



A convoy of buses carrying thousands of IDPs from East Ghouta is en route to north Hama transit site on 26 March. WHO partners are expanding critical medical services in Hama and Idleb, as displaced families from East Ghouta stream into camps and settlements. WHO's hub in Gaziantep, Turkey has medical stocks on standby in Idleb to replenish supplies.

**50,000+**

People hosted in 8 collective shelters in Rural Damascus

**1865**

WHO-supported consultations provided on 26 March

**648**

Patients referred to hospitals from 11-26 March

**289**

Children vaccinated on 26 March

**13**

Nutrition surveillance sites operational

### SITUATION

- More than 50,000 civilians from East Ghouta are currently hosted in 8 collective shelters in Rural Damascus. Many of them are physically exhausted and psychologically traumatized.

Site	Total number of IDPs
Electricity Building in Adra	5160
Schools Compound in Adra	1800
Nashabye	2946
Herjalleh	17944
Dweir	10083
Najha	6763
Fayhaa	5317
Akram Abu Al Naser	709
Boueda	0
Al Mattaleh	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50722</b>

- Findings from an inter-agency assessment mission to Dweir shelter on 25 March reveal the following:

- The SARC medical health center (field hospital) has been expanded and includes a psychiatric clinic and two rooms for dehydration. SARC has requested WHO to establish an X-ray unit in the health center. SARC ambulances are available for referral of patients to hospitals.
- Mobile clinics from SARC, NGOs, and DoH can be found in the area with the most-needed medicines and medical supplies. Mobile teams are providing services in the shelter, including vaccination services.
- No new cases of malnutrition have been reported.
- A few cases of diarrhea have been reported in the last few days.
- Many children are suffering from sunburn.
- **Needs identified:** wheelchairs, medicines (psychotropic medicines, dermal ointment/medicines, disinfectants for external use, sanitary napkins, anti-emetics, anti-lice and anti-cough medicines). There is also a lack of nutrition items for outpatients.

## WHO RESPONSE

### I. IMMEDIATE INTERVENTIONS

#### Coordination

- Continue to coordinate with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and national authorities on the ongoing and planned response.

#### Outreach essential services

- 1865 WHO-supported consultations were provided on 26 March through 10 mobile health units and medical mobile teams run by NGOs in Najha and Al Nashabyeh collective shelters, Dweir, Adra, Adra Al balad, Harjallah and Fayha.

#### Mental and psychosocial health support services

- WHO had delivered requested psychotropic medicines, sufficient for 87 patients for 1 month, to SARC for the response in shelters.
- Ten WHO-supported teams of community psychosocial support workers related to several NGOs provided group counseling sessions to about 20 groups of people with distress. Next week, new group of community psychosocial support workers will be trained by WHO on psychological first aid and basic psychological interventions for GBV survivors, the trainees will be from different NGOs working in Rural Damascus to join other WHO-supported MHPSS teams in the field.

#### Immunization and communicable diseases

- WHO is supporting 8 DoH vaccination teams. On 26 March, these teams vaccinated 289 children in Herjallah, Adra, Najha and Nashabye. One DOH vaccination team has entered Saqba city for the first time.
- WHO is supporting disease surveillance sentinel sites and surveillance teams covering all shelters. Acute diarrhea, upper respiratory infections and lice are still the most reported communicable diseases among IDPs. An increase in the daily average of diarrhea cases has been reported in Dweir shelters. Cases are being treated with Oral Rehydration Salts.
- Two suspected TB cases have been detected in Najha. Sputum smears will be tested to confirm the diagnosis.
- Two suspected Hepatitis cases have been reported in Adraa. The cases were referred to hospital for lab confirmation.

## Nutrition

- The number of nutrition surveillance sites has increased from 9 to 13 (8 MoH, 4 SFPA and 1 NGO). 3 stabilization centers (2 MoH and 1 MoHE) are functional. 2 children were hospitalized at the University Children Hospital on 26 March.

## **II. HOSPITALIZATION OF CRITICAL CASES**

- WHO continues to monitor the hospitalization of patients. As of 26 March 2018, 648 patients have been referred to nine public hospitals.
  - Al Mujtahed Hospital (MOH): 10 patients
  - Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (MOH): 5 patients
  - Al Hilal Al Ahmar Hospital (MOH): 3 patients
  - Al Qtaifeh Hospital (MOH): 3 patients
  - University Pediatric Hospital (MOHE): 2 children
  - Al Zahrawi Hospital (MOH): 1 pregnant woman
  - Al Muwasat Hospital (MOHE): -----
  - Qatana Hospital (MOH): 3 patients
  - University maternity Hospital: 1 pregnant woman

*The ongoing response for East Ghouta involves 13 health partners inside Syria, including the Syrian Ministry of Health, WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, International Medical Corps, Syrian Arab Red Crescent, Monastery Saint James the Mutilated, Syria Family Planning Association, Association for Poor Charity, Al Sham and Circassian Charity Association, and The Youth Charity Association of Dummer*