



### PEOPLE AFFECTED

**393,000** people-in-need, including more than 50,000 people displaced

### HEALTH RISKS

Limited health staff and functioning health facilities inside the East Ghouta enclave place the lives of people with trauma injuries, chronic diseases, and malnutrition at risk.

Weak sanitation and hygiene conditions in shelters, and difficulties in accessing safe water, increases the risk of water- and food-borne diseases. Rising temperatures also increase the risk of infectious diseases spreading.

Children who have not been vaccinated for several years are at high risk of contracting life-threatening diseases such as measles and polio.

### FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

**US\$ 5.8 million** is required by WHO to respond to the urgent health needs of people affected by conflict in East Ghouta

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### Current Situation

East Ghouta is witnessing an escalation in hostilities, with reports of widespread damage and destruction to civilian infrastructure in several densely populated areas and reports of mounting civilian casualties. In the absence of sustained access to the area, available stocks of medicines, vaccines, medical consumables and medical equipment are being rapidly depleted. There are critical gaps in health facilities, health supplies, life-saving and life sustaining services, as well as the protection of health care workers, patients, and facilities.

Internal displacement continues to occur, with more than 50,000 people displaced from 11-21 March. Civilians arriving at shelters are exhausted, traumatized, and suffering the effects of long-term deprivation. Large numbers of people have symptoms of skin disease and vitamin deficiencies as a result of sheltering underground to avoid the worst of the violence. Many are suffering from malnutrition, while others have chronic diseases that require urgent attention. Many children have not been vaccinated for several years and are at high risk of contracting life-threatening diseases such as measles and polio.

### WHO response

Mobile health teams supported by WHO have been deployed to IDP shelters and are providing an average of more than 600 medical consultations per day. People in need of advanced medical care are being referred to hospitals in Damascus, many of which are supported by WHO. At least 567 patients have been referred since 11 March.

WHO has delivered 40 hospital beds to SARC and dispatched 15.8 tons of medical supplies, equipment, beds and health kits as part of the response for IDPs in rural Damascus. The supplies are sufficient for a



**WHO response priorities**

Improve access to basic and advanced health services inside and outside of East Ghouta.

Revitalize public health facilities inside East Ghouta.

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 East Ghouta.

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

total of 367,714 treatments and 200 trauma cases. An additional planned shipment consisting of 8 tons of health supplies is in the immediate pipeline.

WHO is supporting an emergency vaccination campaign to immunize children under 5 against measles, mumps, rubella, tuberculosis, hepatitis and polio. WHO is also helping health partners respond to outbreaks of diarrhoea, hepatitis B and influenza in the shelters.

More than 400 WHO-trained health care providers in 60 facilities in Rural Damascus are providing mental health and psychosocial support services to people from East Ghouta, many of whom are traumatized by what they have lived through.

Evacuation of civilians continues from different parts of East Ghouta to government-controlled areas. WHO and health partners have received approvals to trigger part of the medical evacuation plan to enhance the capacity of existing public health sector in Damascus and Rural Damascus (in direct coordination with the SARC Medical Director).

**WHO planned activities**

**US\$ 5.8 million is required by WHO to respond to the urgent health needs of people affected by conflict in East Ghouta.**

Activity	Budget required US\$
Revitalization of public health facilities	1,250,000
Temporary deployment of mobile medical teams and clinics	580,000
Provision of routine vaccination of children to different health facilities	75,000
Supporting diagnostic and treatment services through the provision of medical equipment and supplies needed for PHC services at health facility or mobile teams/clinics	2,375,000
Strengthening the capacity of health staff	50,000
Build up partnerships to strengthen and improve the emergency referral system to access the secondary and limited tertiary health care services in Damascus and Rural Damascus health facilities as well as to strengthen the level of preparedness and response for and management of trauma and other types of patients (physical rehabilitation).	1,495,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,825,000</b>