGURES



1.3M displacements occurred during the first 6 months of 2017, many of whom were displaced multiple times.

On average there were **7,000** displacements per day during the first half of 2017, exceeding the 6,000 people displaced on average each day during the first six months of 2016.



1,000 grave violations against children were verified during the first 6

months of 2017, including **524** cases of killing and maiming of children



7M people are food insecure and a further **2M** people are at risk of food insecurity.**



513,000 spontaneous IDP returns** were recorded during the first half of 2017, the vast majority of which occurred in Aleppo governorate.



Humanitarian partners were unable to reach over **900,000** people in UN-declared besieged and hard-to-reach areas, who face especially acute needs, due to a combination of insecurity and imposed access restrictions.



4.4M people are at risk of malnutrition and in need of preventive and curative nutrition services.



1.75M children are out of school, with a further **1.35M** at risk of dropping out.



13.2M people or **69%** of the population of Syria lives in extreme poverty, and 83 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line.



1.9M people are in acute and immediate need of life-sustaining shelter assistance.



2/3 of the population has no consistent access to safe water.

** Spontaneous IDP returns represent estimated IDP returnees to their community of origin as estimated by available tracking mechanisms. The returns are not monitored or organized IDP returns, and do not imply a durable solution has been achieved.

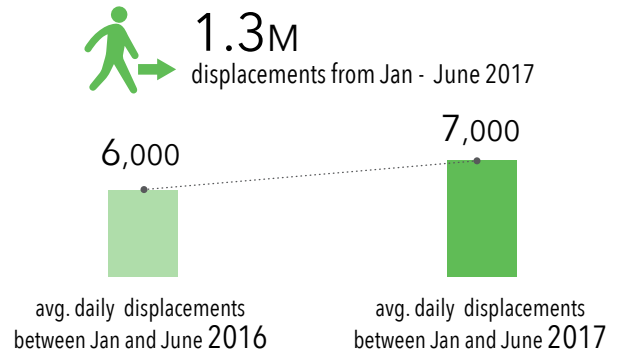
*** People are considered food insecure when they do not have availability and adequate access at all times to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life. (WFP)



CHANGES IN HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

DISPLACEMENTS AS OF JUNE 2017

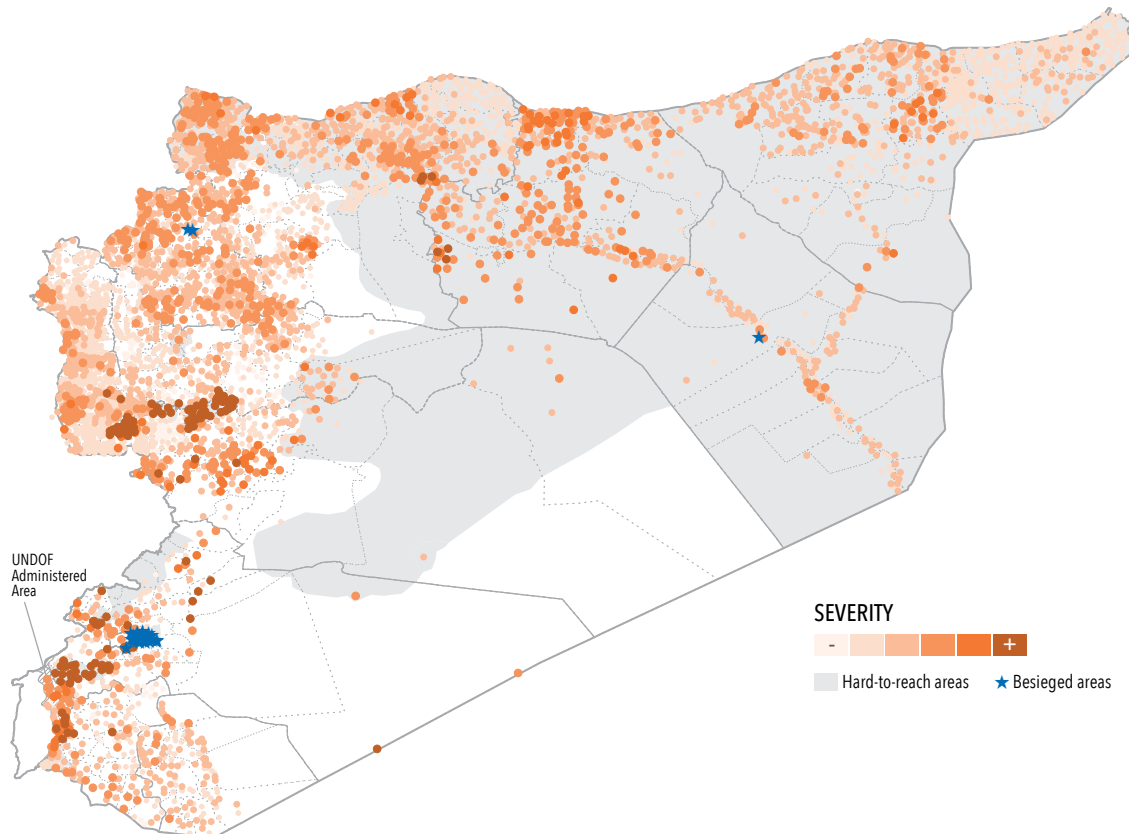
An estimated 1.3 million displacements occurred in the first half of 2017, at an average of 7,000 displacements per day, exceeding the 6,000 people displaced on average each day during the first six months of 2016. Between January and June 2017, some 513,000 “spontaneous IDP returns” were recorded, most of which (303,462) occurred in Aleppo governorate. The number of people subject to prolonged internal displacement remained at approximately 6.3 million as of 30 June 2017, with many of these people experiencing multiple displacements. New displacements have been most frequent in northeastern and central Syria as a result of the anti-ISIL offensive. Ar-Raqqa Governorate witnessed the displacement of some 227,000 people since the start of the Euphrates Wrath military operation in November 2016. Of these, 120,000 displacements occurred between 1 May to 30 June 2017, mostly to locations within Ar-Raqqa, Hassakeh and Aleppo governorates.



INTERSECTORAL SEVERITY OF NEEDS AS OF JUNE 2017

During the first six months of 2017, the number of people living in high severity of need communities has marginally increased from approximately 5.7 to 5.8 million people. Despite the decline in the number of people living in UN-declared besieged areas, significant displacement as a result of the anti-ISIL offensive has contributed to the emergence of more severe needs in northeastern and central Syria.

People living in high severity of need communities generally live in areas more affected by the crisis where a combination of proximity to and intensification of hostilities, displacement, limited access to basic services, dysfunctional markets and reliance on negative coping mechanisms results in more acute suffering due to a convergence of multi-sectoral need.



JAN-JUNE 2017 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Over the first six months of 2017 humanitarian partners, including UN agencies, international NGOs and national NGOs working together from multiple hubs (Syria, Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq) under the Whole of Syria (WoS) approach, have delivered humanitarian assistance and protection services to millions of people across the country. Although

surpassed by the scale of needs, the scope of the humanitarian response in Syria remains staggering, with over 7.4 million people in need reached across the country on a monthly basis with some form of assistance. Through a combination of regular, cross-line and cross-border response modalities, humanitarian partners have:

AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED PER MONTH FROM JAN - MAY 2017

7.4M



Provided **3.1M** protection interventions across 210 sub-districts through one or more prevention/ risk mitigation, response or capacity-building activity.



Reached an average of **5.4M** people, **76 per cent** of the **7M** food insecure, with full monthly food rations.



Carried out or supported nearly **9M** medical procedures and distributed almost **6M** treatment courses.



Reached over **364,000** IDPs living in planned camps, informal tented settlements, transit camps and collective centres across four governorates with multi-sector assistance.



Improved safe access to basic and social essential services as well as infrastructure for **3.5M** people.



Reached roughly **1.1M** children and adolescents with formal and non-formal education services.



Delivered lipid-based nutrient supplements (LNS) or high energy biscuits to some **733,000** children under five.



Provided some **2.6M** people with winter support and supplementary NFI assistance.

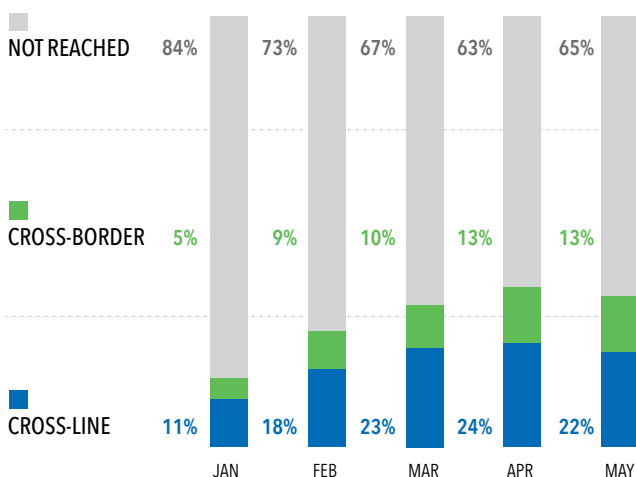


Reached over **8M** people with direct humanitarian WASH assistance.

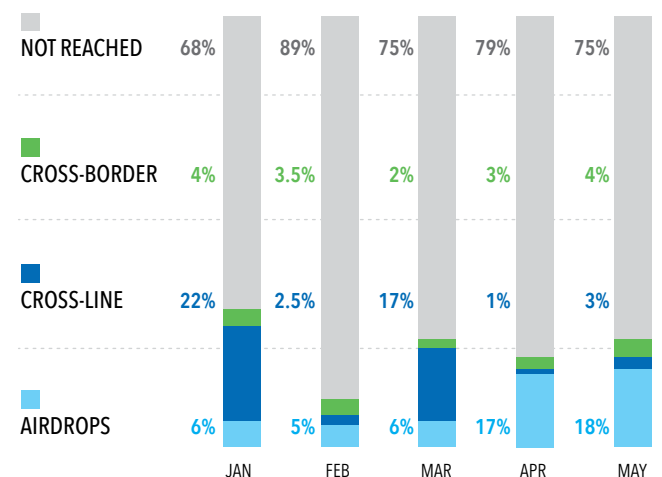


Delivered nearly **23,815 m³** of relief items through **24** UN convoys to hard-to-reach and UN-declared besieged areas.

MONTHLY REACH IN HARD-TO-REACH AREAS BY DELIVERY MODALITY


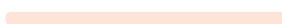







MONTHLY REACH IN UN-DECLARED BESIEGED AREAS BY DELIVERY MODALITY



PEOPLE REACHED / NOT REACHED ON AVERAGE PER MONTH

UP TO MAY 2017

SEVERITY SCALE	PEOPLE IN NEED REACHED		PEOPLE IN NEED NOT REACHED	
No problem ¹	191,953	100%+		0%
Minor problem	124,590	39%		61%
Moderate problem	1,015,941	44%		56%
Major problem	3,092,932	59%		41%
Severe problem	2,573,012	71%		29%
Critical problem	487,334	100%+		0%
Catastrophic problem	507,520	35%		65%

1. Some interventions, such as the restoration of WASH infrastructure, benefit the entire population within the targeted catchment area, regardless of status or need.

PEOPLE TARGETED / REACHED BY SECTOR UP TO MAY 2017

SECTOR	PEOPLE IN NEED (AS PER 2017 HNO)	REACHED (JAN-MAY 2017)	TARGETED (2017 HRP)	% REACH AGAINST TARGET	% REACH AGAINST PIN
 CCCM	6.3M	1.7M 	0.45M*	 372%	 27%
 Early Recovery & Livelihoods	13.8M	3.8M 	5.5M	 69%	 28%
 Education	6.1M	1.1M 	4.6M	 23%	 18%
 Food Security: Food Assistance	9M	5.4M** 	7M***	 77%	NA
 Food Security: Livelihoods/Agriculture		0.9M 	5.1M	 18%	NA
 NFI	5.8M	0.8M 	4.9M	 18%	 15%
 Nutrition	4.4M	1.6M 	2.6M	 62%	 38%
 Shelter	4.3M	0.1M 	0.74M	 14%	 2%
 WASH****	8.2M	3.9M 	8.2M	 48%	 48%
 Health	12.8M	8.8M 	12.8M	 69%	 69%
 Protection: Interventions	13.5M	3.1M 	9.7M	 32%	 23%

* Displacements reported to and verified by the CCCM Cluster from April 2015 to present are 3.2 Million

** Average food baskets: 5,380,344 people and cumulative emergency food rations: 994,065 people. Percentage reach against target based on regular food basket distributions.

*** The sector targets the estimated 7 million food-insecure people (HNO 2017) and an additional projected 1 million people from the caseload of emergency response (based on needs) to shift from short-term support to longer-term regular assistance until needed.

**** WASH PiN and target represent the WASH sector response to the acute humanitarian needs.

KEY CHALLENGES AND GAPS

Despite the continued efforts of humanitarian partners to deliver assistance to people in need, significant gaps remain. Since November 2016 the intensification of hostilities as a result of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)-led offensive against ISIL in Ar-Raqqa and Hassakeh has generated significant displacement, with some 227,000 people displaced in these governorates since the start of the Euphrates Wrath military operation. Of these, 120,000 people were displaced between 1 May and 30 June 2017. The scale and speed of displacement have exerted significant pressure on the humanitarian response in northeast Syria. Already heavily populated IDP camps lack the necessary absorption capacity to host new arrivals, while the lack of space for new camps at a safe distance from hostilities has limited the scope for new IDP sites in these areas.

The challenges in scaling-up the emergency response have been compounded by severe humanitarian access constraints.

Although assistance to high severity of need communities was prioritized, access restrictions complicated efforts

to deliver assistance to people facing ‘catastrophic problems’, the highest severity level registered through the inter-sector severity categorization tool.

Of the people facing catastrophic problems only 35 per cent, or 507,520, received some form of assistance in the first five months of 2017.

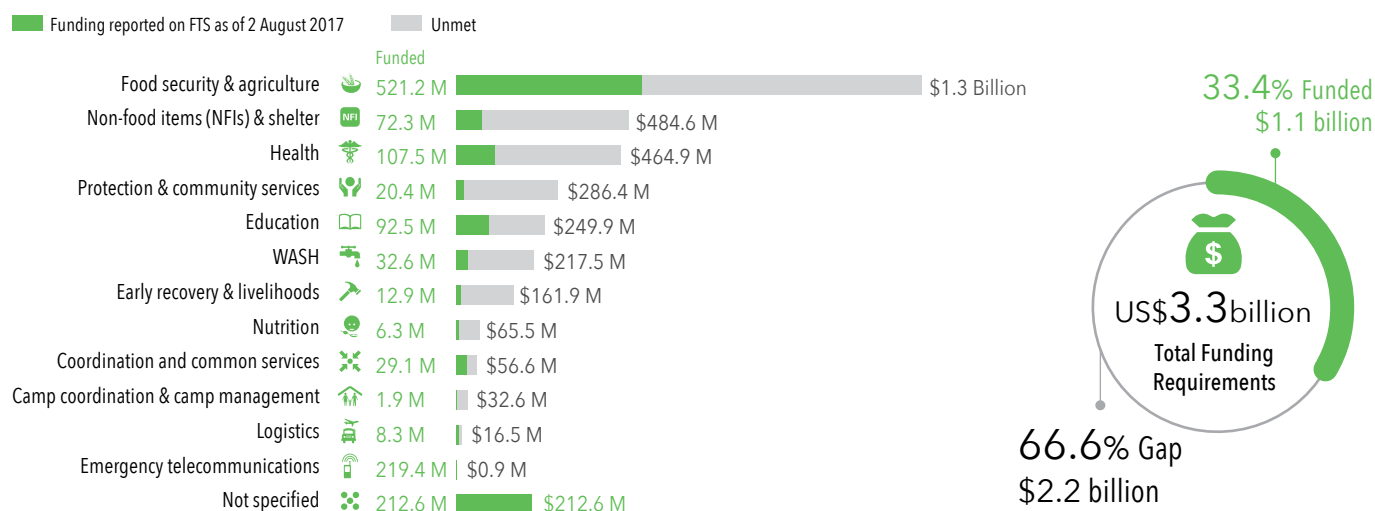
In these areas, including UN-declared besieged areas, the combination of insecurity as well as deliberate restrictions on the movement of people and supplies by all armed actors, prevented humanitarian partners from reaching over 900,000 people facing catastrophic levels of need. Access restrictions have especially hampered the protection response, with the presence of partners and performance of specialized services limited, especially in areas such as northeast Syria which have witnessed an intensification of hostilities. Overall, access restrictions imposed by all actors, including neighbouring countries, constitute the greatest impediment to humanitarian assistance.

Funding shortages have also been a key limiting factor in the first six months of 2017.

Overall the Syria Humanitarian Response Plan appeal was just 33.4 per cent funded as of August 2017. Continued under-funding will interrupt life-saving emergency assistance programmes, adversely affecting the ability of humanitarian organizations to reach those people at most risk and rendered most vulnerable by the Syria crisis.

As of the end of July the funding requirements of the 2017 HRP were subject to a light review process and subsequently reduced from US\$3.46 to US\$3.34 billion, a reduction of US\$112 million. As part of this process, 284 out of 646 projects on the On-line Projects/Planning System (OPS) were reviewed by partners and sector leads. Changes were made to reflect the relevance of original projects according to on-the-ground developments/ priorities and changes in control, that may have resulted in partners from some hubs being unable to reach beneficiaries in certain areas. Reductions in funding requirements were also made in many unfunded projects to account for the number of months of the year remaining. While most sectors reduced their funding, the CCCM sector slightly increased their requirements in response to the new demands related to camp management in Ar-Raqqa.

FUNDING UPDATE TO 2017 SYRIA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN (AS OF 2 AUGUST 2017)



THE WAY FORWARD

In the coming six months the humanitarian community's key cross-cutting priorities will include **i)** increasing humanitarian life-saving and life-sustaining assistance to people in the most critical need, particularly in areas affected by hostilities; **ii)** expanding support to the protective environment in Syria including by consolidating presence through greater community-based protection services; **iii)** maintaining advocacy to expand access to high severity of need communities, including UN-declared besieged areas, where a combination of humanitarian risk factors leave people facing especially acute needs;

iv) supporting service delivery in priority locations such as Ar-Raqqa governorate, with particular emphasis on strengthening cross-hub emergency coordination and information-sharing; **v)** continuing and expanding efforts to sustain and restore access to livelihoods, particularly in newly accessible areas; **vi)** building capacity of local partners toward more specialized service provision, particularly where a deterioration in access threatens the overall efficacy of the response; **vii)** delivering assistance to people unable to access heating materials and adequate shelter through the cold winter months.

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