



WHO experts visit children from East Ghouta being treated at the Pediatric Hospital in Damascus

*Photo: WHO Syria*

**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

- Since 9 March, more than 80,000 people have fled East Ghouta, of which more than 52,000 are sheltered in nine collective shelters in rural Damascus.
- On 27 March, 100 buses carrying 6,768 people, including 45 medical cases, arrived in Al-Madiq Castle town in northern rural Hama. The Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) were transferred to various locations in Idlib, including to NGO-run reception centers in Maaret Elekhwan town, public buildings in Ariha town, Ghadqa village, IDP camps in the north and Saraqab sub-district. An additional 52 buses left Arbin town in the evening, carrying 3,241 people, including 11 medical cases, and arrived in north-western Syria on 28 March.
- On 26 March, 250 families [almost 1,000 people in total] from East Ghouta, who were sheltered in Sa'eed Camp in rural Idlib Governorate, were relocated to a collective shelter [school facility] in Atareb town in western rural Aleppo governorate. Previously, 20 families from Eastern Ghouta [60 people in total] were also hosted in Auli Al-Albab and Ar-Radwan housing complexes in southern Big Orem area.
- More East Ghouta evacuees are expected in the villages of Kafr Hamra, Anadan, Hreitan, Hayyan and Ma'aret Al-Artiq, and the local councils there have announced their readiness to host up to 700 families in empty houses.
- Acute diarrhea, upper respiratory infections, and lice are still the most reported communicable diseases among IDPs. No increase in communicable disease was reported on 28 March.
- Two suspected cases of TB have been reported by medical teams in Adraa and Dweir shelters.

## WHO RESPONSE

### I. IMMEDIATE INTERVENTIONS

#### Coordination

- WHO continue to coordinate with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, national health authorities, and health partners on the ongoing and planned response.

#### Outreach essential services

- One DOH vaccination team entered Harasta city for the first time.
- WHO has prepared a second shipment of health supplies, sufficient for 102,604 medical treatments, to be delivered to Rural Damascus DoH to support medical mobile teams in shelters.
- A total of 4812 WHO-supported consultations were provided on 28 March through NGO mobile health teams in Akram Abu Al Naser, Fayha, Al Nashabyeh, Dweir, Adra and Harjellah.

#### Mental and psychosocial health support services

- WHO-supported teams of trained community psychosocial support workers provided psychological first aid to 60 families in Electricity, Schools and Abo Al Naser shelters. Also, more than 200 children participated in recreational activities. 15 children with severe behavioural and emotional problems were identified and referred to receive individual psychological interventions by WHO-trained community psychological workers.

#### Immunization and communicable diseases

- Vaccination activities have been halted in Nashabya and Kherbet Al Ward, as no new children are coming to these areas. On 28 March, 77 children were vaccinated in Adra shelter, 78 children were vaccinated in Herjeleh, 151 children were vaccinated in Dweir and 11 children were vaccinated in Najha.

#### Nutrition

- The total number of active nutrition surveillance and nutrition screening teams is 11:
  - MOH (6 teams): conducting nutrition surveillance in 7 DOH sites.
  - SFPA (4 teams): 4 mobile clinics.
  - Poor charity NGO (1 team): with support from pediatricians from the private sector.

### II. HOSPITALIZATION OF CRITICAL CASES

- WHO continues to monitor the hospitalization of patients. As of 28 March 2018, 690 patients have been referred to public hospitals.

*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.*