Supplies from the 27.5-ton shipment delivered last week have been distributed to Dar’a National Hospital, SARC, Izr’a Hospital, and Al Sanaim.

PHOTO: WHO

>450,000
Number of people expected to be in need of aid

160,000
Estimated number of people displaced within southern Syria

7
Attacks on health facilities since 24 June

58
Non-functioning public health facilities in southern Syrian Arab Republic

27.5
Tonnes of WHO health supplies delivered

SITUATION

- The Secretary General issued a statement on Friday condemning the violence and calling on the parties to respect the De-escalation agreement, facilitate humanitarian access and seek a negotiated solution.
- Current population estimates are approximately 525,000 in opposition-controlled southern Syrian Arab Republic, of which more than 450,000 people are in need of humanitarian assistance. OCHA reports that there are now an estimated 160,000 IDPs, including 42-44,000 on eastern enclave towards the south, and 20-22,000 on the western side.
- There are four corridors opened by the Government of Syria for civilians. Five hundred IDPs were reported to have moved to Sweida through three open crossing points. The crossing point between Kafr Shams and Deir Elbakht was closed on 29 June. Displacement figures are lower through the eastern and western crossing points.
- In Jbab shelter, sanitation services (sewage, drinking water) is limited, and one child mortality case (diarrhea) was registered. There is a need for more non-communicable diseases (NCD) medicines, including insulin.
- Large numbers of IDPs are reported to have moved in close proximity to the Jordan border, particularly Tiba and Metaia, close to the Nasib Jabber free zone, some 2 km east of the Nasib border crossing. Initial reports indicate that the number of people in proximity to the Nasib area could have reached 40,000 individuals.
- Jordanian authorities have called upon the UN and Jordan-based humanitarian partners to assist in the response at Nassib Jabber free zone and its environs.

**CHALLENGES**

- Rapid evolution of the conflict and constant threat of airstrikes affecting availability of health staff and health partners, resulting in little-to-no operational capacity for emergency response.
- Limited availability of functional health facilities with capacity to provide trauma, emergency care and emergency obstetric services.
- Limited access to health facilities in newly accessible areas by humanitarian actors from Damascus.
- Identification of referral pathways; sufficiency and security of medicines and medical supplies; duty of care for NGO staff and health facility staff; and planning for continuity of services and possible handover of facilities as lines of control shift.
- Suspension of UN convoys through Ramtha border since 27 June 2018 due to the security situation.
- Interruptions in informal internal supply chains in southern Syria due to conflict, and shortages in medicines and medical supplies, such as psychotropic and analgesic drugs.
- Increasing fuel prices placing an additional strain on hospitals to keep generators running, and raising operational costs of activities like mobile medical units and health outreach.

**HEALTH CLUSTER RESPONSE**

**Coordination**

- The response is taking place cross-border from Jordan as well as from Damascus.
- Daily coordination is in place with among the involved UN agencies with SARC (the Syrian Arab Red Crescent) and the Department of Health (DoH) in Dar’a, Quneitra, and Sweida.

**I. DAMASCUS HUB RESPONSE**

**Number of referrals and evacuated**

- Eighty patients have reportedly been evacuated from Jbab to hospitals in Damascus.
Essential outreach services

- SARC branches in Dar’a, Sweida, and Quneitra are fully engaged; in Dar’a, there is a clinic, first aid center, and nutrition team. One mobile health unit (MUH) was deployed from Damascus. SARC works closely with its partners to deliver health supplies to its branch in Dar’a, the clinic that will be covering the patients in Jbab shelter. SARC in Dar’a also covers the ambulance and public health center (PHC) services and is tasked with evacuation of the wounded and those in need of hospitalization. SARC allocated three ambulances at each of the three crossing points and one ambulance at Jbab shelter.

- WHO operates 2 static health points and 2 mobile medical teams in Dara city and Jbab areas and is ready to launch another 8 mobile medical teams upon receiving the necessary approvals in Izra, As Sanamayn, Ghabaghed areas. Prepared two new shipments based upon identified needs for SARC Dara’a and Sweida national hospital. WHO focal points are on the ground in Dar’a coordinating and visiting different sites, including DoH, SARC branch, Al Bir NGO in Jbab, a national hospital, and shelters.
  - In Jbab shelter, there are an estimated 3,000 displaced present. SARC is on the ground. A DoH team of eight staff is present. Prescriptions are being issued, and nutrition screenings are in place.
  - Four schools and a mosque in Jbab were opened up for displaced people. A medical team from a local charity visits the mosque and schools.
  - First aid services are being provided by a SARC mobile clinic.

- UNICEF has three medical teams in Jbab shelter (each consisting of 9 DoH health workers) that provide health and nutrition services in the new medical point. A mobile medical team of 10-14 health workers provide health and nutrition services in the crossing point of Da’el.

The 27.5 tonne shipment of WHO health supplies distributed last week have reached Dar’a National Hospital, SARC, Izra Hospital, and Al Sanaim.

- DoH Dar’a is setting up health tents and areas hosting IDPs; providing the necessary medical equipment and supplies required to operationalize each tent; ensuring transportation for medical staff; and assigning medical teams at each of the four crossing points.

- International Medical Corps (IMC) is operating a static health clinic in Sanamayen.

- UNFPA is operating three mobile teams and two static clinics in Dar’a.

- Monastery of St James, the mutilated (MSJM) has one mobile team which covers Izra, Shegra, and other areas.

- Rsass shelter (Sweida) received 80 people, including 18 children under five from the near-east parts of Dar’a. The Health and Nutrition Rapid Response Team was activated in cooperation with DoH.

Disease surveillance

- 108 Early Warning Alert and Response (EWARS) sentinel sites are operational in southern Syria.
**Nutrition**

- Two nutrition stabilization centres and 45 nutrition surveillance centres are functional.

**Mental and psychosocial health support services (MPHSS)**

- 20 health facilities and community centers are providing MHPSS support.

**II. JORDAN HUB RESPONSE**

- Jordan cross-border partners are operating under the health sector preparedness plan for southern Syria.

**Medicines and Medical Supplies**

- Medical stocks on the ground in opposition-controlled areas are expected to cover up to 300,000 persons for three months.

- Three surgical supply kits have been dispatched to Tal Shehab health facility in coordination with the interim Dar’a directorate of health and health partners.

- UN convoys at Ramtha border are still suspended. Health partners currently have thirteen trucks carrying 85 tons of emergency medical response supplies on standby and ready to cross the border once it opens.

**Health Facilities and Service Availability**

- WHO is maintaining regular communication with DoH and implementing health partners. DoH continues providing healthcare services at three relocated field hospitals in Dar’a governorate, providing emergency medical services.

- Cross-border health sector response continues to support the following:
  - 49 facilities: four referral hospitals, 12 field hospitals, and 33 primary health care sites

- Eastern Ghariyeh hospital – home to the only blood bank in opposition-controlled southern Syria - is out of service; However, the facility has managed to relocated its blood bank to a safe area and is currently working with 50% of its capacity to provide freshly tested blood units to the functional hospitals in Dar’a for emergency surgeries.

- NCD-integrated health facilities are continuing to provide NCD services in Moraba, Yadudeh, Nimer and Nabe El Sakher. Partners are requested to review their stock and submit their request if additional NCD kits are needed.
Outreach

- Mobile medical units previously operating in E. Dar’a have ceased operations and are being reprogrammed

- Health partners are mobilizing to offer 3 mobile units to provide health and protection services to displaced persons in informal settlements and host communities within Quneitra.

- The health sector is also mobilizing emergency resources to support mobile response.

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