



Jobar Water Supply Station in East Ghouta was destroyed as a result on the ongoing conflict. WHO assessment teams are monitoring the quality of water provided to shelters hosting displaced populations.

Photo: WHO Syria

44,667

Internally displaced people from East Ghouta remaining in 8 IDP sites

19

Sites monitoring and reporting on infectious diseases

503,916

medical treatments delivered by WHO since 9 March

61

61 medical mobile teams, health units and medical points supported by WHO

963

Patients referred to hospitals in Damascus from 13 March - 12 April

SITUATION

- From 6-8 April, renewed and intensive violence was reported in Duma city resulting in many civilian deaths and injuries. Reports include sustained airstrikes and shelling on Duma, the killing of civilians, the destruction of civilian infrastructure, and attacks against several health facilities:
 - On 7 April, Duma Specialized Hospital (also known as Duma Central Hospital) in East Ghouta, was targeted for the second time in two days by an airstrike, resulting in significant structural damages. Initial reports showed no casualties. The hospital remains partially open.
 - On 6 April, Duma Obstetric Center in East Ghouta was targeted by an airstrike, resulting in structural and medical equipment damages. Initial report showed no casualties. The staff resumed their medical duties in the less damaged parts of the facility.
- In East Ghouta, more than 130,000 people are estimated to have left the enclave since 9 March. Of the 89,683 people who arrived at IDP sites in Rural Damascus, 44,667 people remain in the sites as of 9 April. In addition, more than 50,000 combatants and their family members were transported to northwestern Syria in recent weeks.
- On 8 April, an agreement was reportedly reached in Duma city, where an estimated 78,000 – 150,000 individuals remain besieged, indicating that more displacement to northern Syria are likely to happen in the coming period.
- WHO faces a funding gap of \$5.8 million for its East Ghouta response operations to provide lifesaving assistance and services to 393,000 people-in-need as a result of the ongoing conflict.

RESPONSE PRIORITIES

- Strengthen coordination at camp level, especially in referrals of cases to reduce duplication of efforts.
- Improve timely referral of patients to hospitals and explore possibility of referring patients to private facilities.
- Set up fixed health clinics in sites hosting internally displaced persons.
- Set up evening/night shifts of health care workers in all sites hosting internally displaced persons.
- Together with national health authorities, conduct rapid assessments of all 25 public health facilities in all newly accessible areas.
- Ensure availability of specialized health care for patients with health conditions including trauma, kidney failure, amputations, chronic reproductive health conditions, congenital defects among infants, etc.
- Replenish stocks of health supplies, especially medicines and supplies for noncommunicable diseases.

WHO RESPONSE

I. IMMEDIATE INTERVENTIONS

Coordination

- Coordination with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), national health authorities, and health partners is ongoing.

Essential outreach services

- WHO is supporting a total of 61 medical mobile teams, health units and medical points that have been mobilized as part of the East Ghouta response. The teams are managed by 12 national NGOs covering 9 locations on the ground.
- Inside East Ghouta, 23 WHO-supported national mobile teams are operational in all key locations, with the exception of Douma. WHO is also supporting operational costs for 200 Directorate of Health staff.
- Since 19 March, WHO has delivered 7 shipments of health supplies to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, the Directorate of Health and local NGOs in Damascus and Rural Damascus. The supplies include health kits, medicines (including mental health medicines), hospital beds, and insulin, and are sufficient for a total of 503,196 treatments.
- During the reporting period, 28,000 outpatient medical consultations were provided across the shelters hosting internally displaced people.

Mental and psychosocial health support services

- 8 WHO-supported teams of trained community psychosocial support workers and mental health professionals provided basic psychological interventions, including group counseling sessions, children educational recreational activities. The mental health professionals provide psychological and/or Pharmacological interventions to people suffering from different mental health conditions including epilepsy, depression, anxiety and stress-related conditions.
- More than 2,800 psychosocial first aid and counselling sessions were provided during the reporting period.
- A new group of school counselors working at several schools in Rural Damascus is receiving training on the WHO School Mental Health Programme (SMHP).
- A new group of community psychosocial support workers from NGOs providing MHPSS services in EG is receiving training on Psychological First Aid and Basic Psychological Interventions for GBV survivors.

Immunization and communicable diseases

- 19 early warning and response system (EWARS) sentinel sites are currently supported and reporting on infectious diseases.

- During the reporting period, vaccination teams reached an estimated 2450 children in Kafr Batna, Arbin, Zamalka, Hazza, Ein Tarma.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

- A WHO mission was conducted to train staff of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent on testing drinking water quality for displaced populations in each of the 8 East Ghouta camps.
- A mission report was prepared and shared with the WASH sector. Jerry cans were identified as the weakest link in the water supply chain. Accordingly, specific recommendations were raised for minimizing contamination.
- Water quality monitoring by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent is presently in progress in each of the 8 East Ghouta camps. Eight refrigerators were distributed to the 8 camps for supporting water quality testing programme.

Nutrition

- 7 Directorate of Health nutrition surveillance and nutrition screening teams are covering Zamalka, Harjellah, Hazzeh, Arbin, Ein Tarma, Kafr Batna and Harasta. 3 stabilization centers are also operational.
- During the reporting period, a total of 4142 children under 5 were screened. 214 children with moderate acute malnutrition (5.1%) and 21 children with severe acute malnutrition (0.5%) were detected and managed.

II. HOSPITALIZATION OF CRITICAL CASES

- Monitoring of the hospitalization of patients from East Ghouta continues. As of 12 April, 963 injured and critically ill patients have been referred to Damascus hospitals and are being monitored.