North-East Syria Flash Update #13

01-29th February 2020

Picture Credit: UNFPA

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Situation Overview

To date, 70,630 people, including 17,657 women of reproductive age (WRA), remain displaced from North-East Syria (NES), to Al-Hassakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Aleppo governorates. Displaced people have, in the majority, found shelter in local communities but also in informal settlements and collective shelters. The local community reported that new IDP families from Idleb have been displaced to Ar-Raqqa city, through Dadat crossing point, and have been accommodated in public buildings or hosted by the local community. Since the recent development in Idleb, some 184 families have fled to Ar-Raqqa. In recent weeks, three new informal IDP settlements have been established: Tweineh (hosting an estimated 4,120 people), Tal-Samen (estimated 20 people) and Daham (estimated 1,800 people). There are 77 shelters in Al-Hassakeh Governorate. An estimated 130,101 displaced people are reported to have returned to their places of origin. Of these, 118,936 have returned to Al-Hassakeh and Ar-Raqqa. In Aleppo 10,105 have returned, mainly to Menbij. [1]

Immediate Response

Gender Based Violence (GBV)

During the period of 01-29th February 2020:

- UNFPA continued providing a range of GBV services including: GBV Case Management, Psycho-social Support (PSS), GBV awareness raising, vocational training, recreational activities, referral to more specialized services such as mental health, and more physically severe cases. GBV services are integrated with reproductive health (RH) services through mobile (MTs) teams and RH clinics and through integrated RH/GBV mobile teams are provided to the newly displaced people including referral to existing services in the camps and shelters.
- UNFPA has continued the provision of comprehensive GBV services through 5 Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS): 1 in Areesha Camp, 1 in Al-Hassakeh City, 1 in Qamishli and 1 in Ar-Raqqa and 1 in Tabqa city. Furthermore, UNFPA operates 9 mobile teams: 4 RH/GBV integrated mobile teams covering Raqqa city and Tabqa, 3 GBV mobile teams cover Al-Hassakeh City including the IDPs collective shelters and 2 cover Qamishli city.
- Aiming to help more women visit UNFPA Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS) and benefit from the provided services, UNFPA in collaboration with UNICEF established an integrated service to be provided for children who accompany their mothers inside the WGSS. A mobile Team was allocated to provide child protection services to those children.
- Based on the coordination with the Directorate of Social Affairs and Labor (DoSAL) of Al-Hassakeh, UNFPA invited the local NGOs for an orientation session on proposal writing to increase their capacity to apply for 2020 projects. A GBV mainstreaming discussion session was conducted in Qamishli targeting representatives from sectors (WASH, NFI, Protection and Child Protection). Consequently, an action plan was developed for GBV mainstreaming.
- UNFPA continues to apply the approach of assigning volunteers from local communities, aiming to enhance the community's involvement and to ensure reach of the beneficiaries in need for UNFPA services. Furthermore, this approach economically empowers the volunteers, who are both adult and young women of working age.
- 22 trucks containing 141,470 sanitary napkin packs; 20,493 winterized protection dignity kits; 5,594 female dignity kits; 7,446 male dignity kits; 903 pregnant and lactating women kits; 454 adolescent dignity kits; 10,782 blankets; 10,782 scarfs; 2,000 flash lights and 15 wheelchairs were dispatched. Distribution is currently ongoing.
- GBV services were provided to 4,455 beneficiaries.
- In Areesha Camp, UNFPA reached 282 beneficiaries.
- In Raqqa WGSS, UNFPA reached 1,689 beneficiaries.
- In several shelters in Rural Al-Hassakeh, UNFPA reached 2,484 beneficiaries.

[2] WGSS provide a range of GBV services including: GBV Case Management, Psycho-social Support (PSS), GBV awareness raising, vocational trainings, recreational activities, referral to more specialized services such as mental health, and more physically severe cases. The WGSS serve newly displaced women and adolescent girls as well as the people in the host communities.
Reproductive Health (RH)

During the period of 1st - 29th February 2020:

- UNFPA has continued the provision of ante-natal care (ANC), post-natal care (PNC), family planning (FP), treatment of reproductive tract infections (RTIs) and urinary tract infections (UTIs), pediatric, primary health care (PHC) and referral services, in addition to deliveries.
- RH services were provided to: 11,867 individuals in 52 shelters (45 shelters in Al-Hassakeh City and 7 shelters in (Rural Al-Hassakeh, Tal Tamer), in addition to 49 villages in the rural areas of Al-Hassakeh (14 in Rural TalTamer and 35 in Abdul Aziz Mountain), Ar-Raqqa City (Tabqa and Jurinia).
- 11,815 WRA (3,546 out of them pregnant) were reached with RH services.
- UNFPA distributed 37 Clean Delivery Kits (17 2A kits which will serve 3400 pregnant women and 20 2B kits for 100 midwives and birth attendances) in rural Al-Hassakeh and Qamishli.
- From the 9th of October 2019 until the 29th of February 2020, UNFPA supported 48 deliveries: 33 normal deliveries and 15 C-Sections.
- RH static clinics: 11.
- In Areesha Camp, UNFPA reached **1120 WRA**, out of which **356 are pregnant**.
- In Mahmoudi Camp, UNFPA reached **323 WRA**, out of which **256 are pregnant**.
- In Twehina camp, UNFPA reached **396 WRA**, out of which **153 are pregnant**.

Beneficiaries Reached through RH and GBV in NES

(Between 09th October 2019 and 29th February 2020)

- 61,011 beneficiaries reached with health services (RH, Paediatric & PHC).
- RH services were provided to 42,417 WRA (10,904 out of them were pregnant).
- Pediatric services were provided to 1,056 children due to dire health needs.
- Primary Health Care services were provided to 322 men due to the dire health needs.
- 45,993 beneficiaries reached with GBV services.
- RH\GBV integrated Mobile teams: 26.
- Kits1 distributed: 47,297.
- Sanitary Napkin packs distributed: 22,766.

Al-Hol Camp:

In Al-Hol camp, needs remain considerable and without a durable solution. Through its WGSS, UNFPA continues providing integrated RH/GBV services such as: PSS counselling, literacy courses, and vocational training. Additionally, ante-natal and post-natal care, family planning, treatment of urinary-tract infections and RH services are provided through a maternity clinic which operates 24/7, in addition to 1 RH mobile medical team (MMT) and 1 RH/GBV MMT, 4 RH/GBV mobile teams, as well as a field hospital. In coordination with UNICEF, UNFPA is working on the integration of services along with provision of nutrition, literacy classes and child protection. UNFPA continues the provision of case management for young mothers in Al-Hol camp, with UNICEF referring to UNFPA-supported WGSS those who have been received in their child-friendly space and need SRH and/or GBV response services.

In Al-Hol camp, UNFPA has assigned a mobile team to cover the departure area in the camp to provide awareness to returnees.

The UNFPA emergency WGSS currently only covers the needs in ‘Phase 4’ while 2 RH/GBV mobile teams in addition to 1 GBV mobile team targeting Abo Khashab Camp and 2 GBV mobile teams are providing awareness sessions and referral services in phases 5, 6, 7 and 8. Lack of specialized GBV services remains high especially in Phases 2, 5, 7 and 8, with the total number of people in those phases being more than 25,000. In response, UNFPA continues the provision of training for service providers to ensure continued quality of service.
During the reporting period, UNFPA provided training on reproductive health concepts, counselling and communication skills for the medical staff of the field hospitainer targeting 15 staff members including nurses, midwives and technicians. In addition to this, UNFPA deployed a third party personnel to provide technical support for all UNFPA supported facilities in Al-Hol camp.

With the aim of empowering women through livelihood opportunities and providing protection, UNFPA in coordination with UNICEF is providing literacy classes utilizing the approved curriculum by the Syrian Ministry of Education and the education sector. This capacitates women to seize the opportunity to continue their education in UNICEF education centers.

As part of UNFPA’s goal to provide comprehensive services in the supported facility, it was agreed with UNICEF to engage nutritionists to provide nutrition services within UNFPA supported facilities. The selected staff received GBV basic training in order to provide a comprehensive approach in the delivery of services.

212,265 beneficiaries reached (13 March 2019 - 29th February 2020) through:

- 2 RH/GBV integrated mobile teams
- 3 GBV mobile teams
- 1 emergency WGSS
- 1 RH Mobile Team
- 2 RH Static Clinic
- 1 Normal Delivery Clinic
- 1 Hospitainer
- 27,259 kits and 210,242 sanitary napkins distributed.
Challenges:

- As a result of non-renewal of Yarubiya border crossing in Al-Hassakeh Governorate and with the new United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2504 (2020), an immediate scale up in provision of services and supplies in NES has been required. Limited available capacity in NES needs to be urgently addressed. The length of approval processes for shipments of supplies and equipment to the NES will need to be closely monitored in order to assess actual capacity to deliver.

- In Areesha camp, the WGSS will need to be relocated due to the influx of IDPs from Mabrouka camp as well as the relocation of IDPs after the last flooding. (see in “Next in the Response”).

- Some of the challenges for GBV service providers in Al-Hol include: walking long distances to reach the camps, receiving from occupants in Al-Hol camp for advocating for ideas that oppose social norms, as well as the large population numbers to serve.

Next in the Response:

- 54 RH kits (including, among others, Clean Delivery Kits) were delivered to NES and will be distributed to UNFPA IPs during March 2020. Approximately 7,000 beneficiaries are expected to benefit from the RH kits.

- UNFPA plans to add one new mobile team to respond to the needs in the collective shelters in NES by the end of March.

- Cursory information indicates that there are approximately 21,000 persons with disabilities in Al-Hassakeh. UNFPA is currently cooperating with UNDP to put in place a referral mechanism in order to effectively refer persons with disabilities to the UNDP-supported disability projects.

- UNFPA will assign a GBV mobile team to visit the Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) supported by UNICEF to target the mothers who are visiting the CFS with their children. This mobile team will provide awareness raising in addition to referral services to UNFPA WGSS beneficiaries if needed.

- UNFPA continues supporting all IPs to modify the WGSS to be accessible for people with disabilities.

- The literacy curriculums, which are approved by the Syrian Ministry of Education will start being utilized in the UNFPA WGSS in Areesha camp by the end of March.

Immediate Needs:

The UNFPA funding gap for NES (including Al-Hol Camp) immediate needs:

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