



AI-Hol Situation Report

Update Number 2, 17 March 2019

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Al-Hol Camp, Al-Hasakah Governorate, North-East Syria

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Situation Overview:

With the escalation of hostilities in Al-Baghouz in the eastern countryside of Deir-Ez-Zour, Al-Hol camp continues to receive an influx of displaced people. While the last few days had seen a marked slowdown of arrivals, the situation remains unpredictable.

As observed in recent influxes to Al-Hol, most new arrivals are women and children, who still constitute the majority of the camp's residents. Signs of distress, fatigue, malnutrition and need for some form of medical care are clearly displayed. The negative impact on people is due to the length and challenges of the displacement journey, which takes them several days from Al-Baghouz to the transit camp Al-Sour in Deir-Ez-Zour, where they are then transferred by lorries to Al Hol camp.

There is a significant prevalence of pregnant girls, unaccompanied minors and elderly, and people with disabilities. The needs continue to be dire, and while the UN and partners are working on mitigative solutions for shelter, people are still exposed to harsh weather conditions with very little protection from the cold and rainstorms. As part of the overall humanitarian response, UNFPA has provided 20 large size communal tents.

As of March 15, the total number of IDPs in the camp is 67,794 people, which is expected to increase once the entirety of the camp's population completes the registration process. In addition to the prevailing stressors associated with in-camp settings, including the lack of privacy, protection risks, and the growing risk of gender-based violence, women at the camp facing mounting distress and anxiety after having been forcibly separated from their families. Moreover, the lack of information on the fates of their families has compounded this anxiety, triggering a demonstration by affected female IDPs against the security personnel in the camp.

General figures:

- The total population in Al-Hol has reached 67,794 people as reported on March 15, 2019 (OCHA).
- The number of girls and women from ages (14 -50 years) within the camp is 16,855.
- The number of people with mental and physical disabilities in the camp is 786.
- On March 14, two children were reported to have died on the road while on their way to the camp, which brings the total number of fatalities to 122 on that day. Figures show that 56% of reported deaths involve females.

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Gender Based Violence (GBV) — Situation Analysis:

Gender based violence undermines the health, dignity, security and autonomy of its survivors. It is a life-threatening, global health and human rights phenomenon that violates international human rights law and principles of gender equality.

- Given that the vast majority of people in Al-Hol camp are women and children who have been separated from their families and possible safety nets, there is a potential risk of gender-based violence, particularly sexual violence, exploitation and abuse.
- These protection concerns have increased due to the high influx number of new arrivals. Overcrowding and disruptions in safety nets put women and children in conditions of evident fatigue and distress as they wait outdoors for screening, identification and receipt of Non-Food Items (NFIs). This can sometimes lead to a variety of medical conditions, particularly during extreme weather conditions.
- As in previous weeks, the majority of arrivals are women and children, including unaccompanied and separated children, injured individuals who are in need of urgent medical care, and people with disabilities or special needs. The physical and psychological vulnerability of new arrivals requires an increase in human resources and capacity in more specialized aspects of protection.
- While protection teams on the ground are dispersed to various areas of the camp to identify needs and support referrals, women and girls remain vulnerable to sexual violence and abuse.
- As a general observation, there is a large number of adolescent pregnancies as well as a concern over child marriage cases.

Reproductive Health (RH)- Situation Analysis:

Considering the vast number of women and girls in the camp and the poor general health conditions, reproductive health problems are substantive: urinary tract infections, trauma and reproductive tract infections amongst others. Humanitarian partners are preparing for an additional 10,000 new arrivals in the coming few days. While there has not been any maternal mortality case reported during this period, UNFPA continues to stress the necessity to ensure zero maternal mortality in Al-Hol camp. Provision of reproductive health services remain life-saving to women and girls.

UNFPA is making great efforts to meet the reproductive health needs in Al-Hol camp through its three reproductive health mobile teams and one static clinic. As part of the agency's efforts to scale up the response, services have been extended to weekends.

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Services provided include antenatal care; family planning; normal delivery services; pediatrics; postnatal care; referrals; treatment of reproductive tract / urinary tract infection treatment and trauma and others.

Each team consists of a gynaecologist, midwife, nurse, psychosocial support worker, and a coordinator.


UNFPA served 982 people between March 14 and 16, 204 of whom were pregnant women.

To date, no maternal mortality cases have been reported. Nevertheless, according to WHO and UNICEF, the total number of mortalities has reached 121, the majority of whom are children.

The ages of pregnant women and girls range between 15 to 38, according to cursory information provided by UNFPA's teams.

UNFPA GBV & RH RESPONSE: (between March 14 and 16)

UNFPA referred **30** cases to Al Hassakeh hospital  UNFPA provided GBV services to a total

1,461 people  The number of GBV beneficiaries is estimated to reach between **400-450** people daily.

UNFPA reached **982** beneficiaries with **RH** services including **204** pregnant women 

UNFPA currently operates **3** mobile teams  **1** RH static clinic 

Human Interest Story:

A pregnant woman in her 8th month of pregnancy had previously been wounded and a bullet penetrated her waist and exited the opposite side of her body. Afraid that she had lost her baby, she cried; "I was close to giving birth, but now my child is gone." Upon examination by the UNFPA Reproductive Health team, it was confirmed the baby was still alive. In order to save mother and child, she has since been referred to a hospital in Al-Hasakeh despite the prevailing mobility and security challenges.

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Humanitarian Impact:

Humanitarian needs as mentioned in the previous update	UNFPA response to needs as progress from previous update	Continued humanitarian needs
There is an urgent need for Reproductive Health and GBV services delivered through mobile teams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNFPA upscaled services and provides 3 mobile teams, 1 static clinic. The reproductive health teams are now working during the weekend as of 15th March 2019. GBV mobile teams increased to 4. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a need to upscale dignity kits distribution with the increased arrivals as well as those forecasted to arrive in the upcoming days. There is a need for an additional 2 WGSS in order to adequately respond to the needs.
There is a high need for dignity kits for women, including lactating women, adolescent girls and boys.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNFPA distributes an estimated 400-450 dignity kits per day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a need to upscale distribution with the increased arrivals as well as those forecasted to arrive in the upcoming days.
There is an immediate need for tents for shelter, WASH facilities in line with the GBV risk mitigation 2015 guidelines ensuring adequate lighting, facilities disaggregated by gender and locks adapted for children, solar lamps for the provision of light to improve protection within the camp, and heaters to provide warmth during the harsh weather conditions, adult diapers for IDPs living with disabilities, the injured and the elderly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The needs remain the same and intervention still needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The needs remain the same and intervention still needed.

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Through the Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF), UNFPA has received 784,000 USD in March to provide integrated GBV services in Al Hol camp. Still, there is an urgent need for funding to support the expansion of GBV and RH services and respond to the critical and increasing needs of the population.

Sources:

OCHA Flash Update #8

Map: OCHA, SYRIA: HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN AL HOL CAMP Flash update #8 As of 15 March 2019

UNFPA's Minimum Standards for Prevention and Response to GBV in Emergencies ([GBViE](#))

WHO

UNICEF



UNFPASyria



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Syria.UNFPA.org