

BESIEGED AREAS

Syria 2016

Urgent Report

- Type of Siege
- The Urgent Needs of Besieged Areas
- Areas that Received Aid
- Legal Conclusions & Recommendations

Information Management Unit (IMU)

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Syrian Network For Human Rights
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان



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ASSISTANCE COORDINATION UNIT

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Five years have passed since the beginning of the Syrian crisis, with the inability of acting parties in humanitarian field to lease the Syrian people's suffering and fulfill his minimum requirements particularly in besieged areas. Taking into consideration that besieged civilians are suffering from harsh conditions and lost their income sources. Therefore they depend solely on provided humanitarian assistance in different sectors. However, the delivered humanitarian aid is scarce and sometimes unavailable at all in some areas. It is important to highlight this suffering to put a response plan that will meet all the requirements of the besieged civilians within 21 Syrian territories.

Introduction

The Syrian crisis has evolved since 2011 and the Syrian people suffering is lasting for the fifth year. A big part of Syrians had been displaced several times inside Syrian lands searching for a safe place for them and their families. According to the Syria Dynamic Monitoring Report (DYNAMO) version 5¹ issued by Information Management Unit of the Assistance Coordination Unit, a total of 2,975,045 civilians inside Syrian lands were forced to leave their homes and move to other sub-districts. It should be noted that this study covers 80% of out of regime control areas.

A massive migration wave has started to the neighboring countries and Europe. As according to Humanitarian Response Plan HRP 2016: "More than half of Syria's population has been forced to leave their homes - over 10.5 million, one of the largest population displacement since World War II. 6.5 million people are now internally displaced within Syria and over 4 million are registered refugees in neighboring countries and North Africa. During the course of 2015, 293,606 Syrians sought asylum in Europe."²

Despite the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Syria, the suffering of the civilians varies in each area, according to the applied violence, military actions, and humanitarian conditions in the place of the civilian population' residence. Moreover, more than 200,000 civilians are living in Northern Syria camps, as according to IDP Camps Monitoring Report issued by Information Management Unit, those camps are considered random camps and lack minimum living requirements.

Still, the besieged civilians are considered the most vulnerable group in Syria is, **as 2,017,836 individuals are under blockade in different Syrian areas**, where the minimum living requirements as food and medicine are prohibited from entry to those areas. According to the documentations provided by the Syrian Network for Human Rights³. **The number of siege casualties has reached 558 people, where 294 of them have died out of starvation in Syrian besieged areas.**



The Information Management Unit of the Assistance Coordination Unit has issued an urgent report on the humanitarian situation in the besieged areas in Syria during the months of February, March, April, and May 2016.

This report includes the type of applied blockade on the besieged area, the delivered humanitarian aid during the four months to the besieged areas. Also, you can find in this report the number and percentage of the population and displaced people and children by age group, and the most critical needs within the besieged areas by sectors as food security, non-food items, WASH, and health. The report ends up with some urgent recommendations to ease up the suffering of besieged people who are deprived of the minimum living requirements.

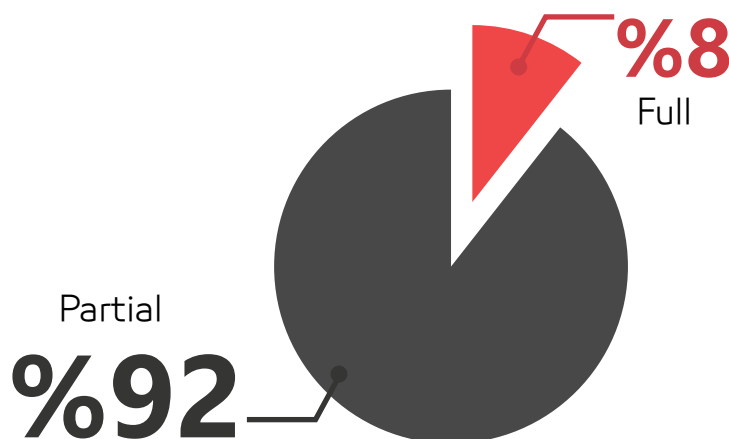
1 <http://www.acu-sy.org/en/syria-dynamic-monitoring-report-dynamo-v5>

2 https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/system/files/documents/files/2016_hno_syrian_arab_republic.pdf

3 <http://sn4hr.org>

Type of Siege

The civilians' suffering in the besieged areas differs according to the length and intensity of the applied blockade. Despite the fact that the blockade is lasting for almost five years in nearly all besieged areas, some humanitarian organizations were able to deliver monetary assistance to most of those areas. Trapped civilians were able to implement some small projects as ranching and benefit from animal products, or conduct simple agricultural projects. Those projects play a significant role in helping the besieged population survive under harsh conditions during the blockade period. Monetary aid has entered 92% of the besieged areas, on the other hand, some areas suffer from full blockade and assistance could not be delivered there except through a humanitarian air bridge by the UN, those areas are considered fully besieged and constituted 8% of the total besieged areas in Syria.



The besieged areas were located in five governorates, where all sub-districts of Rural Damascus governorate are considered besieged with two degrees. Madaya, Az- Zabdani and Darayya sub-districts are under full blockade, and the only possible way to enter humanitarian aid is via United Nations and after the consent of the Syrian Regime, who imposes the siege on these areas.

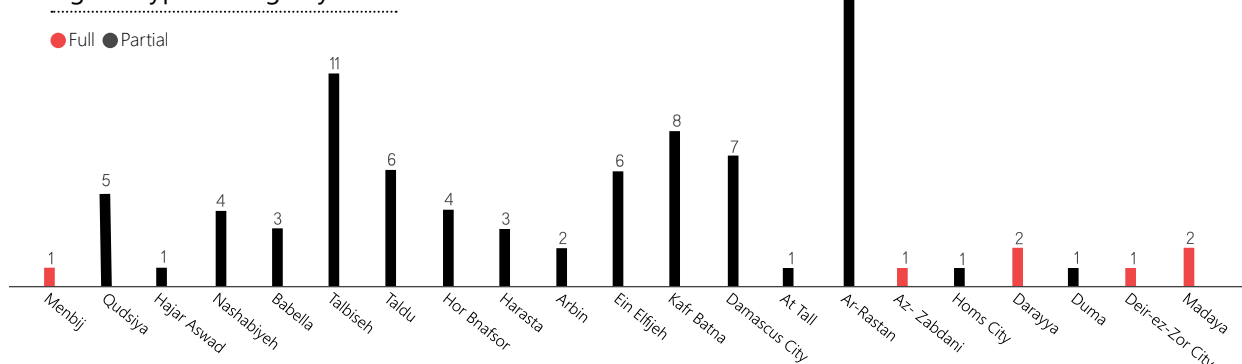
The Syrian Regime is also besieging several neighborhoods in Damascus Capital. This report has covered the communities of Yarmuk Camp, Al-Qadam, Al-Assaly, Al-Tadamon, Jober, Qabun, and Burza neighborhoods considering that there are other besieged neighborhoods in Damascus City.

Homs Governorate includes several besieged areas as well. Basically, the sub-districts of Ar-Rastan, Talbiseh, Taldu and Al-Wa'ar neighborhood and Hor Bnafsor in Hama governorate are partially blockaded, and only cash assistance could be delivered there.

The neighborhoods of Deir-ez-Zor city which are under the control of the Syrian regime are fully besieged. No land routes are available to offer aid; the only way is aerial relief bridge under the supervision of the UN then the aid is delivered to humanitarian parties who distribute it to the besieged civilians in those neighborhoods. The other neighborhoods in the city and its surroundings are under the control of ISIL.

Kurdistan Workers' Party is trapping many civilians in the city of Menbij located in Aleppo countryside, without existing any path for humanitarian assistance entry there or a way for civilians getting out. The following figure shows fully or partially besieged areas with the number of villages within each area.

Figure: Type of Siege by Area



Number and Percentage of Population and IDPs

A total of 2,018,236 civilians are besieged in Syria where 1,016,982 of them are internally displaced people IDPs. This significant proportion of IDPs among the besieged population increases their suffering, considering that IDPs had lost their homes and sources of living and didn't bring with them the minimum requirements of life. At Tall City contained the biggest number of besieged individuals reaching to 650,000 individuals, where 620,000 of them are IDPs from another area. The city had witnessed tight blockade during the last three months, as the Syrian Regime prevented the entry of humanitarian and medical aid to At Tall City.

Menbij City came in the second place regarding the count of besieged citizens that reached 210,000 civilians, and Talbiseh sub-district came in the third place with 190,744 besieged civilians. Moreover, the Regime aims to split this sub-district from the other besieged areas to intensify the siege.

The most vulnerable category is the besieged civilians who are subjected to the full blockade. Madaya sub-district in Rural Damascus governorate was under full blockade with occurring many death cases due to starvation during several months. Later, the Syrian Regime had allowed the entry of food assistance and small quantities of first aid medicine only despite the acute need of medication for chronic diseases and child vaccinations. Therefore, there were more casualties due to malnutrition and illnesses that appeared because of the long lasting period of siege. A total of 40,000 civilians are fully besieged in Madaya, and half of them are displaced from other areas.

Darayya sub-district that consists of Darayya and Madamiyet Elsham cities suffers from harsh living conditions due to the tight blockade imposed by the Syrian Regime on those cities during the last months. Those cities moved from being partially besieged to fully besieged. Additionally, the regime intended to separate those cities from each other by targeting the roads between them. Darayya city is being targeted with the bombing on a daily basis with no existence of hospitals or medical material to save the injured.

The regime-controlled neighborhoods of Deir-ez-Zor City are suffering from the most deteriorating living situation, as ISIL forces besiege those neighborhoods. The Syrian Network for Human Rights had documented the occurrence of several death cases out of starvation and due to lack of food items there.

The regime-controlled besieged neighborhoods of Deir-ez-Zor city were suffering from deteriorating conditions, as humanitarian aid did not enter the city for one year and a half. The trapped civilians are living without electricity and means of communications, as well as, the water filtering and pumping stations were damaged due to their location near engagement areas which led to stopping pumping water to those neighborhoods.

The UN cargo planes were throwing many parachutes that were supposed to be carrying food; the regime forces were receiving and delivering them to Red Crescent teams that worked in the besieged neighborhoods. However, the distributed food baskets covered only 20% of the actual needs of besieged civilians and were sufficient for ten days only for each family.



Table: Besieged Areas Demography

No.	Governorate	Sub-district	Total # of individuals and IDPs	# of households	# of IDPs in the sub-district	% of IDPs
1	Rural Damascus	Hajar Aswad	5,500	1,100	1,000	718
2	Rural Damascus	Nashabiyeh	15,800	3,160	10,350	766
3	Rural Damascus	Babella	47,000	9,400	16,000	734
4	Rural Damascus	Harasta	25,000	5,000	7,000	728
5	Rural Damascus	Arbin	34,670	6,934	700	72
6	Rural Damascus	Ein Elfijeh	71,000	14,200	47,300	767
7	Rural Damascus	Kafr Batna	113,000	22,600	42,300	737
8	Rural Damascus	At Tall	650,000	130,000	620,000	795
9	Rural Damascus	Az- Zabdani	200	-	0	70
10	Rural Damascus	Darayya	53,300	10,660	1,500	73
11	Rural Damascus	Duma	80,000	16,000	0	70
12	Rural Damascus	Madaya	40,000	8,000	20,000	750
13	Rural Damascus	Qudsiya	60,000	12,000	24,000	740
14	Damascus	Besieged neighborhoods of Damascus City	73,600	14,720	17,664	724
15	Deir-ez-Zor	Besieged neighborhoods of Deir-ez-Zor City	100,000	20,000	50,000	750
16	Homs	Al-Wa'r neighborhood in Homs City	85,000	17,000	72,000	785
17	Homs	Ar-Rastan	98,952	19,790	23,399	724
18	Homs	Talbiseh	190,744	38,149	45,497	724
19	Homs	Taldu	51,270	10,254	1,770	73
20	Hama	Hor Bnafsor	12,800	2,560	1,502	712
21	Aleppo	Menbij	210,000	4,200	15,000	77
			2,017,836	365,727	1,016,982	757



71,832

of children < 6 months

82,928

of children between 6 months – 1 year

87,089

of children between 12- years

Table: Number of Children in the Besieged Areas by age

No.	Governorate	Sub-district	# of children < 6 months	# of children between 6 months – 1 year	# of children between 2-1 years
1	Rural Damascus	Hajar Aswad	1,000	150	250
2	Rural Damascus	Nashabiyeh	365	890	3,110
3	Rural Damascus	Babella	4,300	3,050	2,550
4	Rural Damascus	Harasta	900	1,500	1,800
5	Rural Damascus	Arbin	1,240	2,053	2,460
6	Rural Damascus	Ein Elfijeh	690	585	910
7	Rural Damascus	Kafr Batna	3,390	5,650	6,780
8	Rural Damascus	At Tall	25,000	30,000	30,000
9	Rural Damascus	Az- Zabdani	0	0	0
10	Rural Damascus	Darayya	2,534	2,730	2,414
11	Rural Damascus	Duma	2,666	2,200	4,800
12	Rural Damascus	Madaya	400	600	1,600
13	Rural Damascus	Qudsiya	3,100	2,950	4,200
14	Damascus	Besieged neighborhoods of Damascus City	2,300	2,750	3,800
15	Deir-ez-Zor	Besieged neighborhoods of Deir-ez-Zor City	8,500	9,700	6,500
16	Homs	Al-Wa'r neighborhood in Homs City	617	754	1,170
17	Homs	Ar-Rastan	1,260	1,856	2,444
18	Homs	Talbiseh	5,115	6,335	7,958
19	Homs	Taldu	890	845	700
20	Hama	Hor Bnafsor	265	215	185
21	Aleppo	Menbij	7,300	8,115	3,458
			71,832	82,928	87,089

Basic Humanitarian Needs

Food Security

Bread

The minimum daily requirement of bread for each individual is two loaves which correspond to 0.22 kg of flour. Each ton of flour needs 10 kg of yeast, so the daily need of besieged areas of flour is 444.011 tons. Considering that the humanitarian organizations plan their response on a monthly basis, the monthly need of flour in the besieged areas is 13,320.357 tons and 133.222 tons of yeast. Moreover, the besieged areas suffer from the unavailability of fuel and electricity, and each ton of flour requires 110 liters of diesel for baking, so the need of besieged areas of fuel is 1,585,461 liters of diesel monthly.

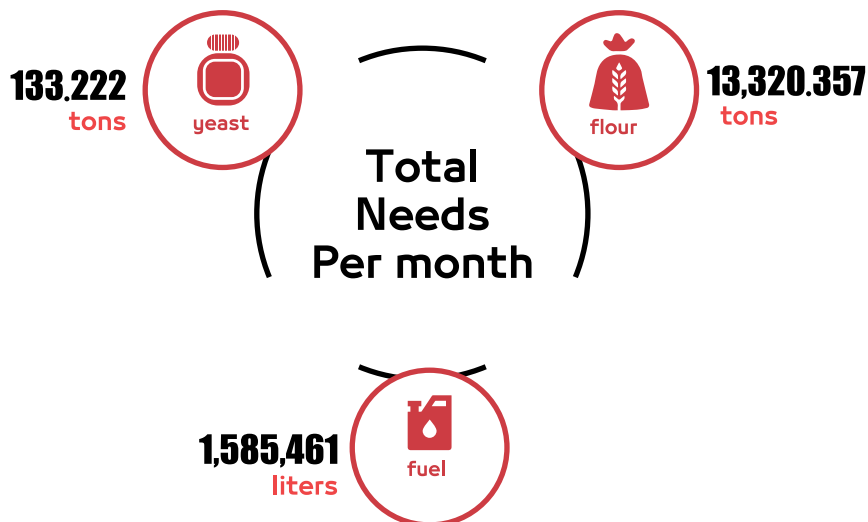
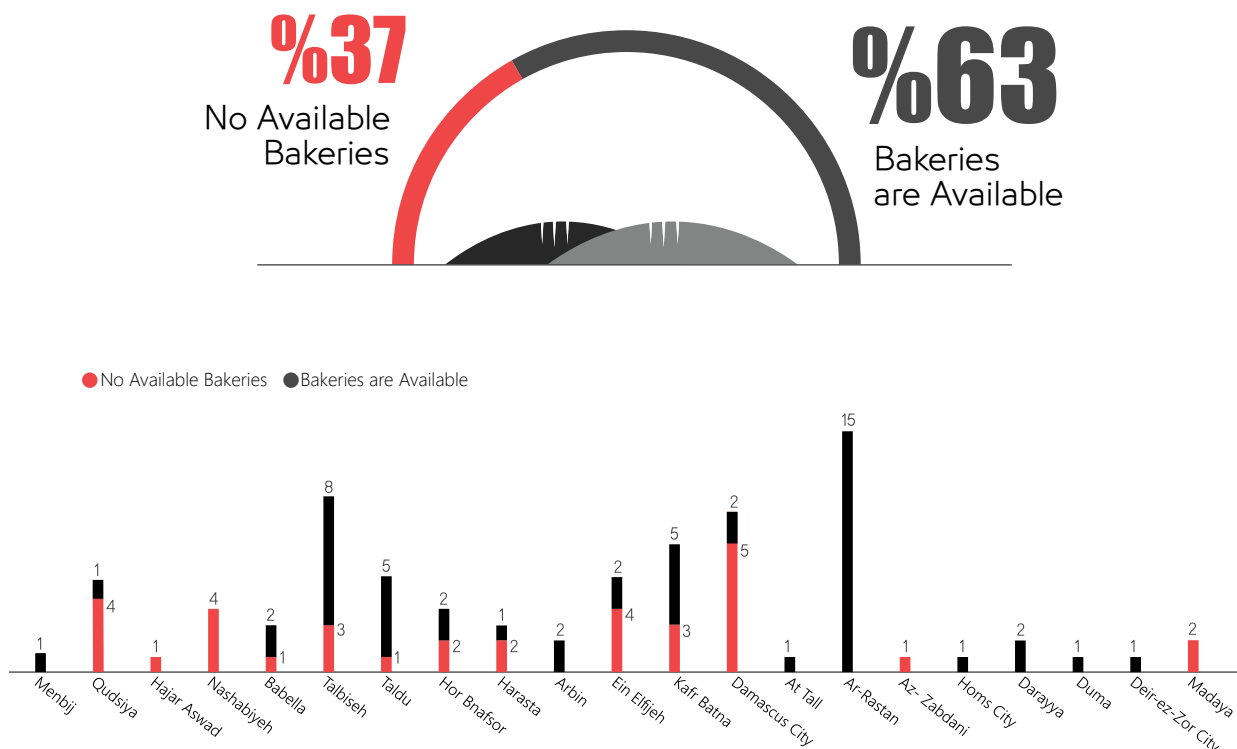


Table: The Monthly Need of Besieged Areas of Raw Materials to Bake Bread

No.	Governorate	Sub-district	Total # of individuals and IDPs	# of households	Daily Need of Flour (kg)	Monthly Need of Flour (kg)	Monthly Need of Yeast (kg)	Monthly Need of Fuel (liter)
1	Rural Damascus	Hajar Aswad	5,500	1,100	1,210	36,300	363	3,993
2	Rural Damascus	Nashabiyeh	15,800	3,160	3,476	104,280	1,043	11,471
3	Rural Damascus	Babella	47,000	9,400	10,340	310,200	3,102	34,122
4	Rural Damascus	Harasta	25,000	5,000	5,500	165,000	1,650	18,150
5	Rural Damascus	Arbin	34,670	6,934	7,627	228,822	2,288	25,170
6	Rural Damascus	Ein Elfijeh	71,000	14,200	15,620	468,600	4,686	51,546
7	Rural Damascus	Kafr Batna	113,000	22,600	24,860	745,800	7,458	82,038
8	Rural Damascus	At Tall	650,000	130,000	143,000	4,290,000	42,900	471,900
9	Rural Damascus	Az- Zabdani	200	-	132	3960	39,6	436
10	Rural Damascus	Darayya	53,300	10,660	11,726	351,780	3,518	38,696
11	Rural Damascus	Duma	80,000	16,000	17,600	528,000	5,280	58,080
12	Rural Damascus	Madaya	40,000	8,000	8,800	264,000	2,640	29,040
13	Rural Damascus	Qudsiya	60,000	12,000	13,200	396,000	3,960	43,560
14	Damascus	Besieged neighborhoods of Damascus City	73,600	14,720	16,192	485,760	4,875	53,433
15	Deir-ez-Zor	Besieged neighborhoods of Deir-ez-Zor City	100,000	20,000	22,000	660,000	6,600	72,600
16	Homs	Al-Wa'r neighborhood in Homs City	85,000	17,000	18,700	561,000	5,610	60,510
17	Homs	Ar-Rastan	98,952	19,790	21,769	653,083	6,531	69,952
18	Homs	Talbiseh	190,744	38,149	41,964	1,258,910	12,589	136,474
19	Homs	Taldu	51,270	10,254	11,279	338,382	3,384	36,270
20	Hama	Hor Bnafsor	12,800	2,560	2,816	84,480	845	9,080
21	Aleppo	Menbij	210,000	4,200	46,200	1,386,000	13,860	1,494,000
			2,017,836	365,727	444,011	13,320,357	133,222	1,585,461

The IMU's enumerators had collected data on the situation of the bakeries in out of regime control areas. The collected data showed that bakeries in 37% of the besieged areas are not capable of covering the population needs. Considering that those bakeries are fully destroyed or require maintenance and repair or located in hard to reach areas. Therefore, it is highly important to activate projects to maintain those bakeries or establishing new bakeries. On the other hand, 63% of the besieged areas contain bakeries capable of covering the needs of the population of bread in case those areas are supplied with the raw materials of flour, yeast, and fuel.

Figure: The Availability of Bakeries Capable of Covering Civilians' Needs in the Besieged Areas

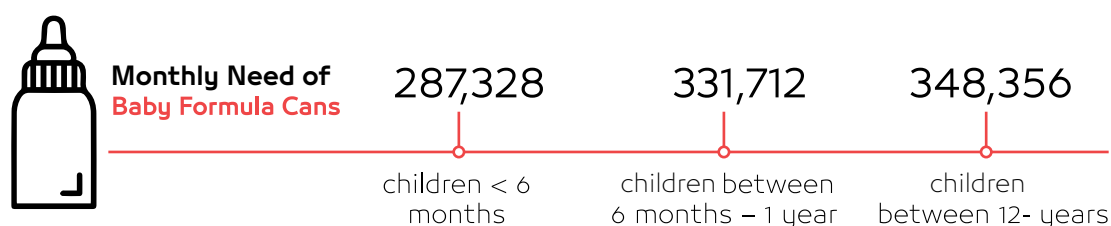


Baby Formula

The mothers and their children in some besieged Syrian territories are suffering from malnutrition due to applied blockade. Nursing mothers are forced to use dry milk for their babies, so the need for baby formula constitutes a big part of population needs.

Each child needs at least four baby formula cans monthly, taking into consideration the absence of appropriate food items for nursing mothers and baby dietary supplements in the besieged areas. The monthly need of baby formula in the besieged areas for babies under six months is 287,328 cans, and for toddlers between six months and one year is 331,712 cans, and the need for children between one and two years is 348,356 boxes. The table below shows the required amount of baby formula by group age in the besieged areas.

Table: The Besieged Areas Monthly Need of Baby Formula Cans by Age Groups



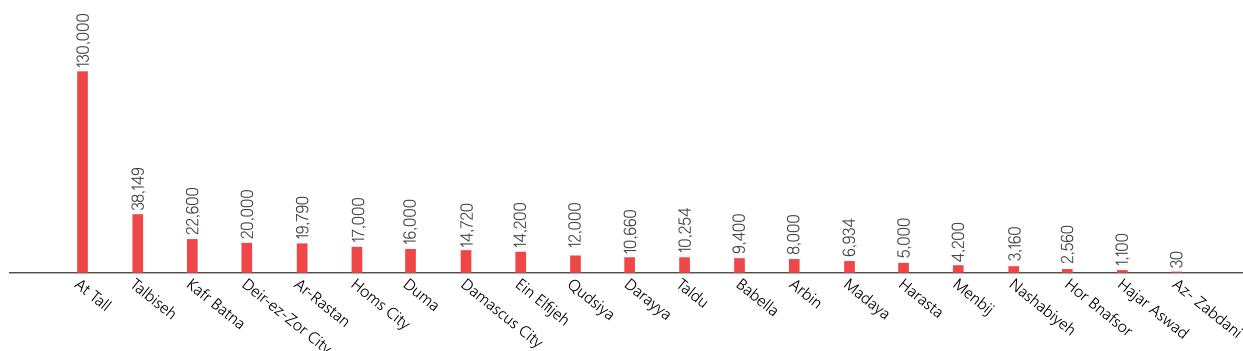
No.	Governorate	Sub-district	children < 6 months	children between 6 months - 1 year	children between 2-1 years
1	Rural Damascus	Hajar Aswad	4,000	600	1,000
2	Rural Damascus	Nashabiyeh	1,460	3,560	12,440
3	Rural Damascus	Babella	17,200	12,200	10,200
4	Rural Damascus	Harasta	3,600	6,000	7,200
5	Rural Damascus	Arbin	4,960	8,212	9,840
6	Rural Damascus	Ein Elfijeh	2,760	2,340	3,640
7	Rural Damascus	Kafr Batna	13,560	22,600	27,120
8	Rural Damascus	At Tall	100,000	120,000	120,000
9	Rural Damascus	Az- Zabdani	0	0	0
10	Rural Damascus	Darayya	10,136	10,920	9,656
11	Rural Damascus	Duma	10,664	8,800	19,200
12	Rural Damascus	Madaya	1,600	2,400	6,400
13	Rural Damascus	Qudsiya	12,400	11,800	16,800
14	Damascus	Besieged neighborhoods of Damascus City	9,200	11,000	15,200
15	Deir-ez-Zor	Besieged neighborhoods of Deir-ez-Zor City	34,000	38,800	26,000
16	Homs	Al-Wa'r neighborhood in Homs City	2,468	3,016	4,680
17	Homs	Ar-Rastan	5,040	7,424	9,776
18	Homs	Talbiseh	20,460	25,340	31,832
19	Homs	Taldu	3,560	3,380	2,800
20	Hama	Hor Bnafsor	1,060	860	740
21	Aleppo	Menbij	29,200	32,460	13,832
			287,328	331,712	348,356

Food Baskets

Civilians especially displaced depend on humanitarian assistance for their living considering that they have lost their income sources. Internally displaced people constitute the highest percentage of the besieged population which leads to the exhaustion of the area resources and causes overload on the citizens. Moreover, no entry of humanitarian aid is allowed to the besieged territories, which creates a scarcity in food items and raise at its prices, so there is an acute need for the provision of food baskets in those areas.

A total of 365,847 food baskets are needed in the besieged areas monthly. Whereas, the highest need was in At Tall City in Rural Damascus governorate, with 130,000 households in need for food baskets, because of the big number of IDPs who have settled in the city. It should be noted that the areas under full blockade are the neediest for food baskets as Madaya, Darayya, the besieged neighborhoods of Az- Zabdani, and the besieged neighborhoods of Deir-ez-Zor city.

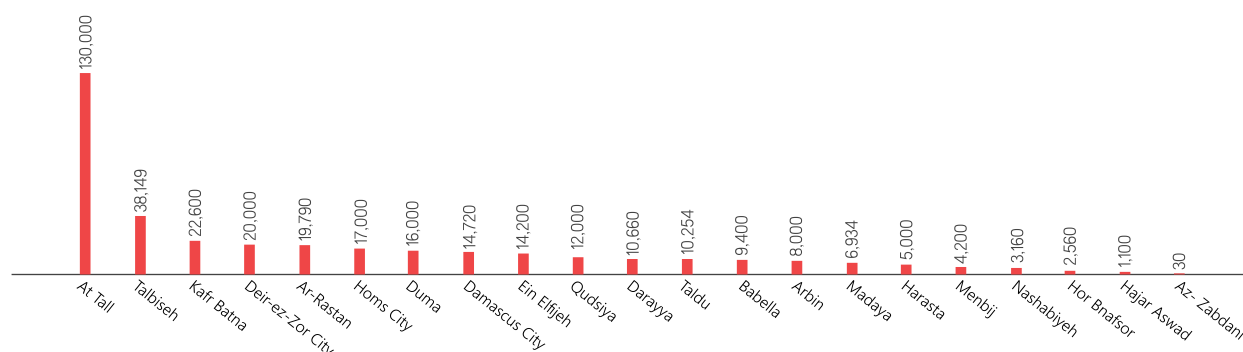
Figure: The Besieged Areas Monthly Need of Food Baskets



Non-Food Items

The besieged areas need a total of 365,847 hygiene kits on a monthly basis. Skin diseases are highly spread in those areas due to garbage accumulation in the streets and the presence of open sewerage as a result of damage caused by bombing. Those diseases were being treated in primitive ways, as no specialist doctors and no medicine were available to provide the accurate diagnosis of those diseases and the correct treatment ways. There is an urgent need to activate early warning alert and response for any epidemic in those territories, and raise a social awareness for hygiene monitoring especially for children, as previously schools and media channels were playing a big role in this matter, but almost all educational institutes have stopped functioning in the besieged areas.

Figure: The Besieged Areas Monthly Need of Hygiene Kits



There is a regular need for baby diapers in the besieged areas, as this item is not available in the markets and in case of its availability it is sold with high prices that don't correspond to the purchasing power of the citizens, and in rare quantities. The average need of every child of baby diapers is three bags where each bag contains 40 pieces, also baby diapers are available for three different age groups.

The besieged areas need of baby diapers reached 215,496 bags for babies under six months, 248,784 bags for babies between 6 months and one year, and 261,267 bags for children between 1 and two years.

Table: The Besieged Areas Monthly Need of Baby Diapers by Age Groups

No.	Governorate	Sub-district	children < 6 months	children between 6 months – 1 year	children between 2-1 years
1	Rural Damascus	Hajar Aswad	3000	450	750
2	Rural Damascus	Nashabiyeh	1095	2670	9330
3	Rural Damascus	Babella	12900	9150	7650
4	Rural Damascus	Harasta	2700	4500	5400
5	Rural Damascus	Arbin	3720	6159	7380
6	Rural Damascus	Ein Elfjeh	2070	1755	2730
7	Rural Damascus	Kafr Batna	10170	16950	20340
8	Rural Damascus	At Tall	75000	90000	90000
9	Rural Damascus	Az- Zabdani	0	0	0
10	Rural Damascus	Darayya	7602	8190	7242
11	Rural Damascus	Duma	7998	6600	14400
12	Rural Damascus	Madaya	1200	1800	4800
13	Rural Damascus	Qudsiya	9,300	8,850	12,600
14	Damascus	Besieged neighborhoods of Damascus City	6,900	8,250	11,400
15	Deir-ez-Zor	Besieged neighborhoods of Deir-ez-Zor City	25500	29100	19500
16	Homs	Al-Wa'r neighborhood in Homs City	1851	2262	3510
17	Homs	Ar-Rastan	3780	5568	7332
18	Homs	Talbiseh	15345	19005	23874
19	Homs	Taldu	2670	2535	2100
20	Hama	Hor Bnafsor	795	645	555
21	Aleppo	Menbij	21,900	24,345	10,374
			215,496	248,784	261,267

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

The Availability of Water in the Besieged Areas

Accessing clean water is considered a human right and one of the basic life essentials. With the imposed blockades on different Syrian territories, the public facilities were affected, as the besieged citizens had suffered from the scarcity of water and complete water cut off in some areas. Moreover, in case of water availability, it is not drinkable due to the absence of water purification materials and the filter stations are located in regime-controlled areas. The regime intended to cut the water of the besieged civilians, so the population resorted to using the water from wells instead of the public network water, although there are no purification materials the residents use this water. The fact that no fuel is available in the besieged areas leads to the impossible implementation of water extraction and pump then water distribution using portable water tanks.

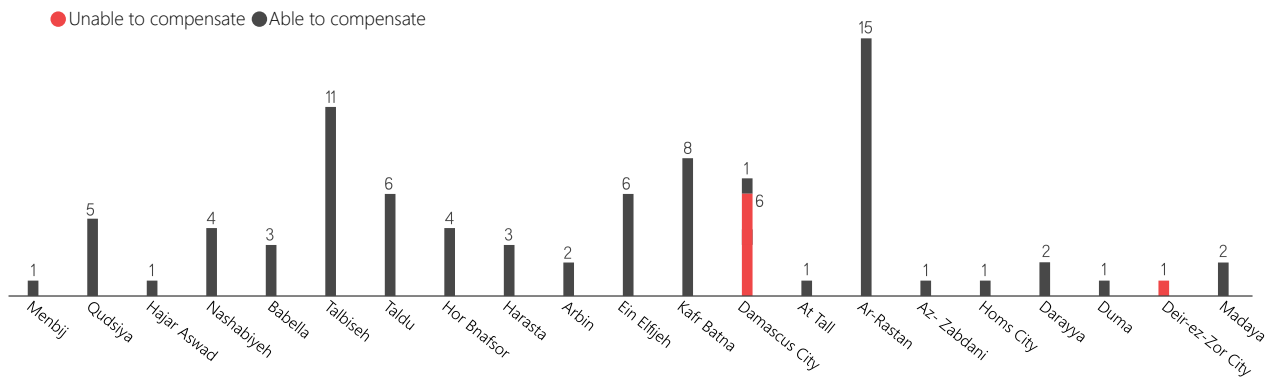
This study shows that 5% of the besieged areas were not able to compensate the lack of water. Those areas are the besieged neighborhoods of Deir-ez-Zor governorate, where all water pumping stations are located in engagement areas which results in cutting off the water for long periods during clashes, as well as those neighborhoods do not contain wells. Occasionally, the WASH team of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent transports the water using portable tanks, but this method covers only 5% of the population needs of water.

The out of regime control neighborhoods of Al Qadam, Al Assaly, and Al Tadamon in Damascus City suffer from lack of water. Those neighborhoods were unable to compensate this lack till now due to the complete destruction of infrastructure. As well as no humanitarian agency had provided response plans for maintenance, or reactivated water pumping to those neighborhoods.

Figure: The Ability of Besieged Areas to Compensate Lack of Water

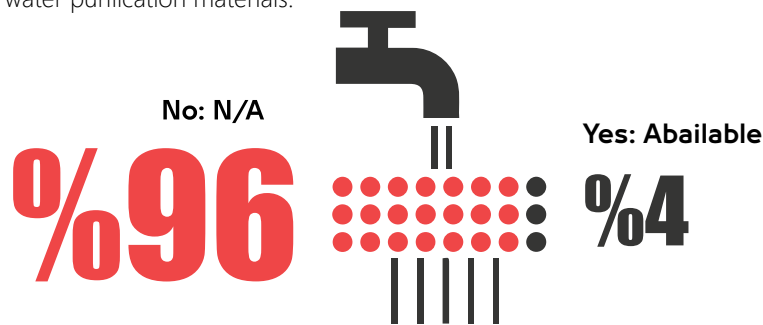


Figure: The Ability of Besieged Areas to Compensate Lack of Water



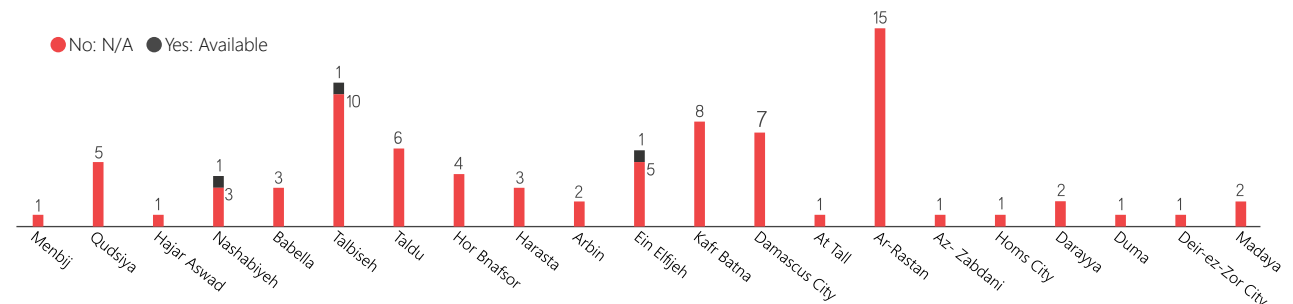
The Availability of Water Purification Materials in the Besieged Areas

Despite the fact that 95% of the besieged areas managed to find alternative solutions to substitute the lack of water, nevertheless, this water is not drinkable in the majority of those areas due to the unavailability of water purification materials. Also, there is a complete absence of acting humanitarian organizations in WASH sector who could conduct a study on the validity of water for drinking, as 96% of the besieged areas are suffering from the absence of water purification materials.



Water purification materials were available for a short period in three partially besieged villages; Otaia within Nashabiyeh sub-district and Ain Qanoon village in Ein Elfjeh sub-district in Rural Damascus governorate; and Hashemiyeh village in Talbiseh sub-district in Homs countryside. Considering that water purification materials should regularly be distributed on pumping stations in case if its availability or on the civilians who use the extracted water from wells.

The use of polluted water resulted in the spread of diseases especially among children, as many cases of diarrhea were recorded among the children in the besieged areas due to drinking polluted water which children's weak bodies could not resist.



The besieged civilians are unable to remove the garbage outside the sub-district with the imposed siege. As well as, all primitive methods to get rid of garbage cause the spread of diseases with the unavailability of garbage collection instruments and rareness of water for other uses due to fuel unavailability and the absence of water extraction and pumping kits. Moreover, the acting organizations in WASH sector did not conduct any response plans in the besieged territories since the beginning of the blockade which is lasting for almost four years in some areas.

Health

Medical Clinics and Hospitals

The health sector is in deteriorating situation in the besieged areas, where almost all those areas are rural and suffer from a deficiency in specialized hospitals since the beginning of the crisis. With the imposed blockade and intensified bombing, the rate of injured had raised tenfold. Doctors had often resorted to amputations to save lives due to the absence of medicine, required instruments, surgery rooms, and even medical specialists.

The Syrian Regime prohibits the entry of medical aid to the besieged areas aiming to force the injured and sick people to get out and receive treatment in military hospitals. Patients who get treatment in those hospitals are placed under arrest in case they are not wanted for security forces, after having received the treatment the patients are sent back to the besieged area. In case the patient is wanted, the hospital delivers him to security. A total of 97 polyclinics are available in the besieged areas, but most of them suffer from a deficiency in doctors. In this case, nurses or some civilians who were trained for nursing supervise those clinics because of the acute need for nursing staff inside Syria.

A total of 65 hospitals exist in the besieged areas, but they lack almost all medical specialties and suffer from a deficiency in equipment for surgery rooms. As well as, there are 83 gynecology and obstetrics clinics in the besieged territories. It should be noted that Nashabiyeh sub-district does not have any medical facilities or gynecology clinics, and the residents are forced to transfer the injured or sick people to other sub-districts to get the cure.

Comparing the number of besieged population with the number of medical centers it was shown that each medical facility serves 8,230 citizens, considering that most of those medical centers are apartments that were transformed to field medical clinics during the current circumstances.

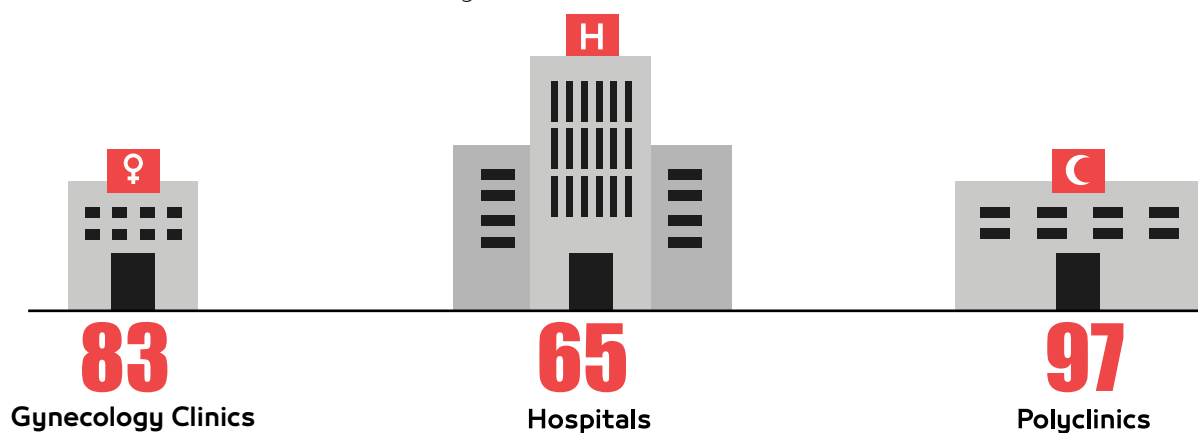


Table: Number of Available Medical Facilities in the Besieged Areas

No.	Governorate	Sub-district	# of polyclinics	# of hospitals	# of gynecology clinics
1	Rural Damascus	Hajar Aswad	1	1	1
2	Rural Damascus	Nashabiyeh	4	0	0
3	Rural Damascus	Babella	3	3	3
4	Rural Damascus	Harasta	5	1	1
5	Rural Damascus	Arbin	2	3	3
6	Rural Damascus	Ein Elfijeh	8	7	11
7	Rural Damascus	Kafr Batna	15	7	5
8	Rural Damascus	At Tall	5	1	12
9	Rural Damascus	Az- Zabdani	1	1	1
10	Rural Damascus	Darayya	1	2	3
11	Rural Damascus	Duma	6	6	5
12	Rural Damascus	Madaya	2	2	2
13	Rural Damascus	Qudsiya	1	1	1
14	Damascus	Besieged neighborhoods of Damascus City	6	3	5
15	Deir-ez-Zor	Besieged neighborhoods of Deir-ez-Zor City	3	2	5
16	Homs	Al-Wa'r neighborhood in Homs City	3	2	1
17	Homs	Ar-Rastan	7	1	2
18	Homs	Talbiseh	12	11	11
19	Homs	Taldu	6	6	6
20	Hama	Hor Bnafsor	4	4	4
21	Aleppo	Manbij	2	1	1
			97	65	83

The Besieged Areas Need of Fuel

Before the Syrian crisis, the Regime's institutions were the only source of fuel in the country, as it was prohibited to import or sell fuel by any other party. Fuel is used for transport, heating, factories, bakeries and cooking, and the Syrians were often compensating the lack of fuel with electricity before the ongoing events. One of the consequences of the crisis is the cutoff of electricity on the majority of Syrian areas, so generators were used to provide electricity in the areas where the public network electricity is operating for several hours a day.

The besieged areas in Syria were deprived of electricity network during the whole period of the blockade, so the besieged civilians had to look for other alternatives to obtain power. However, the fuel unavailability was the primary obstacle that prevented acquiring electrical power. A group of civilians in Al Ghouta in Rural Damascus were working on generating plastic fuel that is made of plastic garbage despite the harm that may be caused to the civilians and the environment due to burning plastic materials, and the produced quantities were small and sufficient only for cooking.

The besieged areas need 1,499,842 liters of fuel monthly for the operation of hospitals and medical centers, and 841,796 liters of fuel are needed monthly for water purification and pumping it to the houses or transferring it using portable tanks. Moreover, the civil defense centers also need 148,583 liters of fuel monthly for debris removal, exhumations, and opening the roads after every bombing. As well as, the civil defense centers play a prominent role in the removal of accumulated waste amid the residential areas, due to the halt of hygiene institutions.

It is worth mentioning that the besieged Hajar Aswad sub-district does not have either water purification stations or civil defense centers. Therefore it does not require fuel. Also, Nashabiyeh sub-district did not report a need for fuel for medical facilities because of its unavailability.

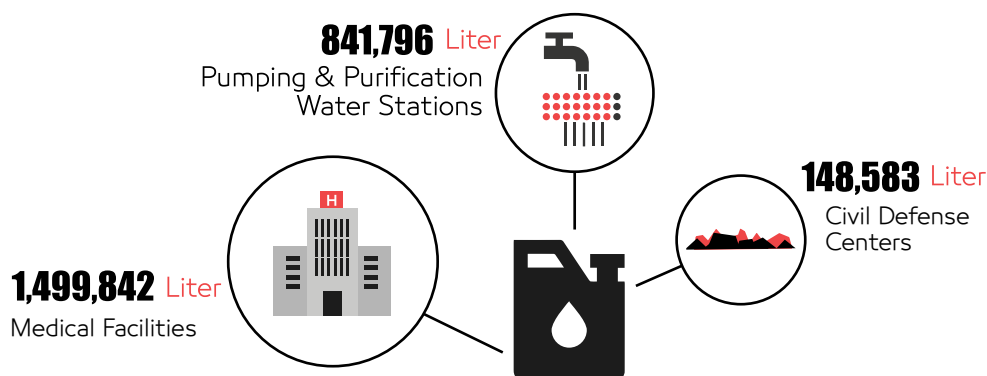


Table: The Besieged Areas Monthly Need of Fuel

No.	Governorate	Sub-district	Needed Fuel for hospitals (liters)	Required Fuel for water purification and pumping (liters)	Required Fuel for civil defense centers (liters)
1	Rural Damascus	Hajar Aswad	600	0	0
2	Rural Damascus	Nashabiyeh	0	500	200
3	Rural Damascus	Babella	1,900	2,750	0
4	Rural Damascus	Harasta	3,200	3,900	2,000
5	Rural Damascus	Arbin	3,250	2,300	1,000
6	Rural Damascus	Ein Elfijeh	28,000	30,000	12,500
7	Rural Damascus	Kafr Batna	6,955	11,600	1,900
8	Rural Damascus	At Tall	4,500	35,000	2,500
9	Rural Damascus	Az- Zabdani	500	300	600
10	Rural Damascus	Darayya	3,500	8,000	3,200
11	Rural Damascus	Duma	14,400	7,000	2,000
12	Rural Damascus	Madaya	1,800	1,600	1,600
13	Rural Damascus	Qudsiya	30,000	35,000	0
14	Damascus	Besieged neighborhoods of Damascus City	15,000	20,000	10,000
15	Deir-ez-Zor	Besieged neighborhoods of Deir-ez-Zor City	1,200,000	450,000	0
16	Homs	Al-Wa'r neighborhood in Homs City	15,000	4,500	6,000
17	Homs	Ar-Rastan	12,937	27,486	14,783
18	Homs	Talbiseh	20,800	19,340	4,400
19	Homs	Taldu	6,000	39,120	5,400
20	Hama	Hor Bnafsor	1,500	8,400	500
21	Aleppo	Manbij	130,000	135,000	80,000
			1,499,842	841,796	148,583

The Delivered Assistance to the Besieged Areas During the Last Four Months

Rural Damascus

Darayya

- On 28th of May 2016, approximately 39 tons of food assistance were delivered to Madamiyet Elsham City. The local council supervised the distribution process with no problems, and the quantity was sufficient for all families.
- On 1st of June 2016, a UN convoy had entered Madamiyet Elsham City, which is the second convoy that enters the city since the announcement of the truce. The convoy consisted of 31 trucks of food aid and five trucks of medical aid. Food assistance included 9,000 bags of flour, each bag weighs 15 kg and 4,500 food baskets. The medical aid contained antibiotics, medicine for children, and incubators for newborn babies.
- On 1st of June 2016, besieged Darayya city had witnessed the first aid entry. Whereas, an aid convoy consisting of five trucks had entered the city. This convoy included some medical items, stationery, and baby formula with the complete absence of food. Unfortunately, the delivered medicine did not meet the civilians' requirements who are subjected to daily shelling. It should be noted that some trucks were almost empty which means that the regime forces had emptied the trucks before their entry and documented them as full of assistance. The following table shows the provided medical aid.

Table: The Delivered Medical Aid to Besieged Darayya City during June 2016

Item	Quantity	Item	Quantity
Childbirth kit for individuals	1	Medical Materials	150 boxes
Childbirth kit for midwives	1	Wheelchair for adults	20
Lice shampoo	-	Wheelchair for children	5
Scabies Ointment	5	Medicine boxes	273
Basic emergency kit	1	Baby formula for newborn babies	2,160 boxes
Equipment for childbirth		Dried milk	1,440 boxes

Madaya

- On 18th of February 2016, UN aid convoys in cooperation with Syrian Arab Red Crescent had entered Madaya and Bqine towns loaded with food assistance. A total of 7,800 food baskets, 7,800 bags of flour each flour bag weighs 15 kg, hygiene kits, boxes with dates bars, peanut butter, and school bags were distributed to civilians. Additionally, five trucks containing medical aid had entered the two towns.
- On 18th of February 2016, the second aid entry was recorded to Madaya and Bqine towns including 7,800 food baskets and five trucks containing first medical aid. It is worth mentioning that there was a deficiency in tuna item, as 510 tuna cans were missing from the delivered food baskets. The lack was documented, and a complaint was sent to UN and Syrian Arab Red Crescent. Nevertheless this lack was not compensated.
- On 1st of May 2016, the last aid delivery was conducted. A total of 7,800 food baskets, 7,800 flour bags with each bag weighs 15 kg, school bags, stationery, hygiene materials, cookies boxes, and peanut butter boxes were distributed to the residents. As well as, five trucks had entered medical aid, and after appeals due to the cutoff of child vaccinations in the area for more than a year, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent had entered vaccinations for 6,000 children. The Syrian Network for Human Rights had recorded the occurrence of more than 200 poisoning cases among the children because of expired biscuit that was sent with the UN assistance to this area.⁴

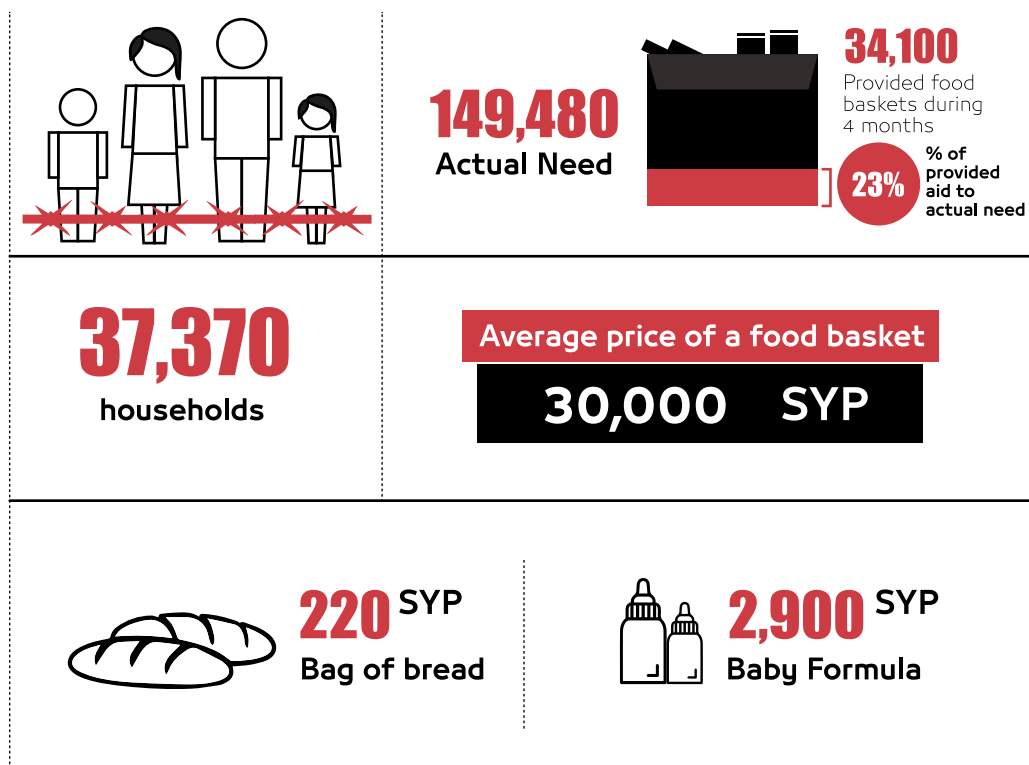
This besieged area needs many items and commodities that could be entered with the supplied assistance as canned food, dried meat, vegetables, all kinds of baby formula, baby diapers, hygiene materials, and cooking and heating fuel.

⁴ <http://sn4hr.org/arabic/2015/10/29/5108>

Az- Zabdani

- On 17th of February 2016, food assistance was delivered to Az-Zabdani City containing food baskets and flour, but the aid was sufficient only for 20 days because of the tight blockade applied on this area.
- On 17th of March 2016, Az-Zabdani had received food baskets only. However, the delivered food baskets were incomplete and lacked vegetable oil, and they covered the needs of the population only for 15 days. Moreover, flour was not distributed knowing that the only way to get flour is through the humanitarian aid.
- On 30th of April 2016, food assistance was supplied to besieged Az-Zabdani, which contained again food baskets with no vegetable oil and lacked protein rich food items, and no flour was provided as well. Therefore, flour was missing from this area for two successive months, and food baskets were sufficient for 15 days only.

Western Ghouta



- The price of food basket in **Madaya 130,000 SYP**
- **No food items in Darayya**

Eastern Ghouta

Kafr Batna

- On 23rd of February 2016, a UN aid convoy had entered Kafr Batna town, containing 2,000 food baskets, three trucks of medical aid, 100 wheelchairs, 300 water gallons, and water purification substances. The supplied support was lacking medicine for the chronic diseases as diabetes and heart diseases. Most probably that the Syrian Regime had confiscated the medicine before the entry of aid convoy to the town.
- On 4th of March 2016, UN aid convoys had entered Ain Tarma town. The provided aid included 1,000 food baskets, medical assistance, wheelchairs for elders, and chlorine tablets for water purification.
- Humanitarian assistance was supplied to Saqba town. As, 2,500 food baskets, medical aid, 300 wheelchairs for elders, and chlorine tablets for water purification were distributed for besieged civilians.
- On 8 of March 2016, UN aid was entered to Beit Sawa town. Whereas, 500 food baskets, medical assistance, and first aid materials were delivered to the population.
- Humanitarian assistance was supplied to Hammura town. As, 1,700 food baskets, medical aid, and chlorine tablets for water purification were distributed for besieged civilians.
- UN had delivered aid for Jisrein town including 1,000 food baskets, medical aid, medicine, and first aid materials.
- On 17th of May 2016, more than 52 trucks had entered the sub-district loaded with aid containing 2,000 food baskets, medical aid, clothing, non-food items, toys, and kitchen utensils.

It should be noted that Zamalka, Arbin, Eftreis, and Mohamadiyah towns did not receive relief aid. Therefore, all towns that received support had donated a part of their share to Arbin and Zamalka towns. As well as, Jesrien town had split the supplied aid with Mohamadiyah and Eftreis residents equally. Additionally, during the three times of aid delivery to Kafr Batna sub-district, the assistance covered the population needs for just ten days.

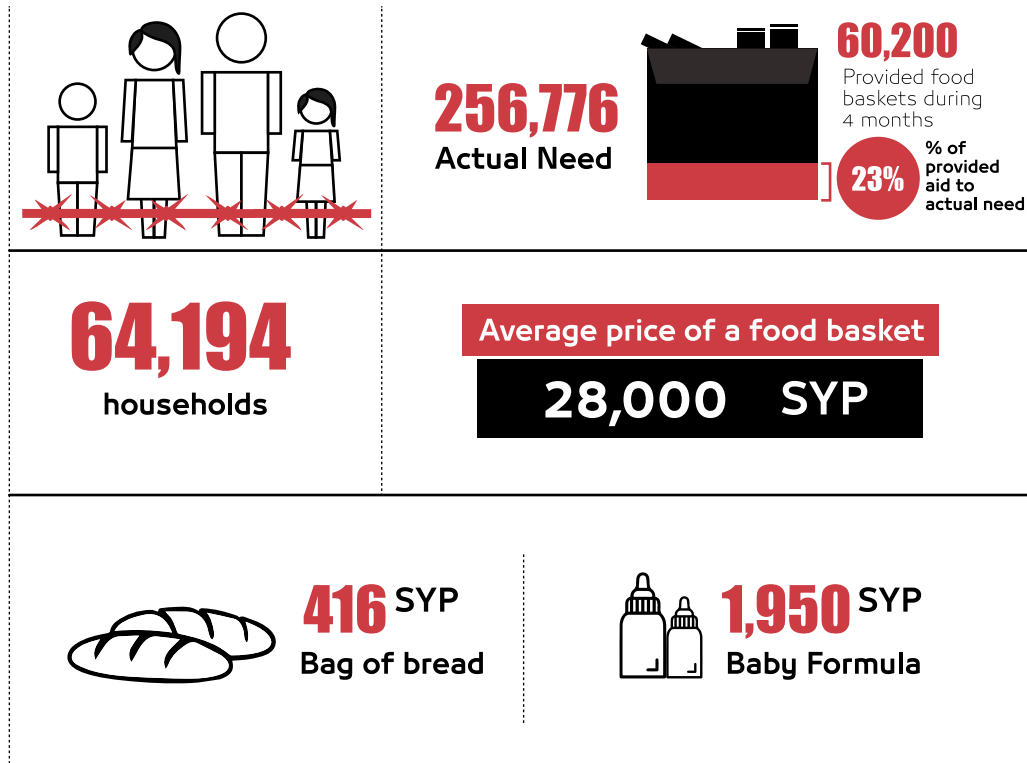
Babella

- During the last three months, food baskets were distributed to civilians in Yarmuk Camp neighborhood by Alough organization. A total of 18,000 food baskets and 12,000 hygiene kits have been circulated in Yalda town. About 70% of the food baskets were distributed to the residents of Yarmuk Camp, and the other 30% was distributed to the remaining civilians in the displaced villages of Sbeineh, Hjeireh, Diyabiyeh, Hseiniyeh, and Buwayda.
- Syrian Arab Red Crescent was distributing bread twice a week through Al-Tahrir organization.
- A total of 10,500 food baskets were distributed in Babella, Yalda, and Beit Sahm towns monthly which constitute 31,500 food baskets during three months. The contents of the mentioned food basket are sufficient for a family of 4-6 members for ten days only.

Duma

- On 25th of May 2016, six trucks containing medical aid entered the city of Duma. The provided aid included 750 doses of dialysis medicaments, medical requirements, wheelchairs for elders, and vaccinations. No other aid help was entered during the period of the blockade.

Eastern Ghouta



Northern Countryside of Homs

Ar-Rastan

First Convoy: On 21st of April 2016, and after one-year cutout, the first convoy of humanitarian aid had entered Ar-Rastan city. The convoy included 65 trucks containing 24,500 food baskets, 12,000 hygiene kits, medicine, health materials, mattresses, insulators, water networks requirements, sterilizers, and 29,400 flour bags.

The Red Crescent had distributed for each family during phase 1 :

- one food basket • one bag of flour weighing 25 kg • three boxes of biscuits • half hygiene kit.

Second Convoy: The second aid convoy had entered the city on 25th of April 2016 consisting of 35 trucks. The aid included 24,000 food baskets, canned food, 24,000 cleaning kits, kitchen kits, flour, peanut butter, medicine, food items for collective kitchens, 12,000 hygiene kits, 18,500 baby diaper bags, blankets, wheelchairs and crutches for people with special needs, equipment for child delivery, and medicine for children.

The Red Crescent had distributed for each family during phase 2:

- one food basket • one basket of canned food • one hygiene kit • half bag of baby diapers

knowing that the provided aid was sufficient for only one month and of bad quality.

Taldu Sub-district

The International Red Cross with the cooperation of Syrian Arab Red Crescent had delivered humanitarian aid to Taldu sub-district on two phases.

Phase 1: In March 2016, humanitarian assistance was entered to the sub-district after one-year cease. The aid entry was on 22nd of March and 24th of March 2016, and the assistance was received by the Red Crescent in Kafr Laha. The following table shows the delivered aid quantities.

Table: The Delivered Food and non-food aid to the besieged Taldu sub-district during March 2016

No.	Item	Unit of measurement	Received Amount	Notes
1	Flour	Bag	28,400	Each bag weighs 15 kg
2	Food Basket	Basket	14,000	Each basket weighs 19 kg
3	Rice	Bag	14,000	Each bag weighs 10kg
4	Oil	Canister (1 liter)	56,000	Each package contains 15 canisters
5	Chickpeas	Bag	1,400	Each bag weighs 6 kg
6	Biscuits	Box	1,500	Each package contains 20 boxes
7	Peanut Butter	Can	1,500	Each package contains 36 cans
8	Diapers for elders (big)	Piece	80	Each package includes 5 pieces
9	Diapers for elders (medium)	Piece	80	Each package contains 8 pieces
10	Baby diapers	Piece	80	Each package contains 10 pieces
11	Hygiene kit	Basket	1,400	-
12	Tent	Tent	300	Each package contains 5 tents
13	Tent insulator	Insulator	300	
14	Water purification materials	Gallon	100	Gallon
15	Blankets	piece	2,200	Blanket
16	Floor mat	piece	1,000	-
17	Home baskets	piece	200	-
18	Mattresses	piece	3,200	-
19	Winter clothing	piece	1,000	Miscellaneous clothing
20	School bags	piece	4,000	Copybooks, pens, and various stationery

Some medicaments were delivered to the sub-district like antibiotics, painkillers, antipyretics, and medicine for lice and scabies. Nevertheless, the quantity of the medical aid was small and did not cover the actual population needs, especially medicine and surgical equipment. Moreover, the besieged area needs child vaccinations and though no vaccinations were available with the delivered aid. Two diesel engines for wells and two water dippers were provided as well.

Phase 2: The second aid entry was recorded on 25th of May, 2016, and ten trucks containing hygiene kits, flour, biscuits, chocolate, and school books had entered the area. The assistance was received by the Red Crescent in Kafr Laha, and the quantities were as follows:

Table: The Delivered aid to the besieged Taldu sub-district during May 2016

Item	Quantity	Item	Quantity
Flour	14,200 bags each one weighs 15 kg	Chocolate package	600 packages, each one contains 36 pieces
Hygiene Kits	2,000	Biscuit package	400 packages, each one contains 20 pieces
Around 5,000 copies of school books were delivered to primary level classes			

Comparing the supplied assistance with the actual population's needs, the amount of delivered aid was small especially medicine, hygiene kits, and non-food items. Whereas, one hygiene kit was delivered to several families to cover all families. Regarding the food items, their amount was sufficient only for 20 days.

Talbiseh

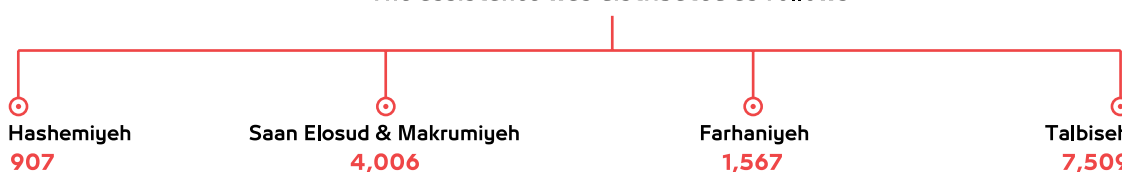
- On 21st of April 2016, Zafaraniya village had received humanitarian aid that was enough for only one month. A generator for water pumping stations was also delivered to the community.
- On 21st of April 2016, Deir Fool village had received humanitarian aid.
- On 15th of April 2016, Dar Kabira Village had received humanitarian aid.
- On 29th of April 2016, the first humanitarian aid convoy consisting of 34 trucks had entered Talbiseh sub-district, after three days 17 trucks had provided aid.
- On 15th of April 2016, Ghanto village had received humanitarian aid.

The following table shows the delivered aid to the villages of Talbiseh sub-district.

Table: The Delivered aid to the besieged Talbiseh sub-district during April 2016

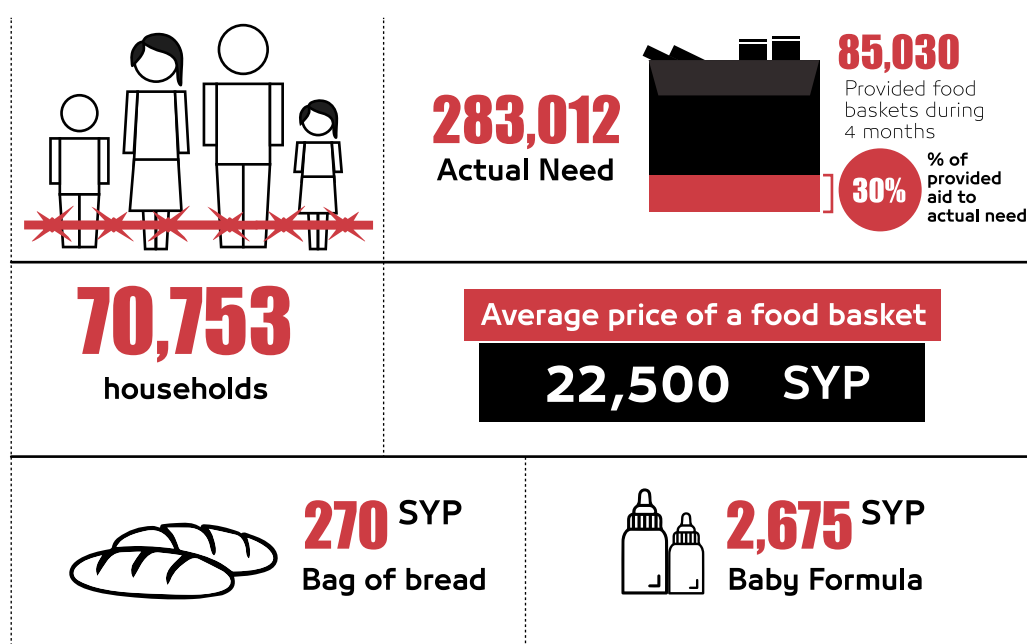
Item	Talbiseh	Zafaraniya	Deir Fool	Ghanto	Dar Kabira
Food basket	12,000	3,930	670	2,030	4,400
Canned food	12,000	3,930	670	-	-
Flour	14,000	3,930	670	2,930	8,800
Hygiene kit	12,000	3,930	670	900	4,400
Kitchen utensils	2,900	-	-	-	-
Blankets	2,300	-	-	580	1,000
Mattresses	900	-	11	200	-
School kit	60	-	-	-	-
Peanut butter	100	-	-	-	-
Insulator	2,600	-	11	300	1,000
Oral Rehydration Salts for children	300	-	-	-	-
Medicine	250	-	-	-	-
Baby diapers	8,000	3,930	670	600	3,000
Diapers for elders	-	-	-	-	600
Floor mat	-	-	11	-	1,000

The assistance was distributed as follows



There was a lack in aid quantity that was delivered to Hashemiyeh village, so some food baskets were divided into two parts to solve this issue and compensate the lack and provide aid for the residents.

Northern Countryside of Homs



Homs

Al-Wa'ar Neighborhood

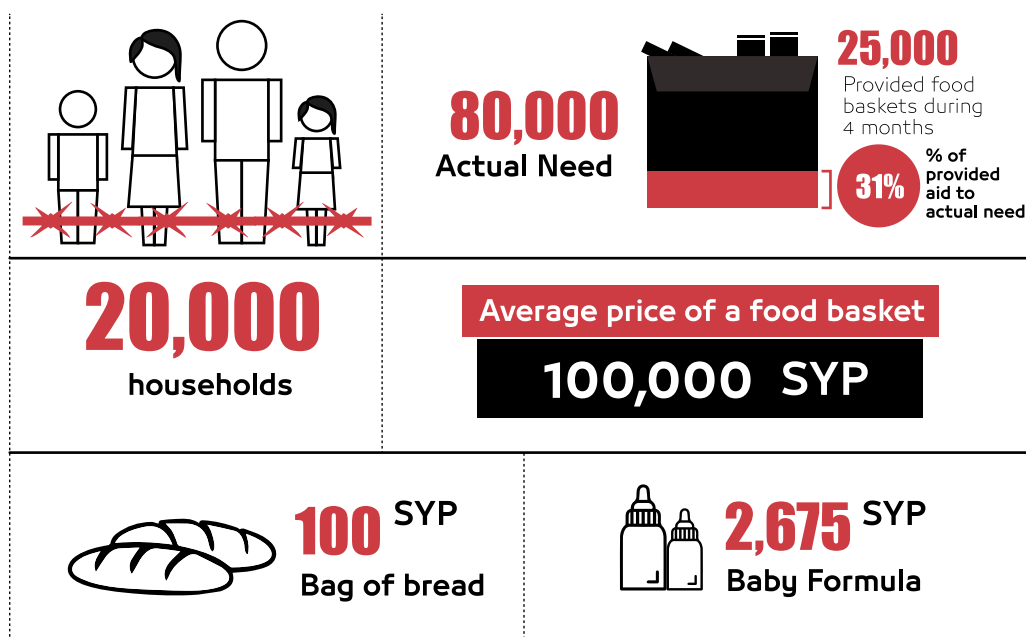
On 3rd of March 2016, humanitarian assistance was delivered to the besieged Al-Wa'ar neighborhood including 8,000 food baskets and 12,000 hygiene kits. The delivered amount was sufficient for one month only, and the food baskets did not contain pasta and beans, and no flour was entered as well. Moreover, despite the acute need for medicine, this neighborhood did not receive any medicaments.



Deir-ez-Zor City

The besieged neighborhoods of Deir-ez-Zor City had received assistance by parachutes thrown from UN cargo planes. The Syrian Regime Army receives the aid and delivers the materials to Syrian Arab Red Crescent teams after taking a big part of it for its soldiers. After that, Red Crescent teams distribute the aid to besieged civilians. It is impossible to count the number of food baskets that were being thrown on the besieged neighborhoods, as the number and size of parachutes did not match the quantities of distributed aid. Additionally, the Syrian Regime throws weaponry to his soldiers via the same planes.

The number of beneficiaries reached 25,000 households approximately 100,000 individuals during the last three months. It should be noted that the size of food baskets was small and enough for the family needs for no more than ten days.



Legal Conclusions

- The international law imposes on the parties of the conflict to grant the humanitarian relief workers the freedom of movement and guarantee them protection to facilitate the aid delivery for civilians.
- The Syrian Regime forces had deliberately and systematically applied blockade against another party in the non-international armed conflict. Instead of facilitating the provision of humanitarian assistance the regime forces had prevented aid entry and bombed the besieged areas and destroyed its communities, this constitutes a war crime according to the international humanitarian law.
- The Syrian Regime had violated without any doubt all Security Council resolutions which are related to siege. The violated resolutions begin with resolution no. 2139 issued on 22 February 2014 and ended with resolution no. 2268 issued on 22 February 2016 and resolutions that were issued during the two years which are resolution no. 2165 issued on 14 July 2014, resolution no. 2191 issued on 17 December 2014, resolution no. 2258 18 December 2015.

Recommendations

To The International Security Council:

- Applying all related resolutions to humanitarian aid delivery and breaking the siege (2139, 2165, 2191, 2254, 2258) as those resolutions are still not implemented.
- Demanding the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide a detailed report on besieged areas and the real numbers of civilians there, how the aid is distributed, and the areas which received aid, and publish this report as soon as possible to inform the Syrian community with detailed information on the besieged areas.

To The Governments of United States of America and Russia

- Pushing the Syrian Regime to accomplish the simplest demand completely in the agreement of cessation of hostile actions.

To Donating Countries:

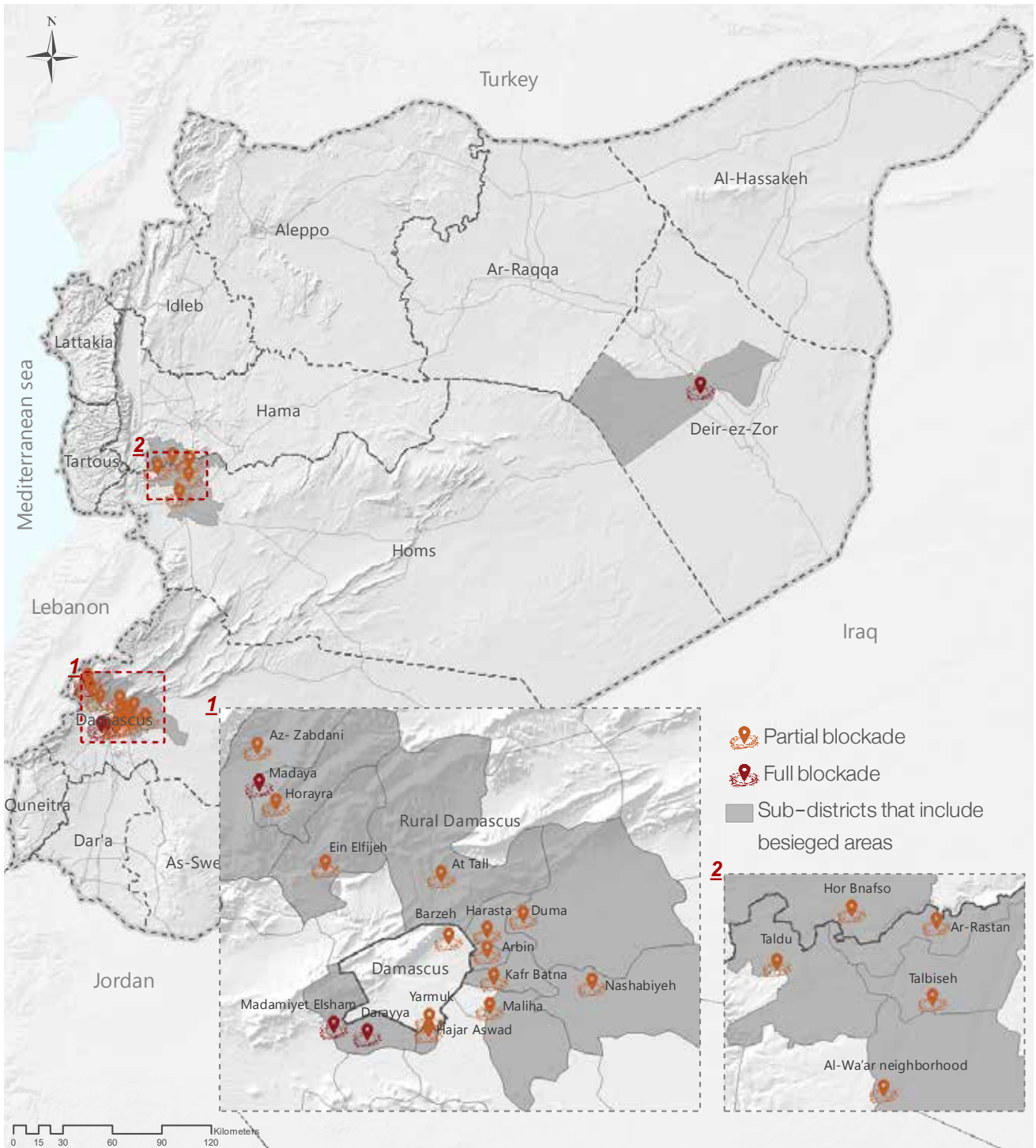
- Conducting a bigger reliance on Syrian local non-governmental organizations which have proven integrity and impartiality and financial transparency.

Other Recommendations

- Assistance Coordination Unit calls for United Nations to plan a humanitarian response for all sectors that will cover all Syrian territories, and not wait for humanitarian disasters to take place.
- Conducting a periodic need assessment in Syria, and build humanitarian response plans based on its results.
- Announcing the implementation of any humanitarian response plan that will take place in Syria and inform all parties of it, to ensure the stop of all military operations on the ground while conducting the response. As several humanitarian convoys were not entered to Darayya City in Rural Damascus and Taldu sub-district in Homs governorate due to bombing those areas by Syrian Regime forces. Moreover, the regime's warplanes bombed a Syrian Red Crescent humanitarian convoy in Deir-ez-Zor resulting in killing the driver and damaging the shipment.
- The provision of the mentioned humanitarian assistance in this report is not enough, and work should be done to open roads for food items and living requirements for the besieged areas because the supply of humanitarian assistance is sufficient only to survive.
- The humanitarian response plans should include activating vaccination campaigns, entering medical aid, providing medical staff salaries, and supporting medical centers.

It should be noted that the Information Management Unit of the Assistance Coordination Unit is preparing a detailed report on the situation in Aleppo City that is out of Syrian Regime control named "Aleppo Under Siege". The report includes the basic city requirements of food and non-food items, medical requirements, and the most important needs in services and civil defense sectors.

Besieged areas in Syria - June 2016





BESIEGED AREAS

Syria 2016

Urgent Report

Information Management Unit (IMU)

ACU | وحدة تنسيق الدعم
ASSISTANCE COORDINATION UNIT



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