

# SYRIA: FLASH UPDATE ON RECENT EVENTS

03 May 2017

This update provides a summary of recent displacement, along with developments from the **UNHCR co-led Sector/Clusters of Protection, Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and Shelter/Non Food Items (SNFI)**.

## KEY DISPLACEMENT STATISTICS (AS OF 25 APRIL 2017)<sup>1</sup>

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- **771,541** displacements recorded by the CCCM Cluster in the last 12 months from affected areas of northern and southern Syria:
  - **751,468** displacements from affected areas of northern Syria, including Aleppo (401,708), Hama (133,053), Idleb (97,495), Ar-Raqqa (98,263), Homs (10,418), Al-Hassakeh (5,294), Deir-Ez-Zor (5,237), Lattakia (41) governorates, northern Syria. This includes around **120,005** new displacements recorded in April 2017 alone, with the majority from Ar-Raqqa Governorate (55,775) and Hama Governorate (31,995).
  - **20,073** displacements from affected areas of Damascus, Rural Damascus, Sweida and Dar'a, south-western Syria. This includes around **4,646** new displacements recorded in April 2017 alone, with the large majority from Rural Damascus (4,620).

## CONTEXTUAL DEVELOPMENTS

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- On 1 May, dozens of displaced Iraqis were killed and many injured in a deadly attack by extremist groups at the Rajm Slebi crossing point, south-east of Al-Hassakeh Governorate, on the border with Iraq. Most of the injured have been moved to hospitals in Al-Hassakeh, some in critical conditions.
- With the intensification of military operation in Tabqqa, north of Ar-Raqqa city, increased numbers of people were displaced from various areas of Ar-Raqqa Governorate. The total number of displacements from the Governorate since 1 April has reached 55,775 individuals, out of which 50,726 individuals were displaced inside the Governorate, while 2,295 individuals were displaced to Deir-ez-Zor Governorate, 2,023 to Aleppo Governorate, 654 to Idleb Governorate and 77 to Hama Governorate.
- The United National Secretary-General [announced](#) on 27 April the appointment of Edmond Mulet of Guatemala as the new head of the independent three-member panel to lead the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) established by Security Council Resolution 2235 (2015) on the use chemical weapons in Syria. The Secretary-General reiterated his gratitude to the outgoing head of the JIM, Virginia Gamba of Argentina.
- On 27 April, Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien briefed the Security Council on Syria. Mr. O'Brien [said](#) that he is gravely concerned about the situation in the besieged opposition-held area of Eastern Ghouta, outside of Damascus, where the UN has been unable to access 400,000 people since October 2016. In Ar-Raqqa, Mr. O'Brien noted that the situation for IDPs living in camps is difficult, with four out of five people lacking proper shelter. Mr. O'Brien called for a consolidation of a nationwide ceasefire, in particular a pause in fighting in Eastern Ghouta to enable the delivery of aid, and the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure by all parties to the conflict.
- Following a comprehensive review, the United Nations now estimates that 4.53 million people in need are living in hard-to-reach locations including 624,500 people living in besieged locations as of 27 April. This is a decrease from 4.72 million people in January 2017.

<sup>1</sup> Some displacement statistics mentioned in other sections of this report may not be reflected in the "Key Displacement Statistics" as they are in the process of being triangulated by established population tracking mechanisms.

## UNHCR CO-LED SECTOR/CLUSTER UPDATES

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### **Protection**

- In response to the increasing displacement of population with the ongoing offensives in Ar-Raqqa Governorate, Protection Cluster members continue to strengthen protection services. This is largely done via mobile teams reaching out to the population in camps and with the simultaneous attempt to establish a more direct presence in nearby urban centres (Tal Abyad in Ar-Raqqa Governorate and Ras El Ein in Al-Hassakeh Governorate) to serve the out-of-camp population. A variety of services is already in place in Mabrouka camp (Al-Hassakeh Governorate) including mobile health clinics and reproductive health interventions. Efforts are also being strengthened in Ain Issa cotton factory camp (Ar-Raqqa Governorate) including to better advocate for improved and more predictable procedures to ensure freedom of movement and medical evacuations.
- In order to support capacity building efforts and initiatives, the Protection Sector in Syria has compiled a catalogue of free on-line training courses/modules from reputable sources/institutions that partners can use to organize self-study sessions on different aspects of protection interventions. The catalogue is conceived as a source open to active contributions from all sector members.
- In April, ten partners in the Protection Cluster in northern Syria conducted 285 interviews in three governorates (Aleppo, Idlib, and Hama), seven districts, 10 sub-districts, and 21 communities. The latest issue of the Protection Monitoring Task Force dashboard is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/mfqnrff>, which provides information of the protection threats affecting civilians in non-government-held areas in Syria.

### **Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)**

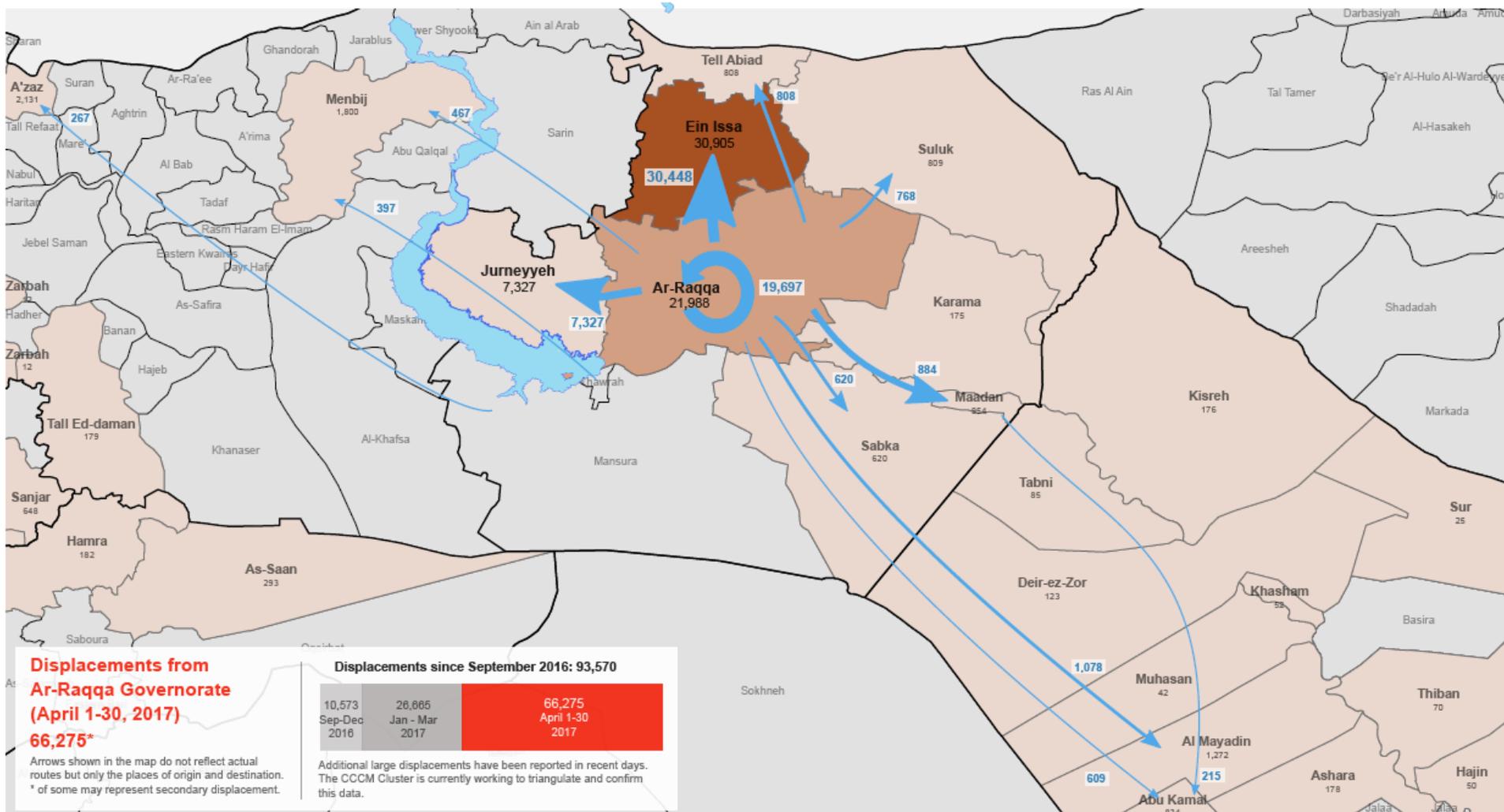
- In April, the CCCM Cluster reminded member agencies of the key necessary conditions for the establishment of all new IDP sites in northern Syria. These include the establishment of sites as a last resort only, and the adherence to CCCM guidelines. Humanitarian actors were urged to refrain from a “camp-construction” approach without proper plans for management and maintenance. Agencies establishing these sites are considered accountable for providing services. Humanitarian actors were also urged to ensure that sites are not set up without implementing minimum requirements to ensure that, among others, field teams have direct access to IDPs and promote collaborative and gender-balanced IDP committees.
- The CCCM Cluster Review Committee (CRC) finalized the revision of all submitted projects for the 2017 Syria Humanitarian Pooled Fund (HPF). Four projects out of five were endorsed and marked eligible, and were submitted through the Online Grant Management System. All the submitted projects are in line with the CCCM Cluster response strategy reflected in the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). The projects include activities such as the rehabilitation of existing infrastructure, construction of required infrastructure for new extensions, community engagement, capacity building and WASH.

### **Shelter/Non-Food Items (SNFI)**

- SNFI Cluster members are strengthening response in camps accommodating displaced families from A-Raqqa, including installation of family tents, distribution of core relief item kits, and building of communal kitchens. In Shahid Azeez transit camp (three kilometres south of Ein Issa town), Cluster members are distributing over 1,200 New Arrival and Consumable Hygiene kits. In, Ein Issa cotton factory camp, 450 tents have been installed and identification of distribution site is ongoing for 5,000 individuals. There is a potential to expand the camp to accommodate 15,000 individuals. In Mabrouka camp, 650 tents have been installed, communal kitchen has been built and reception tents have been installed. It is ready to host 5,000 IDPs and there are plans to expand the camp to accommodate another 2,200 IDPs which will bring the total capacity of the camp to 7,200 IDPs.
- A convoy from Al-Waer neighbourhood of Homs city arrived to Idlib Governorate on 1 May with 2,200 individuals (560 families). The SNFI Cluster partner will be mobilised in case need for NFI among the arrivals is identified.

# Syrian Arab Republic (Northern Governorates): Displacements from Ar-Raqqa (April 1 - 30, 2017)

Number of cluster member organizations that provided input for this data is 4



## Displacements from Ar-Raqqa Governorate (April 1-30, 2017)

66,275\*

Arrows shown in the map do not reflect actual routes but only the places of origin and destination. \* of some may represent secondary displacement.

Displacements since September 2016: 93,570

10,573	26,665	66,275
Sep-Dec 2016	Jan - Mar 2017	April 1-30 2017

Additional large displacements have been reported in recent days. The CCCM Cluster is currently working to triangulate and confirm this data.

### Legend

**Arrivals in subdistrict\***  
(% of all arrivals from 1-30 Apr, 2017)

- 0% - 6%
- 7% - 11%
- 12% - 17%
- 18% - 23%

\* Including displacements within the same sub-district.

- Governorate boundary
- Subdistrict boundary
- Subdistrict name**
- Total arrivals 1 - 30 Apr**
- New displacements reported (>200 ind.)
- New displacements within the subdistrict

The arrows on this map illustrate the reported displacement flows from Ar-Raqqa governorate between April 1 and 30, 2017. The arrows display the flow of displacements during this period. Colors on the map indicate the arrival of IDPs as a percentage of total reported in Northern Syria.

In Ar-Raqqa sub-district, the continuation of military clashes has caused the displacement of 63,824 since April 1st, 2017. The majority of these displacements moved within the sub-district or towards the west and north of the governorate. Ein Issa has received a large flow of IDPs, which are currently located in sites in the vicinity of Ein Issa city. Smaller numbers moved south-east towards Deir-ez-Zor governorate. A number of displacements was also recorded from At-Thawrah, Mansura and Maadan sub-districts towards neighboring sub-districts. In contrast to movements in the north and west of the governorate, displacements in the south of Ar-Raqqa governorate tended not to cross conflict lines.

0 20 40 Km

Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement by the United Nations. The data for this map is reported by 4 unique humanitarian actors and a limited number of othersources, who may be parties to conflict. The data has not been independently verified and is subject to error or omission, deliberation or otherwise by the various sources.

Creation Date: 02/05/2017, CCCM Cluster Turkey hub Source: CCCM cluster database, Turkey hub. Feedback: CCCM Cluster Northern Syria, Email: syria.cross.border.info@ccmcluster.org. This data was provided by CCCM Cluster member organizations and was validated through triangulation and verification by the CCCM Cluster. This data is for humanitarian use only. Draft.