

HUMANITARIAN UPDATE

ISSUE 24, MAY 2024, SYRIA

**CROSS-LINE
MISSION TO
ALOUK WATER
STATION**

**IMPACT OF
CLIMATE CHANGE
AND WEATHER
CONDITIONS**

**OIL DERIVATIVES
AND ENERGY
CRISIS WORSENERD**

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23.4M Total
Population

16.7M People
in need (HNO 2024)

7.4M Children
in need



Humanitarian Response Plan 2024 (HRP) (As of 31 May)



12.5%
Funded



\$4.07B
Funding requirements



\$508M
Funding received



\$3.56B
Funding Gaps

Syria Humanitarian Fund (SHF) - Funding Status Update (As of 31 May)

\$18.7M
Paid contributions in 2024

\$19.5M
Carry-over from 2023

\$35.9M
Available funds

On 30 May, in his statement to the United Nations Security Council, Mr Martin Griffiths highlighted concerns over the underfunding for the Syria humanitarian response which has the biggest funding gap since the start of the crisis.

Electricity production in Syria has plummeted by 80 per cent after more than a decade of conflict, which creates a cascading crisis, further crippling other essential services, like water, health and food production. In May, the cost of living nearly doubled compared to last year. Food prices increased by 83 per cent in the same period.

On 21 May, following intensive coordination and advocacy, a joint cross-line mission took place to Alouk water station in Ras Al Ain area, Al-Hasakeh Governorate.

As of 28 May, the World Health Organization's (WHO) partners have been prevented from entering Al Hol Camp following the de facto authorities' decision to suspend WHO activities in the camp on 7 May. Advocacy efforts are ongoing for WHO partners to resume their activities in the camp especially as some diseases may increase during the hot summer.

During May, fire incidents reportedly consumed large swaths of crops in various locations across Syria. Fires continued to cause huge losses to farmers, primarily affecting fields of wheat, barley and various other crops.

As of the first week of the final national examinations, humanitarian actors have been responding to the needs of around 8,400 students and their chaperones in accommodation centres across the five hubs.

BRIEFING TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN SYRIA BY THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY RELIEF COORDINATOR (ERC), MR MARTIN GRIFFITHS

On 30 May, Martin Griffiths briefed the United Nations Security Council on the humanitarian situation in Syria.

Mr Griffiths stated that "Syria remains a protection crisis. Children continue to be killed, women and girls continue to fear for their safety and across Syria, more than seven million people remain displaced, a figure surpassed only by Sudan. Millions of others continue to live as refugees in neighbouring countries and beyond."

Mr Griffiths thanked all parties for facilitating the cross-line assessment mission to Alouk water station in Al-Hasakeh Governorate on 21 May.

In addition, the ERC called on all parties to the conflict in Syria to respect international humanitarian law, especially following the uptick in hostilities in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate, very close to the UN hub and other humanitarian premises which damaged humanitarian assets and led to the temporary suspension of humanitarian operations.

Finally, Mr Griffiths highlighted concerns over the underfunding for the humanitarian response which has the biggest funding gap since the start of the crisis.

Read the full statement [here](#).

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Currency depreciation and rising inflation, being driven by reduced access to goods, disrupted supply chains and heightened logistics costs, have collectively contributed to the increase in prices of essential household goods.

Agricultural production inputs have been significantly impacted by reduced government subsidies for fuel and fertilizers and the sharp rise in transportation costs, irrigation water pumping fees and mechanized agricultural work. This has resulted in a steep rise in the prices of agricultural and food products that are household staples, such as meat, dairy and eggs, making them unaffordable for most of the population.

The declining economic situation has led to an increase in humanitarian needs as everyday life has become unaffordable for the people in Syria. Now in its 14th year of crisis, Syria is grappling with an unprecedented emergency, with new crises emerging and taking a heavy toll on the people in Syria.

Protracted displacement, economic decline, global inflation, escalation of hostilities and the aftermath of the earthquakes that struck south-eastern Türkiye and northern Syria in February 2023 are some of the biggest challenges people in Syria currently face.

Exchange rate: In May, the Syrian pound (SYP)/US\$ official exchange rate stabilized in the Central Bank's "Money Transfers and Cash Foreign Exchange Quotation" at SYP13,500/\$1 compared to SYP13,000/\$1 at the beginning of the year. In the informal market, the exchange rate stood at SYP14,700-14,850/\$1 compared to SYP14,200-14,400/\$1 in early January.

Oil derivative prices: On 26 May, the Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection reduced the price of subsidized

gasoline (Octane 90) from SYP12,500/litre (l) to SYP12,276/l, unsubsidized high-quality gasoline (Octane 95) from SYP14,368/l to SYP13,873/l and unsubsidized diesel from SYP11,996/l to SYP11,772/l. The previous price amendment was on 13 May. The decrease in oil derivative prices does not tend to result in reduced prices of various commodities, living expenses and transportation fees.

New electricity fees affected: In May, the Ministry of Electricity started applying new tariffs for power supply, which had been announced in March. The new tariffs are based on consumption ranges, with an increase of 80-200 per cent for domestic power supply. For approximately 75 per cent of the population, the tariffs have reportedly increased from SYP2/kilowatt (kW) to SYP10/kW and the electricity bill is expected to amount to around SYP60,000 (equivalent to \$4.4) per household every two months. The price of electricity for commercial purposes has increased threefold.



The new electricity tariffs are considered prohibitive as the average monthly salary of an employee in the public sector is around \$20. The new tariffs come amidst an excessive power rationing system applied across Syria.

Of note, electricity production in Syria has plummeted by 80 per cent after more than a decade of conflict, which creates a cascading crisis, further crippling other essential services, like water, health and food production, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Since late April, the national power generation has reportedly decreased from around 2,300 megawatts (MW) to 1,700 MW daily due to delayed fuel imports. The demand is around 7,000 MW daily.

Soaring prices: In May, the cost of living measured by the minimum expenditure basket (MEB) monitored by WFP nearly doubled compared to last year. Food prices increased by 83 per cent in the same period.

The minimum wage was three times higher than the cost of a household average food basket in 2019. Today, a person earning a minimum wage can only afford less than one-fifth of a family's food needs and 10 per cent of the MEB.

Local surveys reported that the average cost of living for a family of five in Damascus increased to around SYP12.5 million/month while the average monthly salary in the public sector is around SYP375,000 - SYP400,000. Prices of various commodities continued to increase, including basic food items. For example, fruit prices have reportedly increased by around 70 per cent compared to last year and remain higher than in neighbouring countries.

The prohibitive prices pushed many people to purchase fruits by the piece. Several factors reportedly contributed to rising fruit prices such as exportation and increased agricultural input and production costs. The prices are reportedly expected to decrease

later during the summer when more crops ripen.

Similarly, new clothes prices, especially children's clothes, have become unaffordable. Therefore, exchanging used clothes has become common.

Grim economic view for 2024: On 24 May, the World Bank issued two reports "Syria Economic, Spring 2024" and "Syria: Growth Contraction Deepens and the Welfare of Syrian Households Deteriorates."

According to the World Bank, the real GDP is expected to contract by 1.5 per cent in 2024. As of 2022, poverty has affected 69 per cent of the population, while extreme poverty has reached 27 per cent up from a negligible level in 2009.

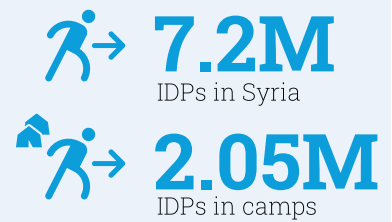
The continued funding shortfalls and limited access to humanitarian assistance have further drained the ability of households to meet basic needs amidst soaring prices, reduced access to essential services and rising unemployment.

Private investment is expected to remain weak amid a volatile security situation and considerable economic and policy uncertainty. Inflation is anticipated to remain high in 2024 due to the pass-through effects of currency depreciation, along with persistent shortages and potential further subsidy cuts of food and fuel. The 2024 national budget signals a continued trend of subsidy reductions for essential commodities.

The reports further highlight that poverty in Syria has a strong spatial connotation; more than 50 per cent of the extremely poor live in just three governorates (Aleppo, Hama and Deir-ez-Zor). Female-headed households and internally displaced households are at the highest risk of poverty. The report also highlights that international remittances have been a critical life-line for Syrian households. Read the full reports [here](#).

DISPLACEMENT KEY FIGURES AND FACTS

Syria continues to have one of the highest numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the world. Displacement remains one of the main elements driving humanitarian needs in Syria. Large-scale and protracted displacement caused by over 13 years of hostilities has been exacerbated by the impact of the earthquakes, contributing to significant population movements in many parts of Syria.



74 per cent of IDPs out of camps in northern Syria reported being unable or completely unable to meet basic needs. A parallel trend was identified in the 2022 MSNA, with 90 per cent of out-of-camp IDPs in central and south Syria unable to meet their basic needs.



The MSNA 2022 and 2023 show that IDP households living outside camps persistently depend on negative coping strategies such as borrowing, selling assets and remittances. In northern Syria, 88 per cent of households reported relying on borrowing to cover essential needs.



55 per cent of IDPs in camps reported that unemployment was one of the main challenges to meeting basic needs, underlining the particularly challenging employment landscape for IDPs, especially in camps.



34 per cent face challenges in maintaining adequate living space and personal warmth. This is attributed to insufficient and unsuitable shelter types, limited access to appropriate winter clothing, and inadequate heating resources.



The coping mechanisms deployed by households further emphasize the precarity of IDP populations. While most of the population groups reported reliance on borrowing or credit, the figure was highest for in-camp IDPs, at 92 per cent of households.



55 per cent of men, 49 per cent of women, 19 per cent of boys and 17 per cent of girls inside camps, showed signs of high level of stress such as being nervous, irritable, worried or prolonged sadness, hopelessness, difficulties sleeping or performing everyday life's activities.



According to the Shelter Sector, 12 per cent of out-of-camp IDPs face eviction or housing issues.



13 per cent of IDPs out of camps reported feeling discriminated against due to community tensions.



85 per cent of IDPs in camps reported being unable or completely unable to meet their basic needs.

CAMPS UPDATE

AL HOL CAMP

As of 26 May, the population of Al Hol Camp stood at 11,788 families (41,809 people).

Violent attacks against humanitarian staff have continued to be reported in Al Hol Camp, especially in the Annexes, despite the awareness messages and security measures.

On 15 May, the road that connects Al-Hasakeh City with the camp was closed for four days following intra-tribal disputes in the area. The life-saving activities in the camp continued through facilitators from Al Hol town. On 19 May, humanitarian actors resumed all activities in the Camp.

On 21 May, a nine-year-old girl was run over by a water truck in Al Hol Camp. The girl was hospitalized in Al-Hayat Hospital in Al-Hasakeh City. The Protection working group emphasized that drivers should adhere to speed limits in the camp. The Education working group highlighted the need for safety awareness messages to prevent similar incidents.

On 26 May, a cross-border health actor reportedly secured funds to cover all health referrals from Al-Hasakeh camps. This intervention is expected to continue from October 2024 until June 2025. It is still unclear whether patients will be referred to Al-Hikma Hospital or the National Hospital in Al-Hasakeh City. A partner is assessing a local hospital in Al-Hasakeh City as a potential referral site for cases from the camp. On 30 March, health referrals to Al-Hikma Hospital stopped due to a funding shortfall.

As of 28 May, WHO partners have been prevented from entering the camp following the de facto authorities' decision to suspend WHO activities in the camp on 7 May. Advocacy efforts are ongoing for WHO partners to resume their activities in the camp especially as some diseases may increase during the hot summer.



The Shelter and Non-Food Items (S/NFI) working group reported that the only foreseen sector response is the provision of plastic sheets across all camps, as none of the partners are available to provide the summer or winter response. Moreover, the relocation of third-country nationals (TCNs) to Annex 6 is ongoing. In addition, the S/NFI sub-national sector completed the tent replacement of all UNHCR family-size tents.

Moreover, fire incidents, especially related to the use of kerosene, are frequently reported in the Camp despite awareness sessions. On 8 May, a fire broke out in zone 5 due to a kerosene stove explosion burning four tents. The S/NFI sub-national sector replaced the affected tents.

The food distribution cycle for March-April has been completed, but the May-June cycle has not started due to logistical challenges.

Since 14 April, the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sub-national sector partners have started providing drinking water to the camp population according to the increased summer criteria (30 l per person).

PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT

RETURNEES FROM LEBANON

From January to 21 May, around 310 families returned from Lebanon to their places of origin in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate. Most of the returnees are hosted by their relatives and require legal assistance for civil documentation, as well as health and livelihood support. In response, the Protection sector, through partners, is assessing the situation of the returnees.

On 14 May, around 330 Syrians returned from Lebanon to Syria through the Zamrani border crossing in the Qalamoun area, Rural Damascus Governorate. These families were temporarily hosted in a housing facility in Yabroud City, Rural Damascus Governorate, and returned to their places of origin on the same day. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and two national non-governmental organizations (NNGOs) provided the families with essential assistance.

On 14 May, two families returned from Lebanon through the Josieh border crossing point, Homs Governorate, and were hosted by their relatives in the Al Qusair sub-district as their houses were damaged. SARC provided the families with relief items. Reportedly, 11 families have recently arrived from Lebanon to Homs. According to SARC, the returning families returned to their original villages in the Al Qusair sub-district which lacks basic public services.

Arrivals from Rukban in Homs Shelters by Year (individuals) as of 31 May 2024



In May, seven people from Rukban arrived at Mahmoud Othman collective shelter in Homs City. Movement out of the shelter continued. As of 31 May, 20,783 people from Rukban have arrived in Homs shelters, including seven remaining in Mahmoud Othman shelter.

REPATRIATION

On 7 May, five TCN families (including 10 US, seven Canadian and four Dutch nationals) were repatriated from Al Roj Camp, Al-Hasakeh Governorate. On 24 May, a British woman and three children were repatriated from Al Roj Camp. As of 24 May, 2,828 TCN families have been repatriated from north-east Syria (NES) camps.

DEPARTURES

On 8 May, 66 Syrian families (or 239 people) reportedly returned from Al Hol Camp to Deir-ez-Zor Governorate, under tribal leaders' sponsorship. This marks the first departure from the camp since 3 September last year, when 92 families left for Ar-Raqqa Governorate. As of 8 May, around 10,774 IDPs have returned from Al Hol Camp to their places of origin.

Estimated Departures from NES Camps as of 31 May 2024

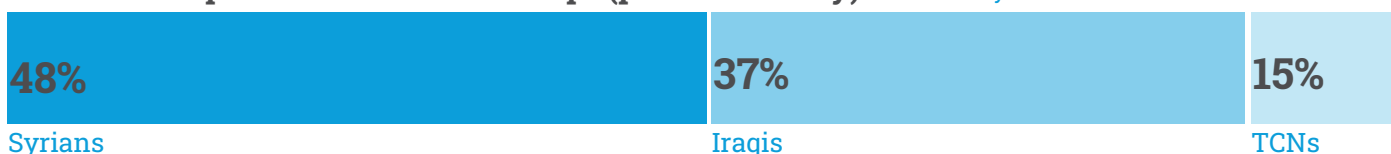


RETURNEES TO IDLEB

Residents/returnees to Idleb: Since October 2018, 11,900 families (59,500 people) have been registered as residents/returnees in Idleb Governorate. The IDP families are mainly coming from Aleppo, Latakia, Homs, Hama, Rural Damascus and Tartous Governorates and other locations in Idleb crossing via the Al-Tayha crossing-point, located in north-western Aleppo Governorate. The returnees' needs mainly include reintegration, livelihood opportunities, access to basic services due to damaged public infrastructure, solid waste management, shelter rehabilitation, solar/renewable energy to operate essential services and financial services.

Earthquake-affected IDPs returning to Idleb: As of 31 May, 141 earthquake-affected families returned to Idleb Governorate coming from other locations in Idleb, Latakia, Homs, Tartous, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Aleppo and Hama Governorates. Of those, 55 families are hosted in two shelters in Khan Shaykun City while the rest are hosted by relatives in multiple communities. The Governorate of Idleb designated 40 prefabricated units in Khan Shaykun City to receive the families accommodated in collective shelters.

Estimated Departures from NES Camps (per Nationality) as of 31 May 2024



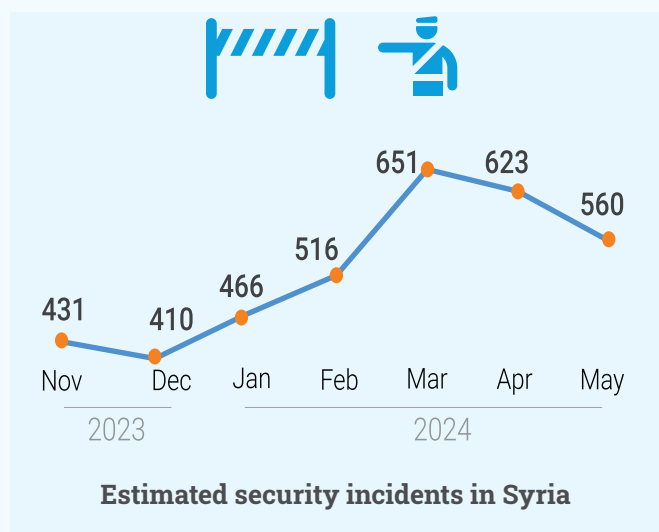
SECURITY INCIDENTS

War ordnance, including landmines and unexploded improvised explosive devices (IEDs), bombs, shells, projectiles and grenades continue to pose a threat to people's safety across the country.

In May, the number of security incidents (armed conflict, civil unrest, terrorism, hazard and crime) decreased from around 623 in April to around 560. The incidents include around 219 in NES, including 56 armed conflict incidents, 163 in the northern region, 72 in the central region, 26 in the coastal region, 71 in the southern region and nine in Damascus/Rural Damascus.

In May, at least four civilians were reportedly killed and another 30 injured in hostilities, while at least four civilians were reportedly killed and another 11 injured in explosive ordnance (EO) incidents across the country.

In Deir-ez-Zor Governorate, the security situation remains tense and volatile. On 1 May, the driver of the head of the water corporation in Deir-ez-Zor was wounded when gunfire hit his vehicle near the Al-Bogheleyah water station: 1.4 kilometres away from the UN hub. On the same day, sporadic gunfire was reported near the UN hub in Deir-ez-Zor City. Bullets also hit the Badiyah Al Sham Hotel in Deir-ez-Zor City where the UN armoured vehicles were temporarily parked. In addition, an unconfirmed number of civilian casualties and material damage were reported in shelling on the Rural Development Centre and adjacent neighbourhoods in Al-Mayadeen City. As a result, several UN agencies have suspended their activities in the centre since 2 May. On 19 May, two stray bullets hit the wall adjacent to an international non-governmental organization's office in



Al-Bustan Hotel, Deir-ez-Zor City.

On 25 May, an IED attached to a vehicle exploded in Al-Mazzeah neighbourhood of Damascus City causing material damage. The previous attack in Damascus took place on 14 April when an IED attached to a vehicle exploded in the Al-Huda Square, Al-Mazzeah Jabal, Damascus City.

On 29 May, one girl was reportedly killed and another 12 civilians, including children, wounded in a missile attack in Baniyas City, Tartous Governorate. In addition, material damage was reported. This is the second attack in Tartous Governorate in 2024, with the first incident having taken place on 1 March.

CROSS-LINE MISSION TO ALOUK WATER STATION

On 21 May, following intensive coordination and advocacy, a joint cross-line mission took place to Alouk water station in Ras Al Ain area, Al-Hasakeh Governorate, to assess the situation and provide technical support. Water pumping from Alouk has been frequently disrupted since October 2019. Since October 2023, the interruptions escalated affecting around one million people's access to safe drinking water in Al-Hasakeh Governorate.

During the mission, the team found the station's structure and equipment in good condition. Out of 34 boreholes, only 16 are functional (in case of electricity availability) and four power generators are available. However, around 16,000 l of diesel are needed daily to operate the generators. Currently, there are no means to supply power to Alouk station.

The population in the Al-Hasakeh sub-district continue to rely on water trucking from Al-Himma, Nafasha, and Tal-Brak water stations, provided by the WASH sub-sector partners, where some 5,000 cubic metres (m³) are provided daily compared to 75,000 m³ through Alouk station. In addition, water truck drivers launched an initiative to sell water to families at 50 per cent of the usual price of SYP45,000/1,000 l. The Water Supply Company also dug multiple boreholes in Al-Hasakeh City to secure water for domestic needs and is filling around 5,000 communal water tanks with a capacity of 5,000 l each in various neighbourhoods. People in Al-Hasakeh City rely on water supply from 16 reverse osmosis units, set up by UNICEF, to obtain drinking water.

IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

During May, fire incidents reportedly consumed large swaths of crops in various locations across Syria. Fires continued to cause huge losses to farmers, primarily affecting fields of wheat, barley and other crops. Despite the local communities and authorities' efforts to extinguish and contain the fires, extensive losses have been reported.

As of 19 May, the fire reportedly damaged around 2,024 hectares of wheat and barley in Dar'a and 48 hectares in As-Sweida Governorates. Most farmers in the southern region started to harvest their crops early to avoid more losses caused by fire.

However, shortages of firefighting resources and early warning systems hindered the timely and efficient response to the fires. In general, agricultural activities in the

southern region are heavily impacted by climate change, lack of fuel and high prices of agricultural inputs (such as seeds, fertilizers, treatment and equipment). Climate resilience localized solutions are vital to improve the agriculture sector in the southern region and subsequently enhance food security and access to livelihoods in the area.

On 24 May, a fire reportedly damaged around 150 hectares of crops in Jablet El-Hamra in A'rima sub-district, and Jeb Makhsum village in Miloyran Membij sub-district, Aleppo Governorate. On 28 May, around 20 hectares of agricultural land were damaged during shelling on Kreidiyeh, Madiq Bu Azara and Jablet Elhamra villages in A'rima sub-district, Aleppo Governorate.

NES is facing a similar challenge where around 980 hectares of wheat and barley have been damaged by fire in Al-Hasakeh Governorate in May. The affected area of irrigated wheat reached 300 hectares and affected around 315 tons of production, while the affected off-irrigated area planted with wheat reached 580 hectares and affected 261 tons of production. Another 100 hectares planted with barley were also affected.

The Directorate of Agriculture in Al-Hasakeh called on farmers to take measures to prevent fires, including installing a spark suppressor in agricultural tractors and harvesters and attaching them to a water tanker during harvest. In addition, the Directorate advised drivers on public and side roads adjacent to agricultural areas to ensure their cigarettes are properly extinguished and disposed of.

On a related note, heavy rainfall partially impacted about 500 hectares of crops in Derbasyah town affecting barley, wheat and cumin crops. In addition, on 11 May, a heavy windstorm affected Tweineh/Washokani Camp, Al-Hasakeh Governorate, destroying some tents. The S/NFI sub-national sector replaced the damaged tents.

Furthermore, harsh weather conditions and limited response capacities have been reported in Homs and Hama Governorates. On 7 May, heavy rain and hailstorms severely damaged the agricultural land in Rabah, Fahel, Kafram, Shin, Al-Maranah, Ain Al Fawar villages in Qabu and Shin sub-districts of western rural Homs, as well as several villages in Masyaf sub-district of western rural Hama.

The Agriculture Directorates in Homs and Hama launched assessments to identify the extent of the damage. According to the assessments, 90 per cent of the four million apple trees (the main product in Homs' countryside) or an estimated 10,705 out of 11,200 hectares have been damaged impacting the livelihoods of around 870 families.

Previously, on 2 May, heavy rainstorms caused flooding due to blocked sanitary drains in the streets of Hama Governorate, mainly Hama City, As-Salamiyeh City and its countryside, and Souran and Maardis areas in the northern countryside. On 3 May, following an assessment, SARC provided 35 affected families in Hama City with food, water and hygiene kits. The maintenance teams cleared the rain drains in some affected locations.

On 5 May, heavy rain and floods in NES caused the partial collapse of the Al-Shraydah Bridge between Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor Cities. UN missions frequently use the bridge. In addition, large swaths of wheat and cumin crops have been affected.



OIL DERIVATIVES AND ENERGY CRISIS WORSENE

Since late April, the population across the country has continued to suffer from the repercussions of a new wave of fuel shortages.

For example, people in Homs and Hama Governorates wait approximately 18-20 days to refill 25 l of subsidized gasoline under the Smart Card system. Following the official increase in gasoline price from SYP12,000/l to SYP12,500/l, the price in the informal market surged to SYP18,000/l. Due to oil derivatives scarcity, the Government of Syria reduced gasoline/diesel allocations for public transportation in both governorates resulting in large crowds in the streets waiting for public transport.

Furthermore, the distribution of subsidized diesel used for domestic heating reportedly stopped in both governorates. However, limited quantities are available in the informal market with prices amounting to SYP14,000-SYP16,000/l compared to SYP2,000/l for subsidized diesel. So far, the ongoing fuel shortages have not affected humanitarian operations.

The gasoline allocations for Aleppo Governorate were decreased by 36 per cent, hence, the gasoline distribution (vehicles refill) cycle, through the Smart Card, was extended to 18 days. The gasoline shortages resulted in price surges in the informal market to around SYP28,000/l. Public transportation fees have not increased while the number of buses decreased and private taxis raised their fees.

Moreover, the diesel allocations to Aleppo Governorate decreased by around 40 per cent delaying the distribution to families of diesel used for heating. The Governorate prioritised using diesel for bakeries, hospitals, water pumps and public transportation.

Furthermore, people in some neighbourhoods of Aleppo City receive electricity through the public network for around four hours daily. Most people in the City depend on private power generators to obtain electricity for nine-12 hours/day. The weekly subscription fees for power generators range from SYP75,000/Amp to SYP90,000/Amp to secure minimum lighting. This is considered an additional financial burden for the already vulnerable population. Excessive use of generators in residential areas and markets has continued to pose a risk to people and infrastructure. On 17 May, a power generator exploded in the Al-Kawakbi neighbourhood near the UN hub. Fire brigades managed to extinguish the fire with no casualties reported.



HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT TO STUDENTS DURING NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

The final certificate examinations for the academic year 2023-24 began on 26 May for secondary education (grade 12) and 27 May for basic education (grade nine). The exams ended on 13 and 12 June, respectively. Approximately 34,000 students have registered for the exams, of whom 28,000 have reportedly crossed lines/borders. Out of these, around 8,400 students and their chaperones are residing in accommodation centres across the five hubs as of the first week of the examinations.

In Aleppo, 10,600 students crossed via the Al-Tayha crossing point to Aleppo Governorate. Out of these, approximately 6,500 students and 300 chaperones are hosted in 45 accommodation centres in Aleppo City. The humanitarian response to those students is ongoing including the provision of transportation services, WASH, food, remedial education, NFIs, health services, legal assistance and psycho-social support (PSS). In addition, rehabilitation works are still ongoing in a number of centres due to late confirmation of the funding. Due to financial constraints, rehabilitation has focused on essential minor repairs. Cash distribution has been delayed over administrative issues related to the modality of distribution. The activity is fully budgeted and expected to take place soon. Transport services, initially reported having collected fees, have now been waived to ensure accessibility to all students. Regarding NFIs, an outstanding gap of approximately 600 personal hygiene kits has been reported.

In Ar-Raqqa, 15,500 students have crossed for the exams, of whom 1,200 students and 250 chaperones are hosted in 15 accommodation centres. The response is ongoing, including the provision of transportation services, WASH, canned food and bread, remedial education, NFI, PSS sessions, health services, legal assistance and cash distribution. Gaps have remained in the rehabilitation of centres including electricity and the need to increase hygiene awareness.

In Deir-ez-Zor, 152 children and 39 chaperones are accommodated in two centres. The activities in the centres are ongoing, including WASH, food, remedial education, NFIs, health services, legal assistance, PSS, risk communication and community engagement, and cash distribution. Transportation services between the accommodation and exam centres remain a crucial gap given the high temperatures in Deir-ez-Zor. Students are resorting to walking or using public transport, which is infrequent and carries a cost, and, more importantly, bears a health risk in light of the coming heat wave where temperatures will exceed 44 degrees Celsius. Students lack the means to heat water/food, given the local communities' poor capacity to support them. Students are raising concerns regarding using canned food for over 20 days.

In Idleb, 20 students have been accommodated in two centres. The response is progressing as planned, with no reported challenges. Volunteers in Idleb have been providing daily hot meals for students. Some students reportedly used smuggling routes to reach the Al-Tayha crossing in northeastern Aleppo Governorate. As of 11 May, the Trunba crossing in the east of the Saraqab sub-district has been opened to facilitate the students' crossings, but no movements have yet been recorded.

Rural Damascus has received 431 students from Lebanon, who are accommodated across four centres. Activities are taking place in the centres as planned, except for WASH. The partner in charge of water trucking was unable to continue to truck water throughout the exam period. Also, overcrowding in one accommodation centre was reported. The Ministry of Education has been requested to increase the number of supervisors in the centre, especially after the centre's manager resigned.

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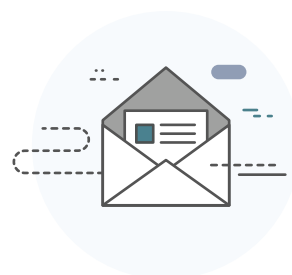
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OCHA information products are available at:

www.unocha.org/Syria

www.unocha.org

www.reliefweb.int



Useful Links:

• [Interactive humanitarian response dashboard \(HCT Coordinated Response\)](#)

• [Organizations implementing humanitarian activities \(HCT Coordinated Response\)](#)

• Multi-purpose cash assistance (HCT Coordinated Response: [Link](#))

• Monthly Digest of the UN in Syria – May 2024: [English](#), [Arabic](#)

