



Humanitarian Situation in Syria

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Introduction

The peaceful movement in Syria started on March 15, 2011, after some children from Dar'a governorate in the South of Syria were killed by Syrian intelligence because they have written phrases against Syrian regime. Afterwards, the Syrian people demanded to punish the responsible people of those crimes by going out in peaceful demonstrations that was suppressed by the regime using live ammunition which increased the people's anger.

The use of violence to repress the peaceful movement and the increase in the number of victims raised the people's demands to end the regime's rule in the country. The regime reacted by using its army, heavy artillery and killing against civilians all those actions resulted in the desertion of many officers and form the Free Syrian Army.

Aleppo City has entered the armed movement on July 28, 2012 after suffering from regime's ascendancy and civilians' arrests. The FSA has appeared in Aleppo City which is located in the North of Syria in the beginning of 2012, it contains high population density in addition to the big number of IDPs who were settled in Aleppo. Aleppo's population in 2012 was estimated by 4,600,000 people within nearly 85 km² area.

Regime's reaction in Aleppo was violent, where it bombed the city with explosive bombs on the fourth day after it went out of his control without trying to use any alternative. Regime's warplanes bombed the civilians' neighborhoods of Aleppo on August 1, 2012 using explosive barrel bombs. Hundreds of victims were killed on a daily basis and many civil facilities were destroyed due to massive destructive power of explosive barrels in highly crowded city and within small areas. Around 60% of city's neighborhoods are out of regime's control and contained 2,600,000 civilians before the regime used explosive barrels. Until now the population has decreased to 400,000 persons only within the destroyed parts of the city that constitutes 85% of city's neighborhoods. Now, Aleppo City has become a stricken city after it was the first industrial city in Syria.

The Russian support and the international silence of all Syrian regime deeds presented a blessing to generalize Aleppo experience in killing, destroy and displacement to all Syrian lands out of his control. For example, Kafr Zeita sub-district in Hama governorate with no more than 5,000 people is being bombed with more than five explosive barrels daily.

It is known that the regime capacity of explosive barrels is no longer enough for its plans of destruction, so he asked Iran for supply with those barrels, as well as, Russia has developed and maintained some Syrian helicopters to increase the number of warplanes and raise its destructive powers.

Russian bombardment of out of regime control areas:

The Syrian people revolution has come to the end of its fifth year with the progress of opposition against the Syrian regime and its foreign militias. The Russians have supported the Syrian regime using different methods since the beginning of Syrian revolution starting with using Security Council's veto against every decision that may help the Syrian people and end their suffering. Afterwards, they have provided the Regime with heavy artillery. Nevertheless, not all that was enough, so the Russians have received a permit from Kremlin to spread military forces in Syria and use war planes there under the pretext of fighting terrorism in Syria.

The first Russian raids was executed on September, 30, 2015 targeting living block compound at Latmana village in Kafr Zeita sub-district in Hama Governorate that was under the control of moderate opposition trained and supplied with weapons by the America and Europe.

Three months have passed after the inception of Russian raids on Syrian lands. The total number of raids reached 2,273 raid killing 1,094 civilians with a high percentage of women and children and targeting 1,343 civil locations. Russian warplanes bombed hospitals, schools, markets and civilians' houses, with 85% of targeted locations were under the control of moderate opposition and only 15% of targets controlled by ISIL.



The daily bombardment has intensified and reached 1,679 air strikes in December 2015, where 967 raids targeted civil locations. The number of people who lost their lives due to Russian air strikes is 747 civilians. The following figure illustrates the bombardment average, number of targeted civil locations and mortalities between October and December.



Those raids caused displacement waves in all out of regime control areas within Southern Aleppo countryside, Idleb governorate, Northern Hama governorate and the liberated countryside of Lattakia that witnessed the highest share of Russian air strikes considering the number of raids to the targeted area.

Blockade and Dislocation in out of Regime Control Areas

The regime aims to change the demography of Syrian territories with the help of international actors and under the pretext of minority protection via applying blockades and force the displacement of population in the areas that are out of his control.

First attempt to displace people in 2015 has started by Kurdistan workers' party that is considered regime's ally. Al-Hasakeh Governorate witnessed a progress of Kurdish forces on March 15, 2015 and could control Tell Abiad area from ISIL forces. On June 10, 2015 the Kurdish forces tightened their control on Tell Abiad area that consists of three sub-districts Suluk, Ein Issa and Tell Abiad and forced the whole population to leave their homes there.

A delegation from Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces (Etilaf) has tried on June 28, 2015 to enter Tell Abiad after it was freed from the ISIL control and investigate the dislocation operations implemented by Kurdistan workers' party against civilians, but unfortunately it was prohibited from entering the area. New military formation appeared in Tell Abiad on October 2, so called Al Ashaer army which means army of clans, this army consists of this area inhabitants in order to protect the area from ISIL attacks. Al Ashaer army tried to return the forcedly displaced to their homes on December 15 with ongoing clashes with Kurdistan workers' party, but PKK party had besieged them and demanded their submission and retreat from the area.

The second forced displacement of population took place at besieged Al Wa'er neighborhood in Homs governorate on December 9, 2015 by expulsion of soldiers and their families, some injured people and some civilian families under the pretext of breaking the siege and humanitarian assistance entry. Despite of the departure of those so called by the regime agreement restrainers, the neighborhood is still besieged with the occurrence of gun shots between the Shiite forces that besieges some parts of Al Wa'er neighborhood. So it is apparent that the regime himself is the biggest restrainer of any agreement in the region, and he aims to empty the whole neighborhood of its inhabitants and settle his Shiite allies instead.

Az- Zabdani sub-district in Rural Damascus governorate had witnessed on December 28 the last forced displacement of population in 2015 by Syrian regime by expulsion of 126 civilians from this sub-district against freeing 338 persons from opposition besieged Kafraya and Foa villages in Rural Idlib. The exchange operation was monitored by United Nations envoy according to an agreement between Syrian regime and the opposition. This agreement included opening the road leading to besieged Az- Zabdani and Madaya sub-districts and entering the humanitarian aid there. Madaya sub-district was besieged on July 05, 2015, it included 40,000 civilians half of them were IDPs from neighboring areas which increased their suffering.

Syrian regime had closed all leading roads to Madamiyet Elsham town in Darayya sub-district in Rural Damascus governorate that signed a truce with regime earlier. The regime demanded that all oppositionists leave the area, so the regime will control it and settle his allies instead of its original population.

Humanitarian Situation in Out of Regime Control Areas

The civilians who are living in areas out of regime control experience three different statuses, according to humanitarian aid accessibility to those areas. There are areas where the in-kind assistance can be delivered like the Northern Syrian territories and Southern out of regime control areas. Other areas can receive cash aid only that helps in the entry of some raw materials to those areas and launch small projects for every family such as livestock raising and basic crops seeding which help them to survive. The rest of the areas are totally besieged and aid inaccessible.

First: In-Kind Assistance Accessible Areas

With the advent of winter, the suffering of the Syrians increase in the areas out of regime control, especially with intensified Russian airstrikes. New displacement waves have taken place since September due to heavy bombardment and IDPs' search for safer places in other areas and in IDPs' camps. Hama governorate recorded the highest percentage of IDPs for the last three months, where 24,881 families left their homes and headed towards free Syrian North. Aleppo governorate came in the second place where 9,873 families were displaced, and the western Aleppo countryside with its two sub-districts Zarbah and Hadher has become free of its population. Idleb governorate has recorded 5,633 families who left their homes and 1,280 families have been displaced in Lattakia governorate.

On the other hand, Idleb governorate has received the highest number of IDPs. ACU's enumerators have managed to count 8,641 families who arrived to this governorate due to Russian bombing and specify their basic needs. The actual number of displaced families are more than that number but the continuous IDPs' movement to find better living places and humanitarian organizations weak response in meeting their requirements prevented from counting all IDPs.

Displacement during September



41,667 Families

240,155 Individuals

19,438 Counted Families

133,170 IDPs with Specified Needs

Families Distribution



In the Open

206



Random Camps

1005



Collective Shelters

5,333



Hosting Families

4,201



Rented Accommodations

6,939



Northern Syria Camps

2,035

The following figures show the displacement locations in Idleb and Aleppo governorates.

Figure: Displaced Families in Aleppo Governorate

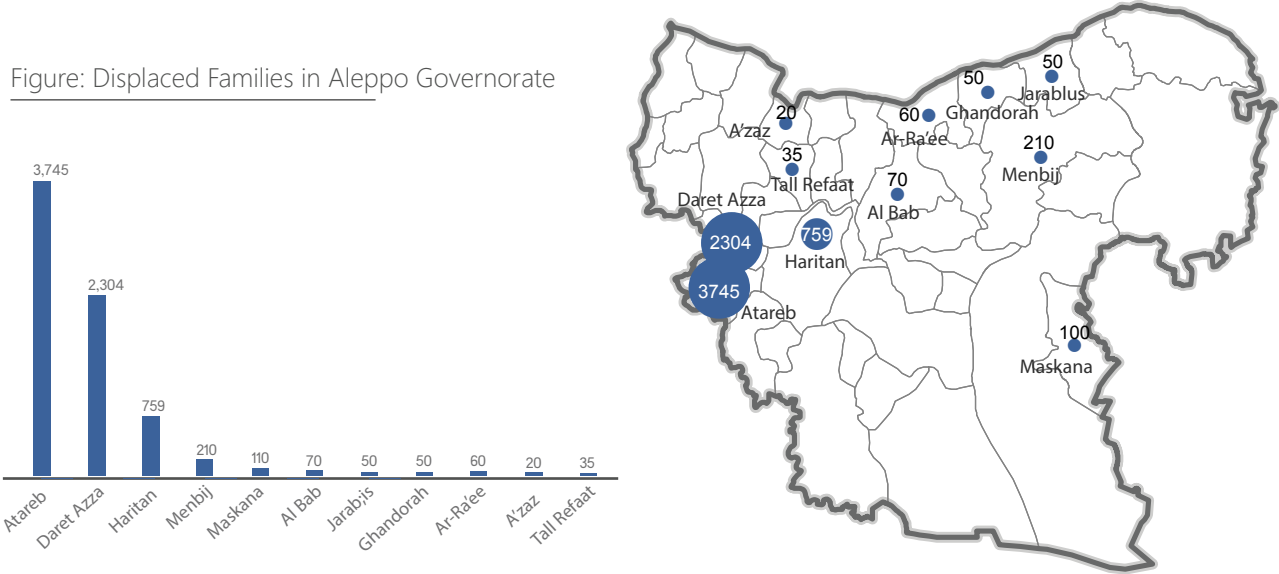
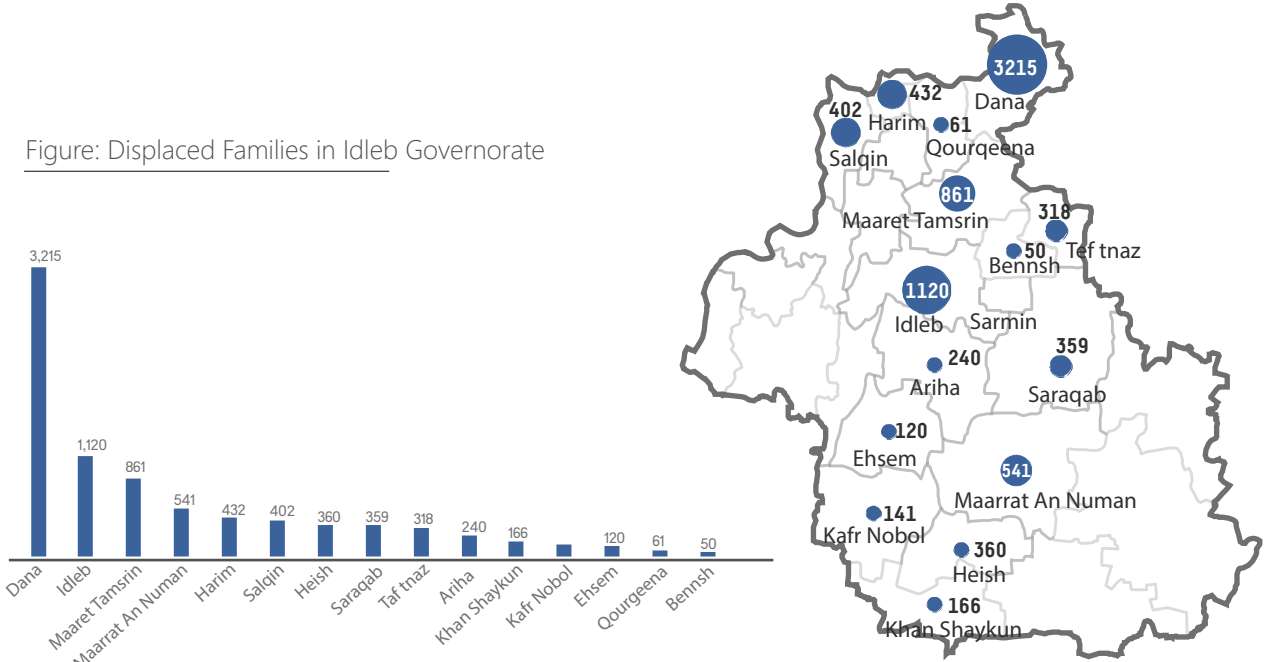
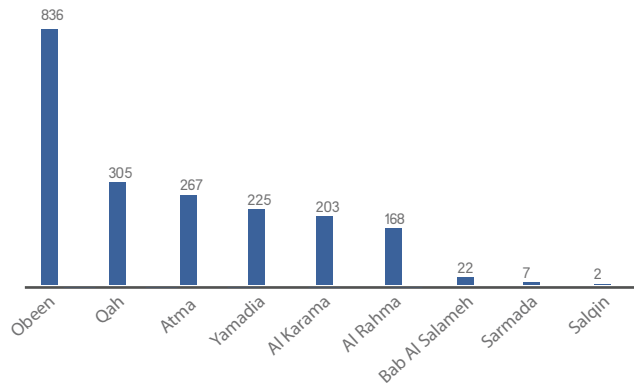


Figure: Displaced Families in Idleb Governorate











Displaced Families Arrived to Idlib Governorate because of Russian Airstrikes



Basic IDP Needs:

The displacement waves increase in out of regime control areas with shelling intensification and dropping temperatures and snowstorms, especially with the lack of heating fuel and its high prices due to targeting the fuel trucks by Russian forces in out of regime control areas. Despite the increasing suffering of the IDPs, no appropriate response was provided for the Syrians during winter. The basic needs of displaced people can be summarized with tents, mattresses, blankets, fuel and food items.

	Food Baskets 19,438		Hygiene Kits 19,438		Blankets 226,340
	Kitchen Baskets 19,438		Mattresses 113,170		Tent Rain Insulators 2,035
	Tents that were registered by ACU 2,035				families are in need of fuel for heating 19,438

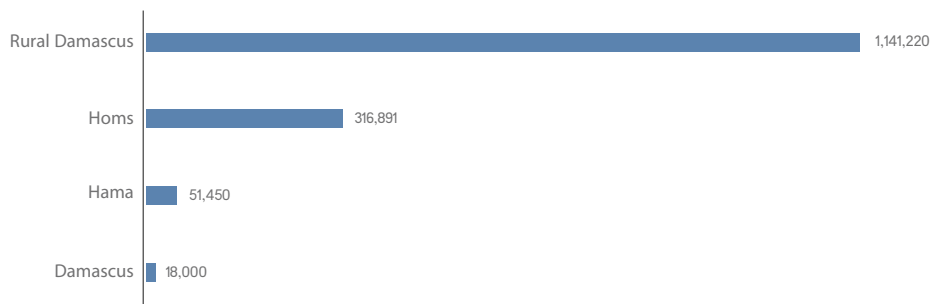
The mentioned needs above are specified just for people who were affected by the escalating military situation during previous few months, with no humanitarian response provided to end their suffering.

Second: Cash Assistance Accessible Areas

Number of besieged Syrian civilians reached 1,713,561 civilians with no possible chance of aid entry, 1,527,561 of them are in cash aid accessible areas. The monetary assistance enables those to implement small development projects for families, like livestock raising and basic crops seeding in order to secure the basic food items.

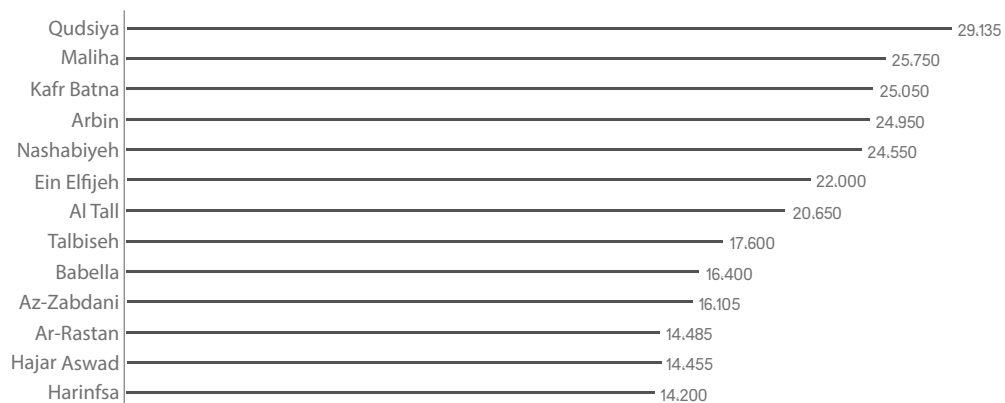
Rural Damascus governorate with its liberated sub-districts contained the highest number of besieged people, with 1,141,220 civilians in cash accessible areas. The following figure shows IDPs distribution who are in need of cash assistance by governorate.

Figure 2: Number of civilians in besieged areas in need of cash assistance



The prices of food items in besieged areas has differed partially according to the intensity of blockade and the level of food items availability there. The price of basic food basket weighing 39 kg that consists of basic legumes and cooking oils varies between 14,200 SYP and 29,135 SYP. The price distribution is shown in the below figure.

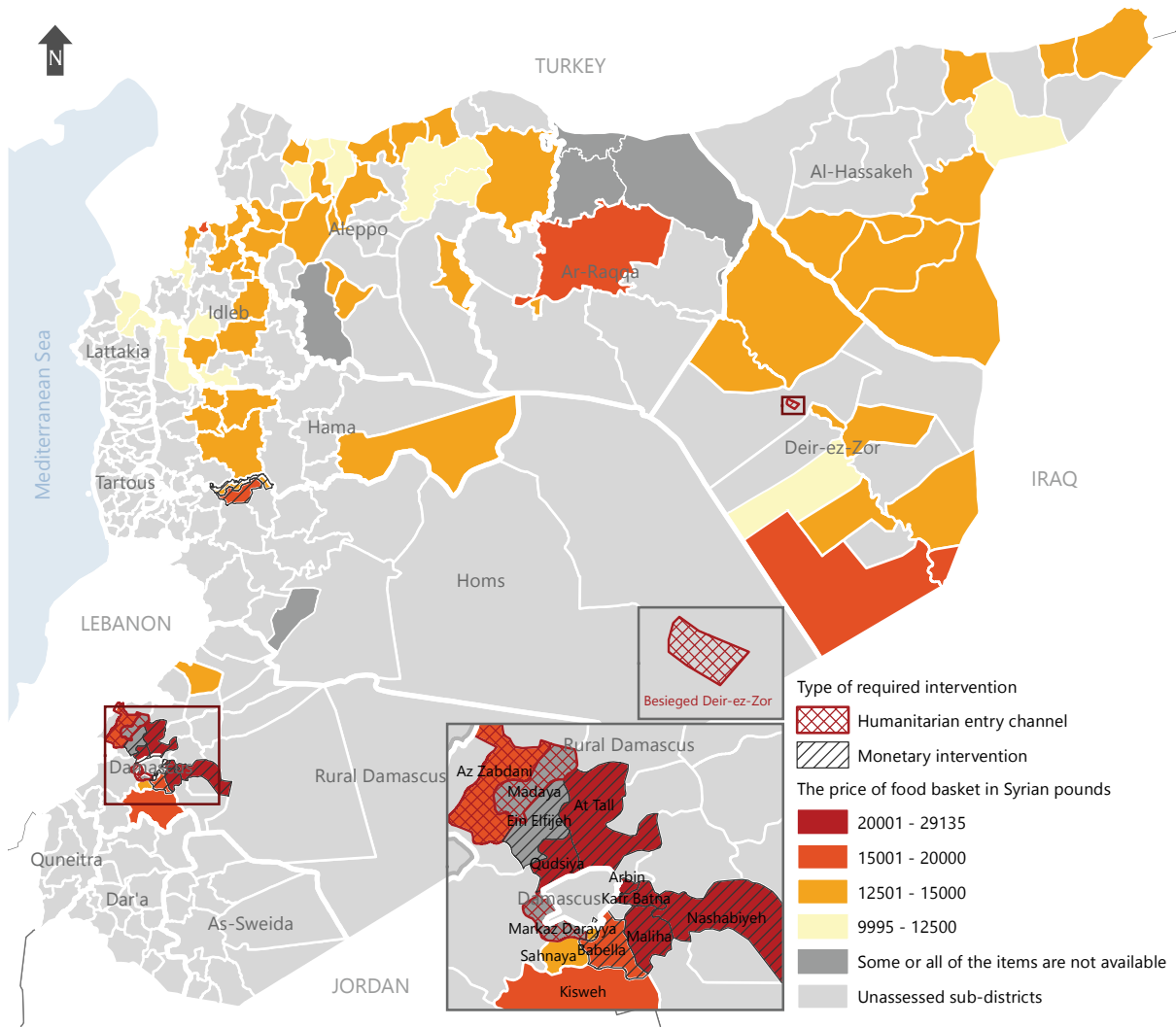
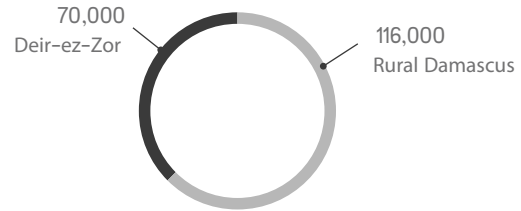
Food Basket Price in Cash Assistance Accessible Areas



Third: Totally Besieged Areas

The regime has tried to displace the populations through applying blockades and famishments to some areas out of his control that play a strategic role for the regime through its locations. The number of totally besieged people with no means of living is 186,000 civilians distributed in Rural Damascus and Deir-ez-Zor.

Number of Besieged Civilians in Need of Urgent Humanitarian Assistance



Till the moment of writing this report Madaya town in Rural Damascus governorate is under tight blockade since July 05, 2015 applied by Syrian regime and Hizballah Lebanese Shitte militias. This town was targeted with explosive barrels bombs, so the suffering of the civilians increase with urgent need to medical materials. Population has remarkably increased in Madaya reaching 40,000 people after arriving about 20,000 IDPs from Az- Zabdani towards this town. Both of Az- Zabdani and Madaya towns suffer from severe lack of food and medical items since August 2015. The besieged civilians suffered from the spread of chonical diseases

and increasing mortality rates due to starvation and the absence of medical care. It was mentioned by doctors in those towns that more than 25 syncope cases occur daily, with an average of one to two people who pass away every day among sick, disabled, elders and persons with chronic diseases. Few death cases were documented, among them 453 diabetes cases, 700 heart diseases cases, 30 cases of epilepsy and 350 malnutrition cases most of them children under five years old where 55 children are in field hospitals.

The capabilities became nonexistent and poisoning cases were spread due to eating harmful plants and garbage, some people started to eat cat meat which can cause the emerge of serious health problems. Regarding the injured people due to bombardment and mines explosions, most of them suffered from amputation. Whereas, the regime aimed to make the besieged town as a prison with no possibility of getting out. Regime's soldiers and Hizb Allah militias planted mines around the town, so anyone who tries to escape will be exposed to death or injury with the rareness of medical staff and materials to rescue them.

The food items prices were extremely high and very rare. The price of regular basket that consists of rice, bulgur, flour, lentils, vermicelli, macaroni, sugar and oil weighing 30 kg equals \$5,178. The need of besieged areas in Ein Elfijeh is around 8,000 food baskets, its cost according to the food prices and dollar exchange price is around \$41,427,027. Taking into consideration the severe scarcity of food items in the region and its unavailability even for 10% of the population and the food quantities are very small.

There are around 1,000 besieged civilians in Az- Zabdani town who are suffering from tight blockade and lack of basic living necessities. The regime started to apply siege on Darayya sub-district in Darayya and Madamiyet Elsham towns, in spite the truce between Madamiyet Elsham and the regime where employees and students were allowed to go in and go out of it. The regime has closed the city on December 26, 2015 and established barriers at its entrances to tighten the blockade and put conditions for negotiations.

Darayya sub-district contains about 50,000 people many of them are IDPs from neighboring areas. The regime was allowing to enter small quantities of food that cover a part of the civilians so the food items disappeared in the first few days of the blockade.

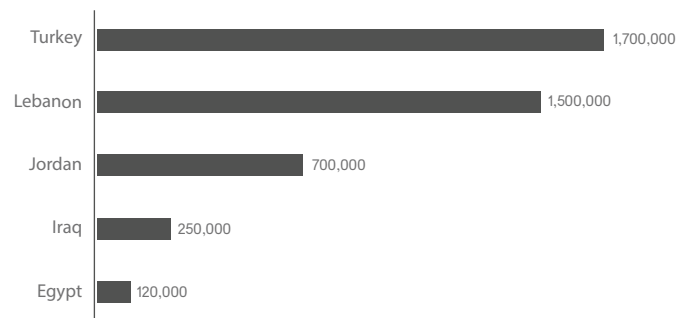
After ISIL took control of Deir-ez-Zor governorate, only small part of Deir-ez-Zor city remained under the control of the regime that contained around 250,000 civilians. When ISIL could not control that part with its Qusoor and Aljoura neighborhoods it imposed a blockade on January 16, 2015 and prevented the entry of food to the city. Displacement wave was started after the blockade to outside the city, about 70,000 people live in the city because the regime did not allow them to get out and use them as human shields to protect himself from ISIL strikes. There was an attempt to break the siege by the Red Cross that entered eight planes of food items with 10 tons in each plane and contain rice and oil only. Food baskets were distributed for each family that consist of 2 kg of oil and 2 kg of rice. The city suffers from severe deficiency in food items after a whole year of blockade.

There is no single mean to help the civilians in the besieged areas in Rural Damascus and Deir-ez-Zor governorates except applying pressure on the regime to open roads for aid delivery to those areas to end the civilians' suffering.

Refugees in Neighboring Countries

Big part of Syrians have resorted to neighboring countries due to insecurity, increasing number of victims, loss of income sources, lack of aid, the length of the crisis with no solution till now and many other reasons. Number of refugees in neighboring countries is 4,270,000 civilians, with the biggest number in Turkey 1,700,000 with the end of 2015 and the most suffering refugees are in Lebanon with 1,500,000 civilians with the end of 2015.

Refugees in Neighboring Countries with the End of 2015



Priorities and Needs

- First step to divide Syria is the change of the demography of Syrian territories with the support of international actors under the motto of minorities' protection. So it is important to empower the Syrian element and calling for the abolition of the multiplicity of nationalities and sects.
- The resolutions adopted by Security Council that do not bind all parties and do not include international monitors is considered as prolongation of people's suffering with more chances to kill and destroy.
- Secure humanitarian channels should be opened for besieged areas in Rural Damascus, Deir-ez-Zor and Homs governorates and complete the conditions of the agreement in Az- Zabdani and Foa that includes breaking the siege of besieged areas in Rural Damascus in order to reinforce the confidence of Syrians with international solutions. United Nations has setup the bullets of the agreement and it is responsible in front of the Syrian people to make all the parties apply them.
- Reactivate the Security Council resolution to open humanitarian passages for aids through Turkish borders, after regime's failure for the fifth year in providing humanitarian aids for all |Syrians impartially.
- Limit the Syrians' migration to European's countries by sea, due to the dangers faced by the refugees during sea crossing in primitive conditions and very bad weather. The UNHCR holds its responsibilities towards Syrian refugees in neighboring countries and border camps through securing a safe return of the displaced to their homes or finding safe living places for them in other countries and transport them safely there under the control of specialized humanitarian organizations.

Displacement Movement in Northern Syria During Oct-Nov-Dec 2015

