



#### PEOPLE AFFECTED

**240,000+** people-in-need Afrin, including 170,000 people displaced

#### HEALTH RISKS

There are shortages of medical supplies and a need to deploy health care partners to improve access to health care services, especially primary health care, vaccination and trauma care services.

Insecurity and limited access cause concern for transporting medical cases, as there is an urgent need for medical evacuations to hospitals.

The restoration of potable water in Afrin city through the networks remains a major priority to ensure that civilians residing in the city have sufficient access to potable water and are not at the risk of contracting waterborne diseases.

#### FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

**US\$ 5.4 million** is required by WHO to respond to the urgent health needs of people affected by conflict in Afrin

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#### Current Situation

Turkish government forces and non-state armed groups took control of Afrin city and Mebatli sub-district, northwest Syria, on 17 March, where between 50,000 and 70,000 people reportedly remain. An additional 100,000 people remain in rural areas of Afrin sub-district. Information is limited, but dire humanitarian conditions have been reported.

An estimated 167,000 people have been displaced by the hostilities. The majority, some 137,000 people, has fled to Tal Refaat and the remainder to Nubul, Zahraa and surrounding villages. Areas hosting displaced people in Tal Refaat, Nabul, Zahraa and surrounding villages are already at full capacity, and people have not been able to move to Aleppo city. The massive influx of people out of Afrin is putting a strain on nearby host communities, which are already overwhelmed.

HeRAMS Syria reports that all public health facilities in Afrin district (24) are reported to be out of service, while 6 public health centers are reported as partially functioning in Nabul, Zahraa, Dier Jamal, Kafar Naya, Meskan, and Abin. Reports indicate that the majority of the city's medical staff were among the displaced population to the nearby communities.

Access to Aleppo City for IDPs is currently restricted. This is a particular concern for medical cases, as there is an urgent need for medical evacuations to specialized hospitals in Aleppo City for severely sick people.

#### WHO response

With support from NGO partners and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), WHO deployed four mobile health teams to Tal Refaat, Nubul and Zahraa, and delivered 10 tonnes of medical supplies, sufficient for 55,700 treatment courses. On 25 March, WHO delivered 4 tons of life-saving and life-sustaining supplies, sufficient for 14,480 medical treatments, through

## WHO response priorities

Improve access to basic and advanced health services.

Revitalize public health facilities.

Temporarily deploy of mobile medical teams and clinics.

Provide routine vaccination for children.

Support diagnostic and treatment services through the provision of medical equipment and supplies to health facilities or mobile teams/clinics.

Strengthen the capacity of health staff inside Afrin.

Strengthen partnerships to improve the emergency referral system, as well strengthen preparedness and response levels for management of trauma and other types of patients.

the interagency convoy to Tal Refaat. A shipment of medicines and medical supplies, sufficient for more than 64,000 treatments, is ready to be dispatched from Aleppo to Tal Refaat and Afrin once access is guaranteed.

Earlier this year, WHO delivered five mobile clinics and two ambulances to Aleppo Directorate of Health, and the two main public surgical hospitals in Aleppo received shipments of medicines and medical devices.

## Cross-border support

WHO's cross-border hub in Gaziantep, Turkey is helping two health partners to scale-up health services in Afrin, amid concerning shortages of medical supplies and staff.

Of four hospitals that were functioning in Afrin city prior to recent hostilities, only one continues to operate, run by a WHO-supported partner. WHO will be providing urgently needed supplies, including trauma kits, IV fluids, antibiotics and other essential medicines, in a shipment planned the end of March. WHO is also helping more partners to start mobile medical teams to make-up for closed hospitals and primary health care centres. A fast roll-out of vaccination activities is being organized.

## WHO planned activities

**US\$ 5.4 million is required by WHO to respond to the urgent health needs of people affected by conflict in Afrin.**

Activity	Budget required US\$
Revitalization of public health facilities	650,000
Temporary deployment of mobile medical teams and clinics.	895,000
Provision of routine vaccination of children to different health facilities.	270,000
Supporting diagnostic and treatment services through the provision of medical equipment and supplies needed for PHC services at health facility or mobile teams/clinics.	1,845,000
Strengthening capacity of health staff	55,000
Strengthen and improve the emergency referral system and strengthen preparedness and response for and management of trauma and other types of patients (including physical rehabilitation).	1,650,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,365,000</b>