



©UNICEF/2019. Some children fleeing escalating violence in Northeast Syria to Tal Tamer, with their families.

NORTH EAST SYRIA RESPONSE SITUATION REPORT

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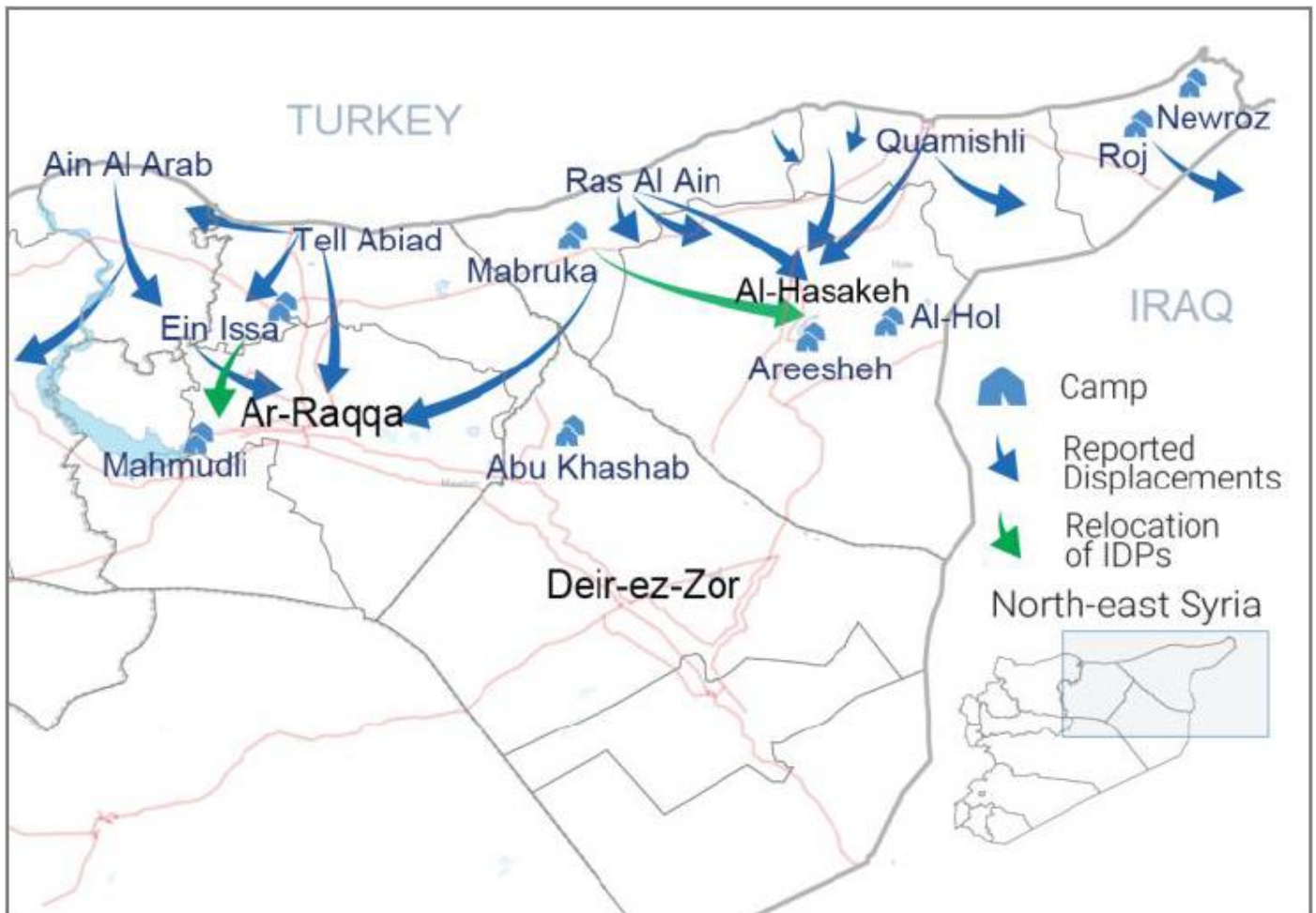
Situation report # 7- 17 October 2019

Highlights

- Late on 17 October it was announced that the United States and Turkey had reached an agreement for Turkey to suspend military operations in northeast Syria (NES) for 120 hours. The YPG will be expected to withdraw from the Turkey defined “safe zone”, approximately 32 kilometres deep. Should this YPG withdrawal be confirmed, Turkey will commit to a permanent cease-fire and the United States will lift sanctions imposed last Monday against Turkey.
- Over 1,000 refugees reportedly received in Iraq from NES. Most have been sent to Bardarash camp where they are being provided with basic support
- On 17 October, OCHA released the first IDP report, based on partners’ assessments, with details of the current location of 161,813 people (32,031 households) hosted in communities and in collective shelters across the NES region. The vast majority is hosted in communities.
- Despite ongoing UNICEF and partner response, the needs across the region remain significant, stretching existing capacities. The response plan to meet the potential needs of 500,000 people in the NES over the next 3 months has been finalized, with analysis of needed resources and supplies. The response plan is undergoing a final review and will be cleared on Monday.

Humanitarian Situation

- An estimated 160,000 people, including 70,000 children, are reported to have been displaced since the start of the military operation on 9 October. The majority of those fleeing hostilities and its potential impacts moved towards Al Hassakeh and Ar Raqqa Governorates. If military operations continue, with deployments and advances near Tal Tamer and Ras Al Ain cities, further displacements will occur. However, as the front lines are shifting, there are reports from partners on the ground about people leaving collective shelters to host communities and staying with extended families. Some spontaneous returns have also been reported and if the ceasefire just agreed does hold, greater returns may be anticipated.
- On 15 October, the evacuation of Ein Issa camp was almost complete with few families choosing to remain. The camp, previously hosting close to 13,000 displaced people was caught up in the hostilities. Most residents were transferred to Mahmudli IDP camp.
- The map below shows some of the movement paths in the region as of 16 October (as reported by OCHA).



Summary Analysis of Programme Response

WASH

- Deconfliction still awaited to allow 16,000 litres of fuel supplied by UNICEF to be transported to the pumping stations, for running the backup generators at Allok. The pumping station remains non-functional due to the damage on the main power lines, affecting the water provision to over 400,000 people in Hassakeh city, surrounding communities and camps.
- UNICEF has committed with partners to fully restore the Al Hemme water station pumping capacity by conducting needed repairs and rehabilitation on the main components of the station. The station has been operating at 25 per cent capacity for the past week.
- UNICEF continues water trucking in Tal Tamer town, at a rate 50 m³ per day benefiting about 2,500 people, including 635 people in five IDP collective shelters.
- In coordination with WHO, UNICEF partners are also following up on results of water quality monitoring being conducted in the shelters in Hassakeh city and supporting corrective action where water may be contaminated.
- In the collective centres in Hassakeh city, UNICEF partners are supporting rehabilitation of 119 existing sanitation facilities in IDP shelters. A gap of 21 emergency latrines will be met by construction in the coming days.

Health and Nutrition

- In Hassakeh City, mobile teams supported by UNICEF conducted MUAC screening for 131 children under 5 and 40 pregnant and lactating women (PLW). Treatment was initiated for 1 child identified as severely acute malnourished (SAM)

- UNICEF partners running mobile teams provided 289 primary health care consultations for women and children in the collective centres in Hassakeh city. The top causes of morbidity from consultations at the shelters among under 5s are diarrheal diseases and acute respiratory infections (ARI)
- The integrated young child feeding (IYCF) campaign, offering both individual and group counselling, is ongoing supported by C4D partners in collective centres in Al Hassakeh governorate. On 17 October, UNICEF partners reached 90 women with children under 5 years through 18 IYCF sessions
- On 17 October. UNICEF supported partners have distributed multiples items to 333 children and PLWs in shelters, including 12 cartons of high-energy biscuits, 70 multiple micronutrient sachets and 7 cartons of plumpy doz.
- One partner operating in several clinics in the area reported that lack of drugs is one of the main problems reported by team leaders, along with overcrowding in the health facilities.

Child Protection

- On 17 October, through UNICEF partners in Al Raqqa and Al Hassakeh, 1,885 children benefited from psychosocial support (PSS), mine risk education and awareness creation activities provided by mobile teams. In addition, 10 unaccompanied and separated children were identified in the same locations through the mobile teams and those requiring fostering care were referred for ad-hoc foster care arrangements as an interim measure for the unaccompanied.
- Two fixed child friendly spaces (CFS) in Raqqa continue to provide PSS to displaced children in the town. On 17 October, 333 children benefited from these services at the CFSs.
- In Hassakeh city and rural Hassakeh, two UNICEF partners are supporting 7 CFSs with activities such as group PSS, mine risk education and awareness creation activities, which reached 1,350 children on 17 October.

Winter Response

- On 17 October, UNICEF partners in Hassakeh city-initiated distribution of winter kits to children in collective shelters reaching 400 children. Distribution will continue in the coming days.

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