



WHO Representative Elizabeth Hoff visits a mobile clinic in Tal Refaat in March 2018.

Photo: WHO Syria

137,000

Estimated number of people displaced from Afrin

50,000+

Estimated number of people remaining in Afrin city

12,400

Number of medical consultations provided by WHO-supported NGOs and clinics in areas of displacement

72

Patients displaced from Afrin referred to Aleppo University Hospital since mid-March

42.5

Tonnes of medical supplies delivered to Afrin and to support displaced populations in Aleppo governorate

## SITUATION

- An estimated 137,000 people<sup>1</sup> were displaced from Afrin to at least 16 locations in Tal Refaat and surrounding villages.
- In Ahras, Fafin and surrounding areas in northern Aleppo Governorate, local authorities reportedly continue to register internally displaced people (IDPs) and to relocate the IDPs living in open spaces to new camps. Thousands of IDPs are reportedly hosted in these areas.
- Small numbers of IDPs are reportedly returning to Afrin district from Nabul, Zahraa and Tal Refaat.
- An estimated 50,000 - 70,000 people are still in the city of Afrin, where concerning shortages of medical supplies and staff have been reported. Humanitarian access the city and its outer perimeters is limited, but possible via partners and the cross-border modality.
- Of the 4 hospitals that were functioning in the Afrin city prior to recent fighting, only one continues to operate, run by a WHO-supported partner.

<sup>1</sup> Note: This number represents a drop from the previous reported figure of 183,070, and is due to additional information received in by the UN from several villages of Tal Refaat. After an inter-agency assessment on 25 March, and further consultations with SARC and national NGOs on the ground, the numbers in these villages were revised.

## NEEDS AND GAPS

- There is tremendous pressure on health facilities in communities hosting IDPs. Health facilities are struggling to cope with the influx of injured people while maintaining primary health care services.
- Limited referral services for critically ill or injured patients who require hospitalization.
- Inadequate reproductive health services for pregnant women.
- Lack of specialized and advanced healthcare facilities for patients with 'neglected' health conditions including trauma, amputations, cancer, and congenital defects.
- Insufficient number of hemodialysis centers.
- Lack of mental health and psychosocial support services for both children and adults.
- Need for more NCD medications.
- Suspected TB, leishmaniasis, and hepatitis cases require further follow up.

## WHO RESPONSE

### I. CROSS LINE

- Coordination with the national health authorities, SARC, ICRC, UN agencies and national NGO health partners is ongoing.
- At least 72 patients displaced from Afrin have been referred to Aleppo University Hospital.
- A total of 23.5 tonnes of critical health supplies, sufficient for 125,000 treatments have been sent to SARC and in Nabul, Zahraa, Tal Refaat, and the Aleppo SARC emergency unit.
- Two national NGO partners, Al-Ihsan and Al-Bir, have deployed 8 mobile medical teams in areas of displacement. An additional 40 healthcare workers have also been mobilized. WHO supported the activation of one primary healthcare centre in Nabul. Together the mobile teams and healthcare centre have provided more than 12,400 consultations.
- Al-Ihsan Charity has increased the capacity of its dialysis centre in Nabul, with WHO providing 3200 vials of Erythropoietin therapy medication.
- Mobile clinics donated by WHO are being used by several DoH teams to provide medical consultations, nutrition surveillance, leishmaniasis control, and rapid response teams.
- Acute diarrhea, upper respiratory infections scabies and lice remain the most reported communicable diseases among IDPs.
- 30 suspected measles cases were reported in the locations of Afrin IDPs (5 in Tal Refaat, 10 in Fafin and 15 in Ahras). DoH rapid response teams were informed and visited the locations to take samples from the suspected cases. Vaccination teams targeted the locations with MMR vaccine, so far reaching 780 children between 1 and 15 years-old.
- 1 AFP case was detected in Nabul and referred to Aleppo University Hospital.
- A leishmaniasis control team is distributing mosquito nets, treating infected patients, and conducting health promotion activities.
- Nutrition surveillance team are screening children for malnutrition.

### II. CROSS BORDER

- Cross-border support continues for health partners in Afrin district.
- WHO is helping health partners in Afrin district start mobile medical teams in order to compensate for closed hospitals and primary health care centres.
- On 27 March, 19 tonnes of medicines, trauma and surgery kits, IV fluids and insulin were dispatched to 4 health partners in Afrin.