



21 March 2018, Damascus – The World Health Organization (WHO) is supporting the delivery of critical health care for Syrians fleeing the escalating violence in besieged East Ghouta. WHO has activated an emergency operations centre that works around the clock to assist the tens of thousands of Syrians from East Ghouta who have taken refuge in collective shelters in Rural Damascus.

“Civilians arriving at the shelters are exhausted, traumatized, and suffering the effects of long-term deprivation. Large numbers of people have been sheltering underground to avoid the worst of the violence, and have symptoms of skin disease and vitamin deficiencies. Many of them are suffering from malnutrition, while others have chronic diseases that require urgent attention,” said Elizabeth Hoff, WHO Representative in Syria. “WHO is promptly responding to the urgent health needs of these people”, she added. “We will continue to scale up our response to ensure that those who need health care are able to obtain it.”

