



*WHO continues to work with local partners to respond to the humanitarian crisis in East Ghouta. WHO will deliver an additional 7 tons of life-saving medicines that will provide more than 190,000 treatments to meet the health needs of thousands of displaced people*

**389,000**

People affected and in need of humanitarian aid

**45,000+**

People displaced, including more than 5000 children < 5

**180,000**

Medical treatments provided by WHO

**600+**

Patient consultations per day supported by WHO

**277**

Patients referred to hospitals since 11 March

### SITUATION

- Since 11 March, an estimated 45,000-50,000 people have left East Ghouta. The majority of those leaving are from the Hamouriyeh area, given the fierce fighting and damage to civilian infrastructure.
- UN teams have been visiting the collective shelters on a daily basis (Dweir, Adra, Herjelleh, Electricity, Najha, Nashabiyeh, Kherbet Al Ward) in Rural Damascus where people who have left East Ghouta are staying. All of the shelters are well over capacity, with more people continuing to arrive on a daily basis. Government schools were opened in Adra to accommodate large numbers of displaced people.
- Three new shelters are reported to receive new IDPs: school building in Najha district, Rural Damascus; Mosque in Kharbat Al-Ward district, Rural Damascus; shelter in Al-Nashabya, Rural Damascus.
- Most of the people interviewed by UN teams visiting the area had some health conditions (intestinal infections, hepatitis, skin disease, and trauma injuries) likely due to years of lack of access to medicine and health care. Most critical health needs are related to trauma management, immunization, management of noncommunicable diseases, and maternal and child health care.
- On 19 March, WHO took part in the interagency assessment mission to Najha IDP shelter identifying significant gaps for strengthening health care provision.

### WHO RESPONSE

#### I. IMMEDIATE INTERVENTIONS

##### Coordination

- On behalf of the health sector, WHO submitted an updated matrix to OCHA on health coverage of 3 key IDP shelters.
- WHO revised and submitted a consolidated health sector response plan for EG with funding requirements.

##### Outreach essential services

- 15 ambulances are providing services to people in the all designated IDP shelters and crossing points. 5 of those ambulances were previously donated to MOH by WHO. In addition, the 3 MOH mobile clinics providing services in the IDO shelters were donated by WHO.
- The number of MoH/DoH medical teams has increased to include more than 100 health workers divided in six groups to cover 6 key IDP shelters. WHO supports operational costs of the 6 teams.
- Two SARC mobile clinics and one Inaash Al-Fakeer mobile clinic are present in Adra, in addition to one ambulance. SARC has a fixed schedule of its mobile teams in IDP shelters.
- A mobile health team from Al Sham association for health is working in Al Dwer collective shelter. The team consists of an internist, pediatrician, midwife and a nurse. On 19 March, the team delivered medical consultations and treatment to 288 patients. The mobile health team from the Association for poor charity, working in Adra collective shelter, consists of general practitioner and a nurse. On 19 March, the team delivered medical consultations and treatment to over 397 patients. A mobile health team from Circassian Charity Association is on standby as needed.

#### Mental and psychosocial health support services

- WHO will start to train groups of educators/school counselors working in Rural Damascus on the WHO School Mental Health Programme and other MHPSS topics to respond to the psychological needs of children and adolescents, in addition to their families. A psychiatrist will join the WHO-supported mobile team from the Association for Poor Charity NGO.

#### Immunization and communicable diseases

- WHO-supported immunization teams in Rural Damascus are vaccinating all children under 5 against polio at crossing points and established shelters. DoH has assigned for each shelter the following vaccines: TB 1000, MMR 400, MPV 2000, OPV 3000, Penta 1200, Titanus 500, Hepatitis 500 and VIT A 3000).
- The most reported communicable diseases among the IDPs are diarrhea, upper respiratory infections and lice. 3 suspected TB cases have been reported and referred to Ibn Al Nafis hospital for lab confirmation. One suspected viral hepatitis case has been detected. The total number of suspected viral hepatitis cases so far is 3. TB control program will conduct TB active case finding starting from next week. WHO will cover the costs related to this activity.

#### Nutrition

- Nutrition screening is conducted and ongoing through teams. 1 SAM and 17 MAM in children have been detected. 1 MAM was detected in a pregnant woman and treatment provided. 2 cases of complicated SAM were referred from Adra to SC in Al Qutaifa hospital.

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

- On 19 March, 42 patients from East Ghouta were referred to hospitals (bringing the total number of referred patients to 277) as follows:
  - Al Mujtahed Hospital (MOH): 11 patients
  - Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (MOH): 5 patient
  - Al Hilal Al Ahmar Hospital (MOH): 2 patients
  - Al Qtaifeh Hospital (MOH): 19 patients
  - University Pediatric Hospital (MOHE): 10 children
  - Al Zahrawi Hospital (MOH): 3 pregnant women
  - Al Muwasat Hospital (MOHE): 1 patient
- As follow up with the Directorate of Emergency and Ambulatory Services on their need to respond to the increasing needs of evacuated people, 15 ambulances are providing services to people in all designated IDP shelters and crossing points. 5 of those ambulances were previously donated to MOH by WHO. In addition, the 3 MOH mobile clinics providing services in the IDP shelters were donated by WHO.

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