



Mobile clinics and ambulances provided by WHO with generous support from the Government of Japan help thousands of civilians fleeing Afrin.

Photo: WHO Syria

AT A GLANCE

150,000+

Estimated population remaining in Afrin

98,000

People registered as displaced from Afrin since 20 January 2018

0

Public health facilities in service in Afrin district

5

Mobile clinics and 2 ambulances donated by WHO to Aleppo DOH in early 2018

55,700

WHO medical treatments delivered to Tall Rifaat, Zahraa and Nabal in March

SITUATION

- Turkish government forces and Syrian armed opposition 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. Limited information is available, but dire humanitarian conditions have been reported.
- People are fleeing Afrin to Tall Refaat, Nabal and Zahraa in Northern Aleppo. Around 75,000 people have been displaced to Tall Refaat and surrounding areas, and 24,000 people were displaced to Nabal and Zahraa. It is estimated that displaced people to Tall Refaat may increase to 100,000 people. The massive influx of IDPs out of Afrin is putting a strain on the nearby host communities, which are already overwhelmed.
- Provision of health services in Tel Refaat sub-district is very limited with only one health point providing services. Referrals take place to a private hospital in Zahraa town, which does not offer free services.
- Areas hosting displaced people in Tall Refaat, Nabal, Zahraa and surrounding villages are already at full capacity, and people have not been able to move to Aleppo city. A medical evacuation pathway towards Aleppo health facilities for critically ill patients is still very limited.

- 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.
- Access to health care is limited due to lack of functioning health structures. Reports indicate that the majority of the city's medical staff were among the displaced population to the nearby communities. Presently, local sources report that a private hospital in the western part of the city is still operational. A small number of doctors also remain present in the city. As of 14 March 2018, all public health facilities in Afrin district are reported to be out of service (*see map on page 3*).
- 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.

RESPONSE

Cross line

- WHO has dispatched medical shipments to support health services for people displaced from Afrin. 10 tons of items sufficient for to 55,700 treatment courses were delivered to SARC points in Tall Refaat, Nabul and Zahraa.
- WHO planned shipments to Afrin and Tal Refaat (64,612 treatment courses) are still pending due to the security situation and coordination on the ground.
- 2 public health centres in Nabul and Zahraa are functioning, in addition to 3 health points in Dier Jamal, Kafar Naya, and Meskan. Three SARC clinics are functional in Nabul, Zahraa, and Tall Refaat, in addition to a first aid center and SARC ambulance in Zahraa. Furthermore, three SARC mobile clinic were deployed to areas in Tall Refaat, one Syrian Arab Red Crescent mobile clinic, donated by WHO, is in Nabul .
- A hospital in Zahraa is providing secondary health care and surgical care. A SARC mobile clinic in Nubbul (donated by WHO) is may be used as ambulance in urgent situations.
- Three NGO-supported mobile medical teams were deployed in Nabul, Zahraa, and Tall Rifaat, consisting of 5 doctors, 5 nurses, 8 health workers, and 2 mental health service providers to serve the collective shelters.
- 16 disease surveillance centres in Azzaz health district are active and providing regular reports.
- Earlier in 2018, WHO increased the capacity of the Aleppo Department of Health through delivery of 5 mobile clinics and 2 ambulances. In addition, the main public surgical hospital received 1.3 tons of health items, medicines, and medical devices.
- Two WHO shipments were delivered to SARC points in Nabul and Zahraa in early 2018, consisting of 22,400 treatment courses. The shipments included lifesaving medicines, medicines for chronic diseases, anti-scabies medicines, antihistamines and decongestants, antibiotics (vials, tablets and bottles), multivitamins, oral rehydration salts and topical creams, and standard health kits.

Cross border

- Access to Afrin from Turkey remains limited. Currently, two partners are working in the area as follows:
 - Partner 1
 - Afrin Main Hospital
 - Afrin city primary health care centre
 - Leishmaniasis center (Rajo and Jendeyres)
 - 2 mobile clinics (soon)
 - Partner 2
 - Sharran area mobile clinic
- WHO's hub in Gaziantep, Turkey, is planning for a cross-border convoy to deliver health supplies to sustain existing structures and support additional health activities through cross-border partners.
- A fast roll-out of vaccination activities is planned, both in the form of catch-up campaigns and setting up Expanded Programme on Immunization activities.

