

Deir-ez-Zour City Profile

APRIL 2015



Executive Summary

Key Findings

The city has a current estimated population of 247,000¹. Over 228,000 persons are “besieged” in the western neighbourhoods, while some 18,800 people are living in the eastern neighbourhoods. The number of people in the east is reported to be growing as the intra-city frontline has become more stable, and the east is still enjoying free access to neighbouring suburbs.

1. 164,000 people have been displaced by the conflict. Of these, 132,000 have been displaced from eastern to western neighbourhoods.
2. Almost the entire city population is in need of urgent humanitarian assistance, specifically in the besieged neighbourhoods, where approximately 228,000 persons are currently living. The data collected indicate that
 - 196,000 people are in need of food assistance
 - 66,800 people have insufficient access to health services
 - 97,000 people do not have access to adequate shelter or NFIs
 - 71,000 people are lacking sufficient access to water
3. 14,500 school-aged children are not attending schools
4. The City Profile identified the following affected groups requiring immediate assistance, in descending order of priority:
 - i. Elderly, lactating women and infants living in the city’s western neighbourhoods;

- ii. IDPs living in vacated buildings and temporary shelters;
- iii. IDPs living in financial insecurity. Often unable to access income or their own resources due to the siege;
- iv. Families hosting IDPs who are stretching their resources;
- v. Non-displaced persons/ returnees living in partially damaged shelters.











Analysis show that the mostly populated neighbourhoods are also the besieged ones, making them a top priority for immediate interventions. These neighbourhoods are Al Thawra, Al Muhajireen, Al Qusour, and the western part of Al Ba'aheen. On the other hand, Al Hamidia is the most populated neighbourhood in the eastern side controlled by ISIL, and it's to a less extent in-need of humanitarian support (Figure 1). The following priority sectors and neighbourhoods were identified in order of priority:

Recommendations

In addition to the sector priorities identified in this report, the following general recommendations emerge:

1. **Consider officially recognizing Deir Ez-Zor as a besieged area.** The legal and operational implications of such a determination need to be independently assessed by relevant actors.
2. **Improve access to “besieged” areas:** Despite the siege on the western Government-held neighbourhoods, reports indicate that there are several viable options to access the area through local brokers. These could be explored informally. Meanwhile, airborne access using the military airbase south of the city has proven inefficient, except for limited amounts of medical supplies.

Table 1: Priority Neighbourhoods

 Food	 Critical	Al Thawra, Al Muhajireen, Al Qusour, Al Hamidia
 Health	 Severe	Al Ba'aheen, Al Sheikh Yassin, Al Rushdia, Al Thawra, Al Hamidia
 Water	 Major concern	Al Hamidia, Al Ba'aheen, Al Rushdia, Ali Bek and Abdul Aziz, Al Muhajireen
 Shelter	 Concern	Al Muhajireen, Al Hamidia, Al Rushdia, Al Ba'aheen
 Education	 Concern	Al Thawra, Al Muhajireen, Al Hamidia, Al Bougailia

¹ Reports at the end of April indicate that the number of households fell from 49,000 to 35,000 in one month.

3. There are life-threatening gaps in the medical conditions in both sides of the city. Medicine and vaccines are amongst the top priorities, including the needed medications for chronic diseases, communicable diseases, and kidney care equipment.

4. Food is increasingly becoming a critical issue as many people are already dying due to lack of food. Key informants identified food as their highest priority need overall. In addition, the risk factors for malnutrition are in place, such as poor feeding practices, skipping of meals and a high number of children with diarrhea. Nutrition support is urgently needed for critical vulnerable groups.

5. The need to support the restoration of telecommunications:
ISIL have completely interrupted the telecommunication system which links the western neighbourhoods with the rest of the country. This has caused diverse implications on the humanitarian condition, including the inaccessibility to information and banking. There are reports that the GoS is preparing to contract satellite internet connection, which will provide communication lines over the next few weeks through one of the cell-phone companies operating in Syria.

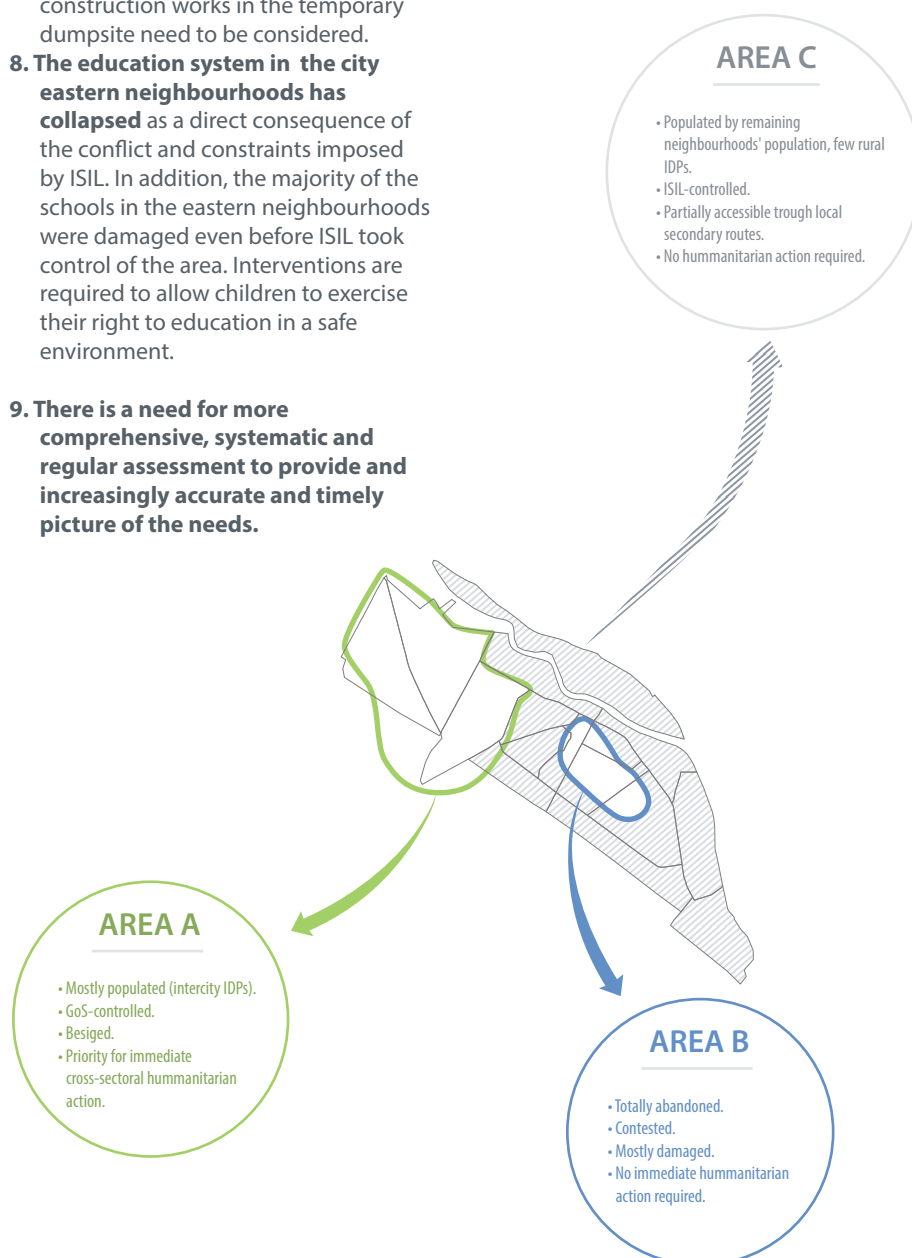
6. The conflict caused widespread damage to infrastructure and houses in Deir Ez-Zour City:
Shelter kits are needed to improve living conditions, especially for IDPs in vacated buildings and other hazardous shelter.

7. Support to solid waste management and garbage collection is needed before the warmer weather starts in order to control vermin and disease vectors, and to minimize public health hazards. Support to the current construction works in the temporary dumpsite need to be considered.

8. The education system in the city eastern neighbourhoods has collapsed as a direct consequence of the conflict and constraints imposed by ISIL. In addition, the majority of the schools in the eastern neighbourhoods were damaged even before ISIL took control of the area. Interventions are required to allow children to exercise their right to education in a safe environment.

9. There is a need for more comprehensive, systematic and regular assessment to provide and increasingly accurate and timely picture of the needs.

Figure 1: Deir Ez-Zour 3 areas of intervention



Methodology

Deir Ez-Zor City Profile covered 19 neighbourhoods that are within the 2006 municipal boundary, including four peri-urban areas which have structural differences from the city's central and traditional neighbourhoods but are within the municipal area of management. The profile was developed during February and March 2015, thus some changes in the assessed humanitarian conditions and needs may have occurred.

The methodology included: a rapid survey, direct observation, key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and a secondary data review. Two facilitators and 6 enumerators covered the two sides of the divided city (4 in the eastern/ ISIL-held area, and 2 in the western/ Government-held area). Qualitative and quantitative data was gathered using a simple survey instrument, key informant interviews and direct observation. Three focus groups meetings were arranged in the western side, whereas only one meeting was arranged in the eastern side. Public schools, hospitals and markets were also visited to complement interviews with direct observation.

Field data were triangulated with baseline information (demographics, health, price trends, etc.) and with independent secondary data (partners report and datasets). Data that were considered inconsistent, incomplete or contradictory were discarded.

The City Profile uses the following severity levels definitions in each of the key humanitarian sectors:

1. Situation of minor concern:

few people are facing problems or shortages in the sector, but they are not life threatening. Affected population is feeling the strain of the situation, but can cope with the current situation with local resources. Conditions require close monitoring.

2. Situation of concern:

many people are facing problems or shortages in the sector, causing significant suffering, but they are not life threatening. Affected population is feeling the strain of the situation, but can cope with the current situation with local resources.

3. Situation of major concern:

majority of the people are facing problems or shortages in the sector, causing discomfort and suffering which can result in irreversible damages to health, but they are not life threatening. Affected population will not be able to cope with the current conditions if the situation persists and no humanitarian assistance is being provided.

4. Severe situation:

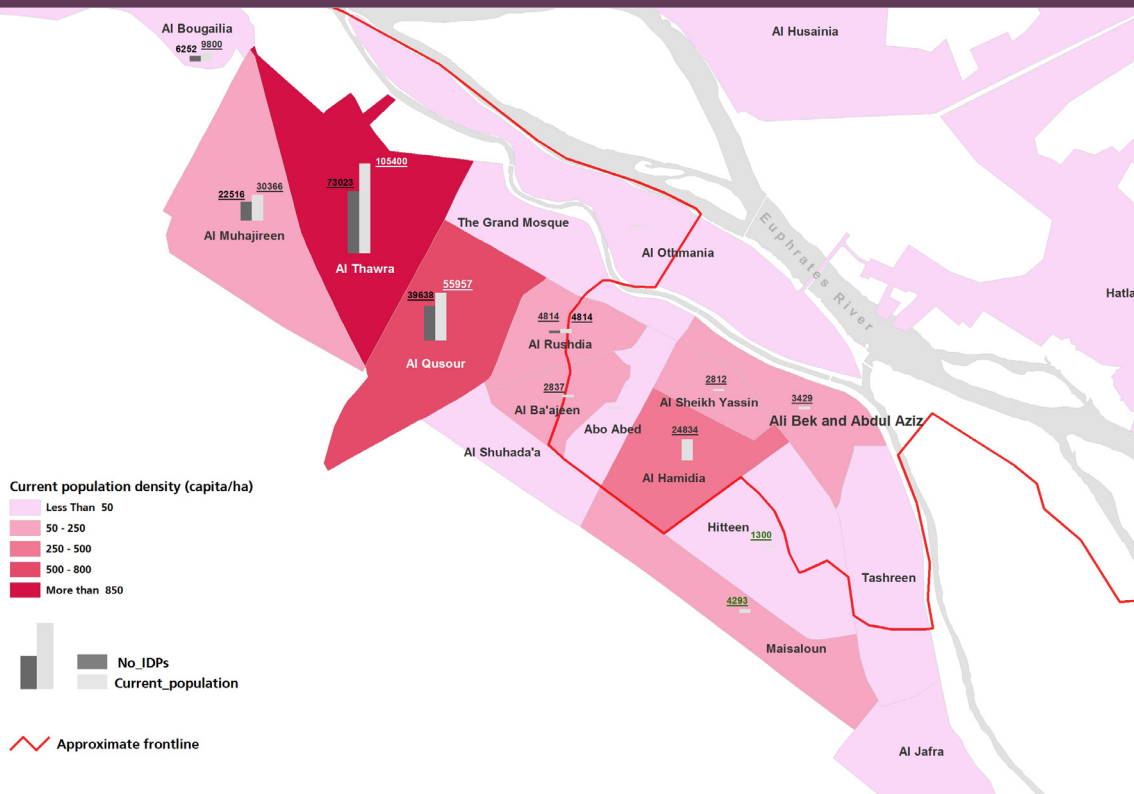
affected population faces life-threatening conditions, causing high levels of suffering and may result in significant deaths if no humanitarian assistance is provided.

5. Critical situation:

affected population faces life-threatening conditions, causing high levels of suffering and deaths. Deaths are already reported, directly caused by the sector conditions, and more deaths are expected if no immediate assistance is provided in the sector.

Demographics

MAP 1



Pre-conflict population:
267,000

Current population:
247,000
East:
18,800
West:
228,000

Current no. of families:
44,500

Pop. living in severe conflict area:
18,600

No. of IDPs:
145,000

The pre-crisis estimated population of Deir Ez Zour is 267,000.² 2010 population figures were interpolated at the neighbourhood level based on 2004 census information (Syrian Central Bureau of Statistics).

The number of IDPs currently living in the city³ is estimated to be 145,000, of which 94% are intra-city IDPs. Current population and IDP estimates provided in this profile are considered based on registration lists, key informant estimates, and beneficiary distribution lists. School attendance, solid waste production and bread consumption figures were also used to further verify the estimates. (Figure 1)

Map 1 shows the breakdown of population and IDPs at the neighbourhood level and the current population density, which indicates the most heavily populated parts of Deir Ez-Zor and the neighbourhoods that are subsequently strained in terms of services and infrastructure. Results show that Al Thawra, Al Qusour, Al Muhajireen (west), and Al Hamidia (east) have the highest population numbers and densities, which broadly indicates the concentration of humanitarian needs in these four locations.

² While pre-conflict population figures are considered to be fairly reliable, an unaccounted population increase might have happened between 2005 and 2010, as Al Muhajireen neighbourhood (informal housing area initiated by rural migrants) was added to the municipal jurisdiction in 2006, and was not included in the 2004 neighbourhood census database. This would have added another 14,000 inhabitants to 2010 estimated population.

³ The number of displaced persons corresponds to the actual number of Deir Ez-Zour 2010 residents who left their neighbourhoods to seek refuge whether inside or outside the city.

FIGURES:

Figure 2: Demographic Changes (Feb. 2015)

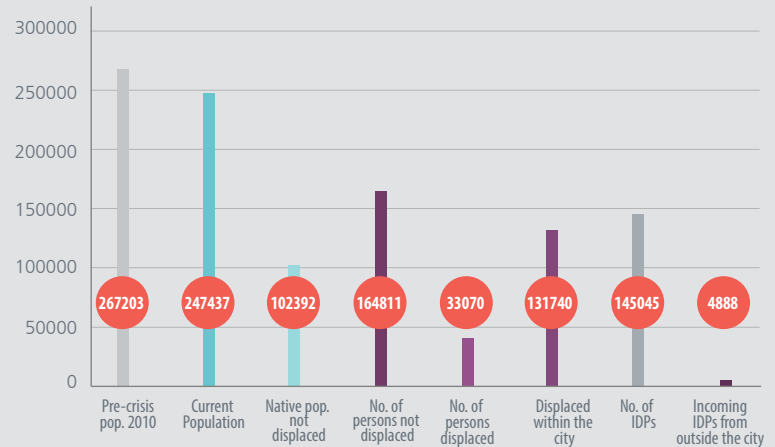


Figure 3: Displacement by Destination

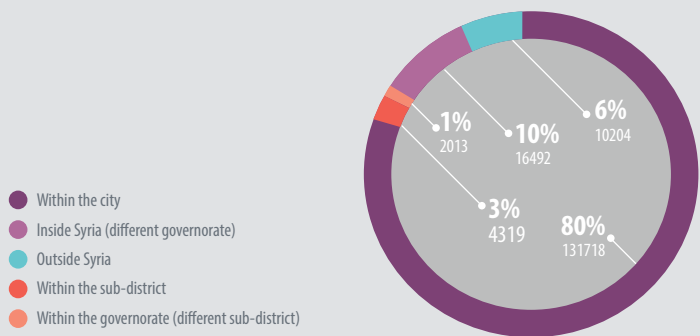
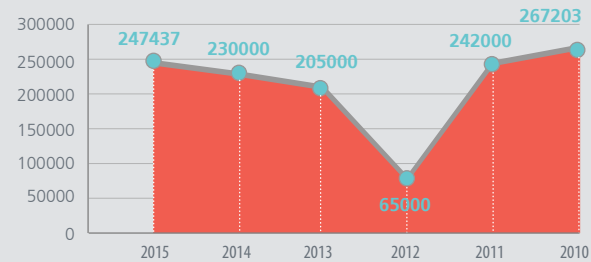


Figure 4: City Population Changes Timeline



2015: Restrictions on population movement from ISIL to government held western side. Mass displacement from the neighbourhoods overlooking the military airport. West side completely besieged by ISIL.

2014: Decrease in displacement, and increase of return to eastern side of the city. ISIL control of east side of the city in July 2014.

2013: Mass return of population after the opposition offensive on Al Raqqa. 13,000 families returned to Deir Ez-Zor just in 5 days.

2012: Significant increase in displacement, mostly to Al Raqqa city. Total city population became as low as 15,000, and the city was divided to east and west sides.

2011: Minor displacement, mostly upper income persons displaced to other governorates

2010: Pre-crisis population

Displacement trends and timeline

Nearly 81% of the persons who were displaced from Deir Ez-Zour neighbourhoods have been displaced inside the city. Others fled the city to other destinations inside Syria (mostly to Damascus, Al Hasaka and Raqqa), or outside Syria (mostly to Turkey and the Arab Gulf). A recent increase in rural IDPs arriving to Deir Ez-Zor is reported, especially from Ayyash (10 km east) after an ISIL offensive on the town in January (Figure 3). During the month of April, reports indicated that the number of households fell from 49,000 to 35,000. Reports also suggest, that the following neighbourhoods were completely abandoned: Maisaloun, Hitteen (Al Sina'a area), Al Sheikh Yassin.

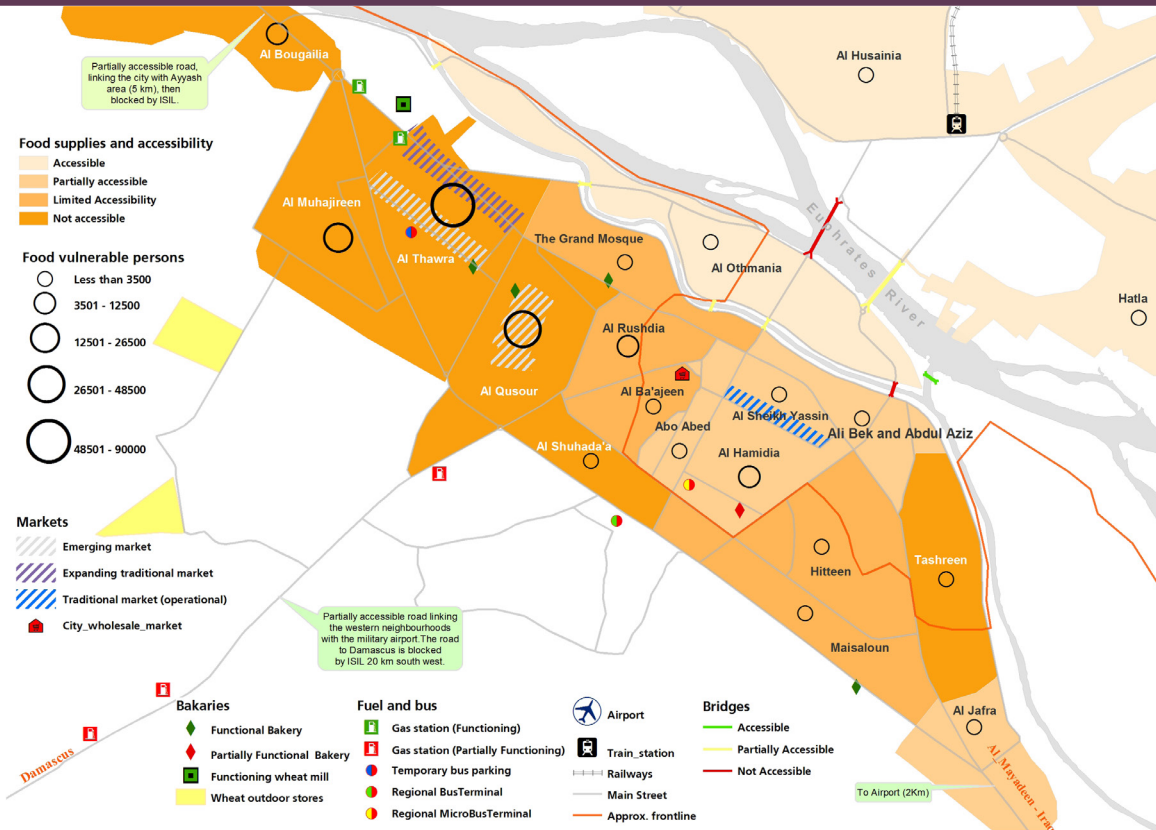
Displacement dynamics in Deir Ez-Zor are related to the conditions in the whole eastern region, including the security considerations in Raqqa, and to a less extent in Al Hasaka governorates. The main displacement timeline is summarized in Figure 4. Three characteristics are specific to the displacement trend in Deir Ez-Zour, 2) the low rate of displacement to outside the city as compared to displacement within the city, 3) the high variation of return between east and west, as most of the 2013 returns were hosted in the western/ Government-held areas, and 4) the current siege on the city's western neighbourhoods is not allowing people to exit the western area. Currently, over 228,000 persons are besieged in the western neighbourhoods with almost no communications. This displacement trend can be explained by the following factors:

1. (a) The tribal nature of society, which made people reluctant to relocate away from their areas of origin, as tribal relationships provide protection and solidarity to related individuals.
2. (b) The high proportion of households that are dependent on public employment as the main source of income, and thus must report to their departments and duty stations.
3. (c) The economic opportunities that the conflict has provided, including the increase in the informal trade with Turkey and Iraq, and the informal oil industry.

Food and Access Findings

Severity level: **Critical** 

MAP 2



Food vulnerable persons:
 196,200
 (79% of pop.)
 East:
 21,700
 West:
 174,500

Monthly amount of children formula required:
 7,245 kg

Daily amount of wheat flour required for current pop.:
 24.74 tons

Daily amount of standard wheat flour currently produced:
 16.1 tons

Food prices:
 65% higher than average national prices

Fuel supplies:
 Inaccessible

Food assistance convoys:
 No access

Airlifts (Mar/Apr):
 Six

Wheat stocks:
 Partially secure

Reports indicate that many people are already dying because of a severe lack of food. 4 out of 5 persons in Deir Ez-Zour are under the threat of severe malnutrition.

- The analysis suggests that at least 79% of the city population is suffering from a lack of access to food supplies, the majority of which are living in the city's western side. Food vulnerable persons include IDPs, infants, elderly, and women headed households. Skipping meals and prioritizing of children is also common across the western neighbourhoods.
- The ISIL siege on the western neighbourhoods has several impacts on food security: markets are unable to restock, fuel supplies have been depleted, and food convoys were not granted access. (Table 2)

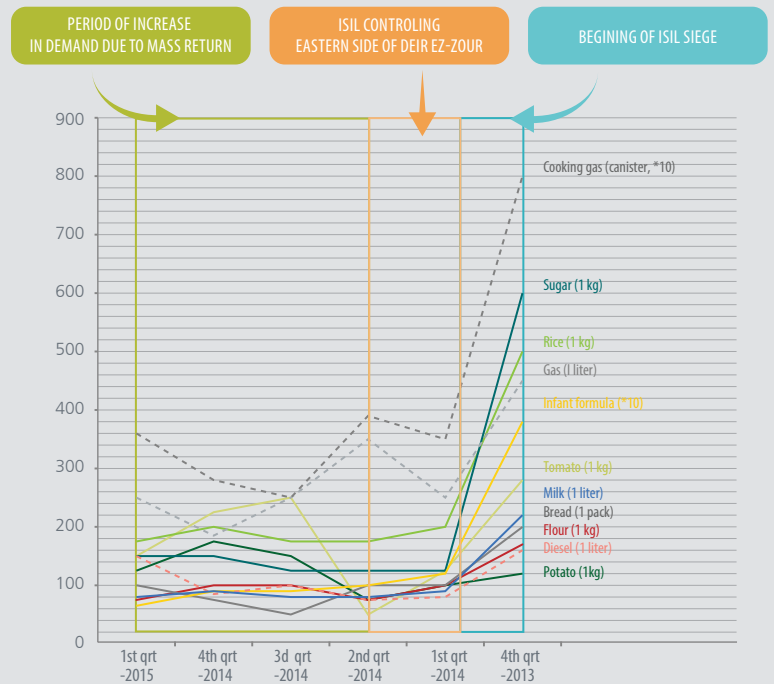
- Supply routes to the western neighbourhoods are totally blocked, and unlike eastern neighbourhoods that still have accessible routes to eastern, northern and western destinations and across the Turkish and Iraqi borders, western neighbourhoods are completely cut off from supplies. Restrictions on individual mobility in and out of western neighbourhoods were also reported.

(Map 2)

- Government departments have provided an airlift to satellite internet connectors, which became operational one month ago, providing limited cell-phone access to one of the two operating cell-phone companies. However, people are unable to charge their mobiles, as there has been no electricity for the month of April 2015.

⁴ Food vulnerable persons are identified in the context of the City Profile as the city hosted IDPs, in addition to 50% of the non-displaced persons. This definition corresponds to the current conditions emerging from the siege.

Figure 5: Average consumer prices of essential commodities (S.P.)



Market stocks

- There is only one operational market in the east. It has improved its access to food supplies over the past year, and despite the damage in this side of the town, and lack of access to income, the eastern population has better access to food. Accessible supply routes provide the markets with local fresh produce, and the increased access to goods from Iraq has also contributed to this improvement.
- Two markets have emerged in the city's western side since 2013: Al Qusour and Al Wadi markets (Map 2). Western markets were unable to restock since the start of the ISIL siege (January 2015). Households are mostly depending on stored food items, but have no access whatsoever to fresh food. Lack of cooking gas is reported as a major challenge; the price of 1 gas canister (15 kg) is currently 8,000 S.P. (5.3 times the official price), which makes it unaffordable to most households.
- Food and basic commodities prices have increased to unprecedented levels, and they are currently 65% higher than the average prices in other government held locations. (Figure 5)
- The inflation of food prices was exacerbated by the lack of access to income, mainly attributed to the siege and the continuous communications disconnect (since January 2015). The breakdown of communication systems has resulted in, among many other things, the freezing of all banking transaction systems, so people were unable to access their accounts, or even get cash through remittances. Most of the public officials however are still receiving their monthly salaries in cash from the reserves in the public banks.

Table 2: Priority food interventions

IMMEDIATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase humanitarian airlift operations • Negotiate access of food supplies through local providers • Cash assistance to people in need
SHORT TERM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure bakeries' fuel supplies • Secure adequate amounts of children formula • Resume food baskets distribution when conditions allow
MEDIUM TERM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess potential contamination risks for outdoor wheat stocks • Increase bakeries capacity • Improve wheat storage • Improve the quality of wheat flour • Rehabilitate peri-urban farming capacity

Functioning of bakeries

- The city had four functioning public bakeries providing subsidized bread. Two of these are still functioning, while the remaining two were either damaged (Al Hamidia bakery), or became inaccessible (Maisaloon) (**Map 2**). The 2 functioning bakeries however suffer from severe shortage of fuel supplies, and people have to wait in long queues to get their share of bread (8 hours in the queue for 5 loaves/ half a pack). This daily share is barely enough for an average family, which forces family members to take turns waiting on a daily basis.
- Bread quality is reported as a major concern. Substandard bread quality was attributed mainly to two factors:
 1. Yeast is both unavailable and poorly stored. Latest information reported that yeast is no longer used in the bread-making process, which is accelerating spoiling.
 2. The public mill became inaccessible in 2012, resulting in an acute lack of flour during 2013. Later, the governorate has granted a contract to a local investor, who has installed a second-hand mill inside a public facility north west of the city (**Map 2**). The mill production capacity is 25 tons of wheat per day, enough to produce 16.1 tons of flour (nearly 9 tons less than the current daily requirement). The few operating private bakeries receive the improved flour, and they are providing quality bread for 200 S.P./ pack. However, public bakeries are offered the substandard quality, mixed with high rates of bran, and the consumer price is still 100 S.P/ pack, which is 3 times the official price of subsidized bread.

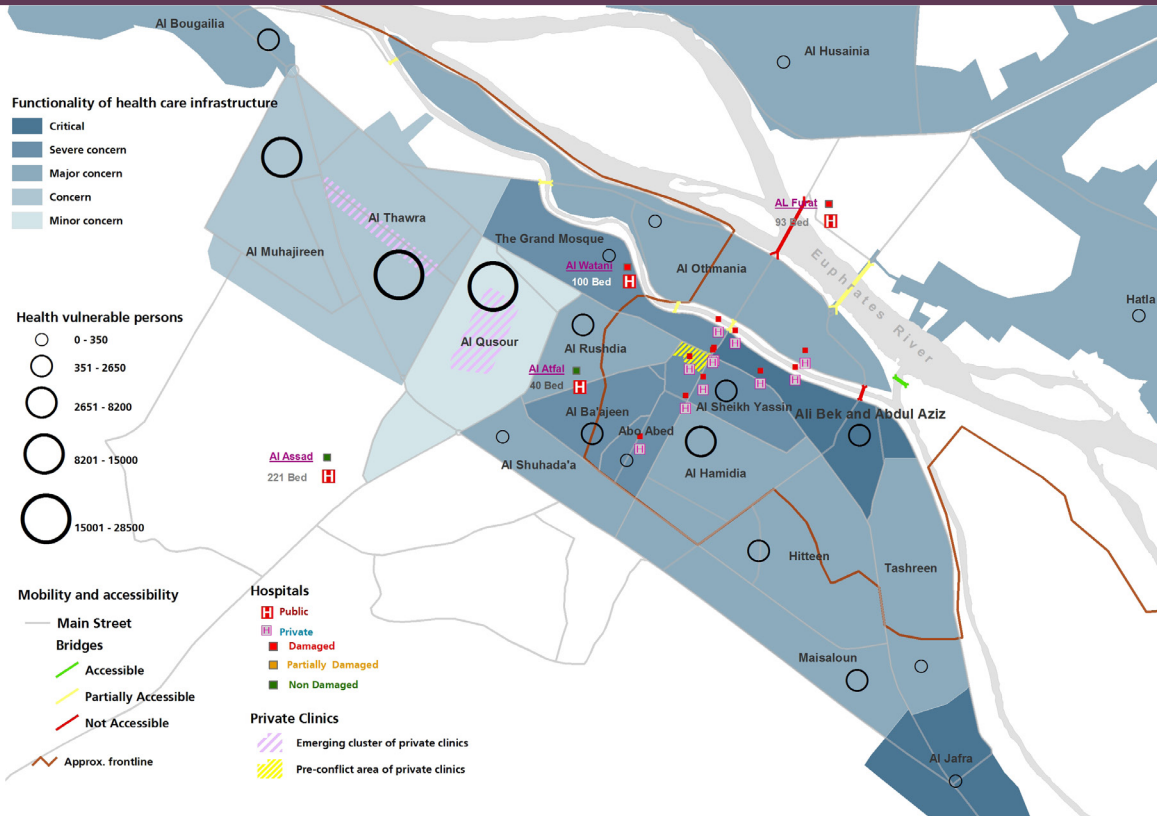
Wheat stocks

- The city's western side still has secure access to an adequate quantity of wheat, despite the fact that wheat producers have had no access to the public purchase points in the city since 2012. Theoretically, the amount of wheat stored in outdoor piles south of the city will be enough to provide the city population with flour for the coming 53 months, given the current rate of consumption.
- Outdoor storage is initially designed for the short-term storage of wheat, mainly during the dry season, while the stocks in the silos are used up and enough space is available for longer-term storage. The wheat stored south of the city has been outdoor since 2012, and this may have affected its quality or even destroyed part of it.
- Observations using Very High Resolution (VHR) satellite imagery suggests that the authorities became aware of the threat to the wheat stock, and have started moving the outdoor stores from its previously reserved location to another one further to the south. The new location seems to have better logistical arrangements, including a proper drainage system. Stocks are also covered with tarpaulins or plastic. There are concerns, however, that the new location is close to an emergency waste incineration plant, and an independent assessment is highly recommended to check the quality of the remaining wheat stocks. (**Map 2**)

Health Findings

Severity level: **Severe** 

MAP 3



Health vulnerable persons:

66,800
(%27 of pop.)

East:

9,715

West:

57,117

People with type 1 diabetes:

12,370

People with chronic diseases (18+):

30,880

No. of infants:

6,062

No. of lactating women:

4,894

No. of operating hospitals:

1 (one)

No. of operating public/ NGO health centres:

7 (seven)

Health conditions in Deir Ez-Zour are categorized as "Severe". Access to health care varies significantly between the city's eastern and western sides. Current critical priorities include the need to provide access to medications in the most populated western area. Health vulnerable persons⁵ are estimated to be 66,800 (27% of population). Elderly, infants, lactating women and conflict-related injured persons are the majority of this population. (Table 3)

- The non-functionality of health care infrastructure (originally located in the most damaged part of the city) makes it more difficult to surge

additional capacity into the city. Key informants from the health sector in both city areas reported that some health conditions are life threatening, and the available health care capacity is unable to cope with the type and scale of the demand.

- Access to medicine is seriously interrupted in the western side (prices of medicines are 60% higher than the national rates), and high levels of suffering are reported especially among elderly and persons with chronic diseases. Some access to medicine is being provided via the southern military airbase (insulin and vaccines).

⁵ Health vulnerable persons are defined by WHO as: children, pregnant women, elderly people, malnourished people, and people who are ill or immunocompromised. UN-Habitat used the city age pyramid to estimate the number of vulnerable persons. A 5% of population was also added to the abovementioned proportion as an estimated ratio of conflict related injuries.

Most common reported health problems (both sector & pub hea)

- The four most commonly reported health concerns in Deir Ez-Zour are: 1) Chronic diseases with no access to medicine, 2) Conflict-related injuries, 3) Lack of health care facilities/ access, 4) communicable disease outbreaks and 5) Malnutrition causing reduced immunity. Communicable diseases as well as lice and scabies were also reported to be increasing, especially in the highly populated areas, exacerbated by malnutrition and degraded WASH conditions.
- Key informants in the health sector reported severe cases of communicable diseases in the besieged area, including 340 cases of hepatitis (February 2015). In addition, there has been an alarming surge in the number of recorded cases of pneumonia, tuberculosis, and lung infection.

Health care infrastructure

- Populations in the East have 2 operating rudimentary field hospitals with a total capacity of 10 beds, only capable of delivering first aid. Three midwives address reproductive health needs. All complex interventions are transferred to Al Mayadeen Hospital (55 km south east, currently under ISIL control), but the trip from the eastern neighbourhoods (excluding Al Othmania, Hatla and Al Husainia) has become extremely dangerous in some sections since July 2014 as violence intensified around access routes. This journey also requires crossing the Euphrates River using makeshift boats.
- A severe drop in the operational health care capacity is reported in the western side of the city. Only one public hospital is operational, in addition to 5 clinics (public or run by NGOs). The Military Hospital which was the only operating facility for civil use in 2012 was restricted to army personnel injuries. Severe lack of medicine, intravenous therapy materials and fuel is further threatening available health care capacity. (Figure 6, Map3)
- Private clinic capacity has been severely affected. Clinics were mostly clustered at the city market area (Abo Abed and Sheikh Yassin neighbourhoods), which was heavily damaged in 2012. A few health professionals moved their clinics and re-clustered around the "emerging markets" (inside Al Qusour and Al Thawra neighbourhoods, see Map 3). However, private health clinics are reported as less accessible by most of the city people.
- Out of the 15 pre-conflict hospitals, only one is still operational as most of the city hospitals were damaged and/ or looted (Figure 7, Map 3), resulting in a severe drop in the city's operational bed capacity, and limiting the number of operational beds per capita to 1 for 1,071 persons (a drop from 1 for 208 persons in 2011).

Figure 6: Current functionality of hospitals (by bed capacity)

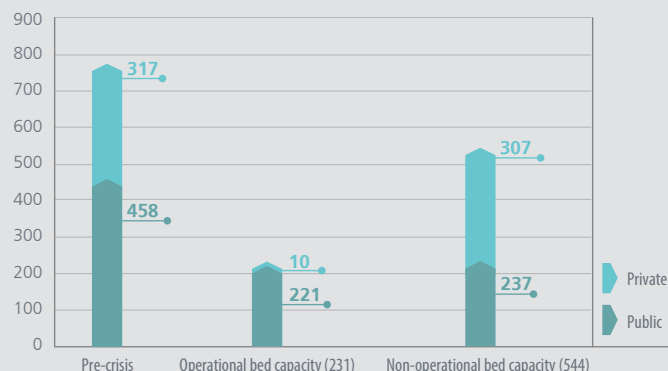


Figure 7: Damage to hospitals infrastructure (by bed capacity)

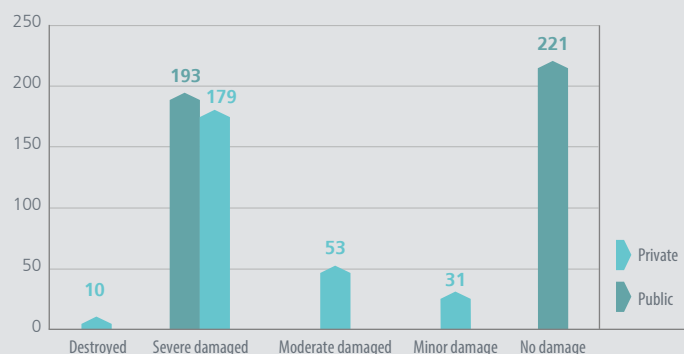


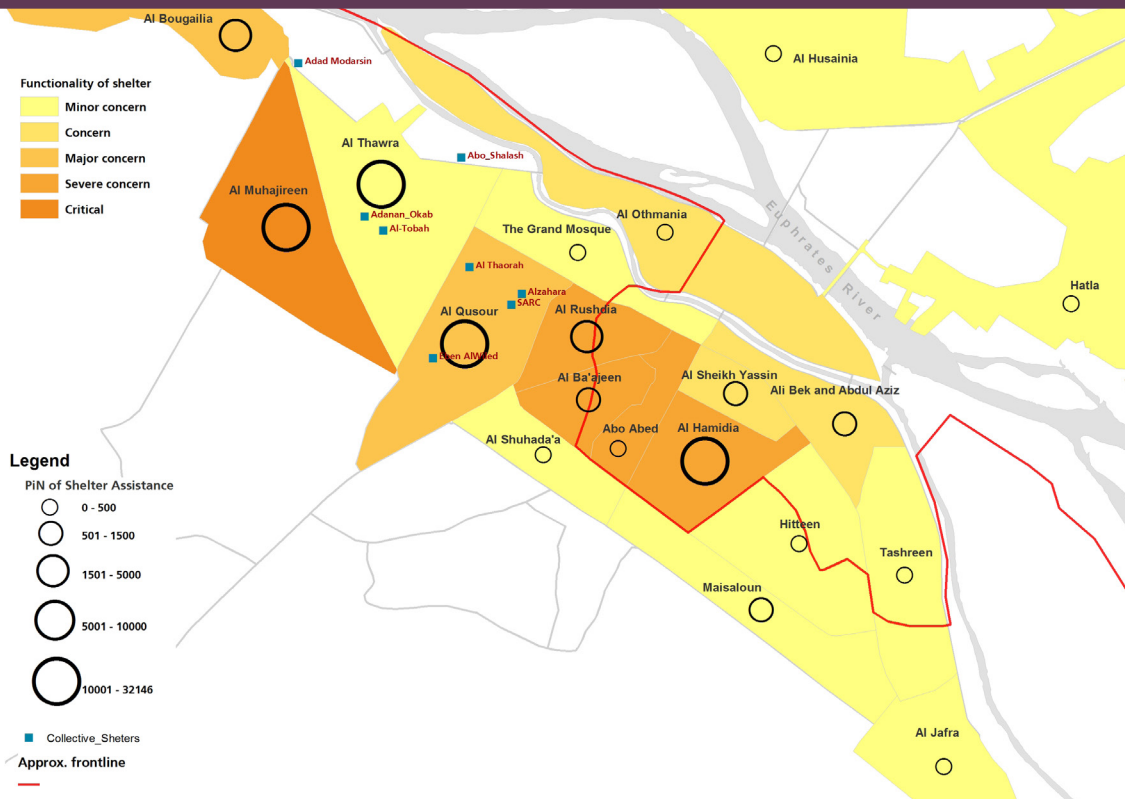
Table 3: Priority health interventions

IMMEDIATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medications, intravenous therapy materials • Surge health staff capacity (female, male) • Support operational health care institutions/ NGOs • Reinstate kidney care capacity (nearly 300 patients) • Supply infant care equipment and materials
SHORT TERM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support maternal health care • Support two public clinics providing maternal health care (equipment and medications)
MEDIUM TERM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of operating mobile units • Provide additional ambulances • Rehabilitate selected medical care centres

Shelter/ NFI/ Electricity Findings

Severity level: **Concern (2)**

MAP 4



Shelter vulnerable persons:
97,300
 (%39 of pop.)
 East:
 22,300
 West:
 74,900

No. of affected or damaged residential units:
25,800
 (%39 of pop.)

Average monthly rent
 West:
 23,000 (50% increase as compared to 2011)
 East:
 11,000 (nearly 20% decrease as compared to 2011)

No of official collective shelters:
12 (644 families)

No. of persons living in unfinished or partially damaged spaces:
15,200

No. of reported secondary occupation cases:
2,390

1. Shelter and NFI

It is estimated that 97,300 persons are currently shelter vulnerable,⁶ making shelter conditions a “concern”. Most of the shelter needs are concentrated in the western side of the city, especially in Al Muhajireen neighbourhood as it hosts a high proportion of vulnerable IDPs, and due to the prevailing substandard shelter conditions in the neighbourhood. The siege on the western side of the city has minimized the capacity to improve shelter conditions, both by the people themselves and by humanitarian actors..

- An increasing proportion of families are unable to afford rent due to the inability to access cash or obtain an income. This has a direct impact on 49% of the city households who are reported to be either renting or co-renting their shelter, with further implications on the property owners who are depending on the rent for their living.

- Families living in substandard shelter conditions are unable to improve the quality of their shelter. Families have no access to cash, building materials or NFIs due to security considerations and the lack of humanitarian assistance. Key informants have reported that the most relevant shelter needs are sealing off kits, rent assistance and fuel for heating and cooking.
- Returnees to Al Ba'ajeen, Al Shuhada'a and Maisaloun neighbourhoods (partially under Government control) are living in the worst shelter conditions, as many of them occupy partially damaged spaces, with severe lack of NFI and housing equipment (cooking fuel and means, sealing off materials, water and electricity supplies), whereas returnees to the eastern side of the city are mostly occupying ground floors, basements and garages as they are better protected against shelling. Many eastern residents are squatting in vacated apartments. **(Table 3)**

⁶ Shelter vulnerable persons are defined in the context of the City Profile as the persons who are living in substandard shelter types (temporary, unfinished buildings, collective shelters and partially damaged buildings), plus 50% of the persons living in non-residential buildings, and 25% of persons living in the residential buildings.

MAP 5

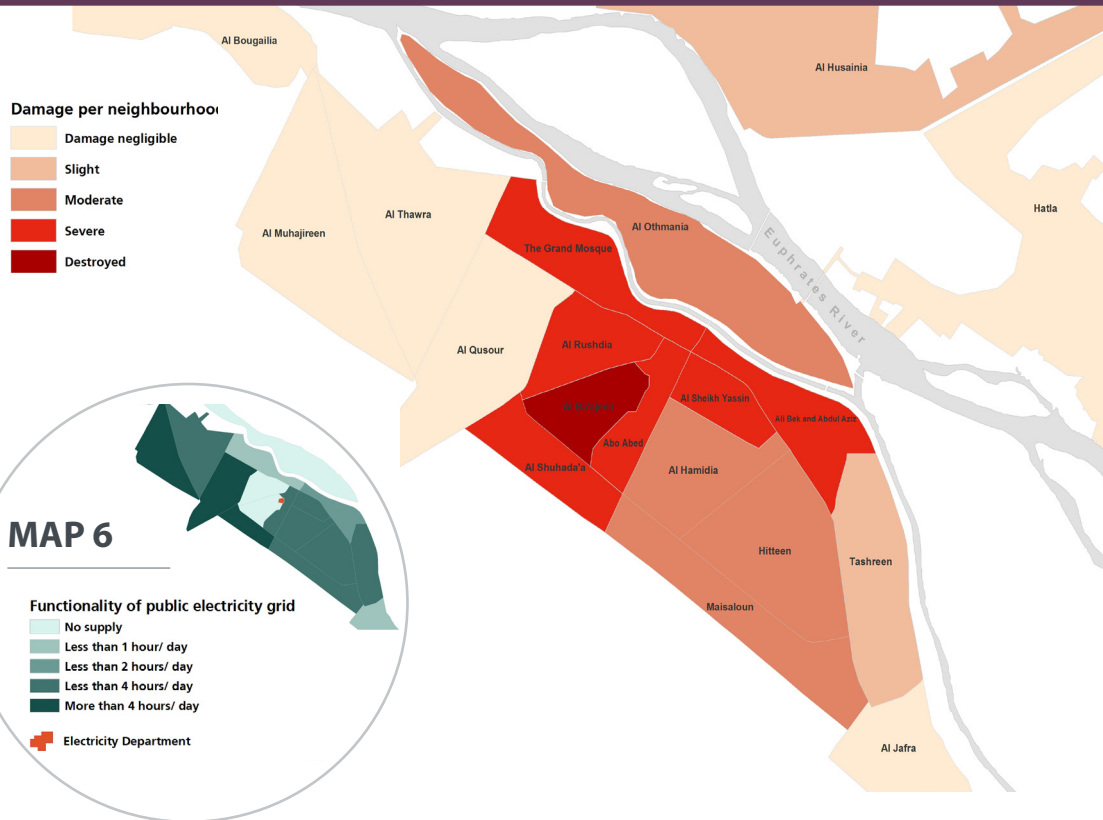


Table 4: Priority shelter NFI interventions

IMMEDIATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide sealing off kits to families living in unfinished/ partially damaged shelters (1,700 shelters) • Cash support to most vulnerable families to help them solve their immediate shelter problems • Rehabilitate the occupied unfinished buildings (water and electricity access are a priority)
SHORT TERM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash assistance to most vulnerable people to procure most needed NFI • Fuel for heating and cooking
MEDIUM TERM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide alternatives to school occupation (5 schools) • Assist affected people in rehabilitating their own damaged houses • Improve access to NFIs • Improve privacy and hygiene in shelters • Register and classify cases of secondary occupation

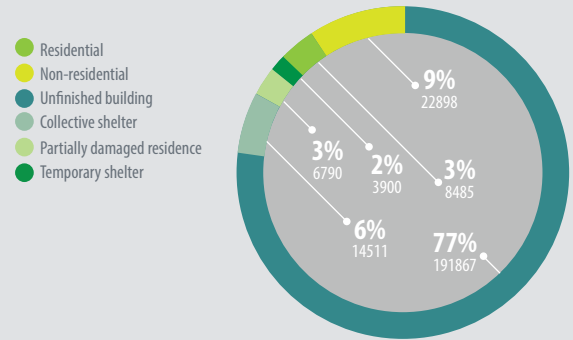
Most commonly reported shelter problems

- The main reported shelter problem is the inadequacy of liveable shelter spaces. As the majority of the city population were pressed into the western neighbourhoods, available shelter became occupied by 3 to 4 families; overcrowding and lack of privacy are reported by key informant across all shelter types. Many non-displaced families were also hosted by relatives in order to offer their apartments in the rental market.
- Cost of renting has slightly increased over the past year despite the significant increase in the demand and the inflation of prices. However, key informants reported that most of the occupants of rented apartments are unable to afford the rent due to a lack of income or the inaccessibility of

- cash.. Evictions were not reported in any of the city neighbourhoods during the assessment period.
- Shelter-related humanitarian assistance is no longer regularly delivered in any part of the city. Shelter assistance is currently limited to the 12 official collective shelters (Map 4). Over 100 unfinished residential units were rehabilitated with sealing-off kits, water reservoirs and NFI. Over 840 unfinished residential units are occupied by IDPs with no assistance reaching them. NFI distribution, shelter kits and shelter-related assistance have stopped since July 2014 due to access limitations, and the current siege on the western neighbourhoods since January 2015 is further disabling any direct intervention.

FIGURES:

Figure 8: Population by shelter type (number, %)



Population by shelter type and arrangement

- Figures 7 and 8 show distribution of the city's population by shelter type and arrangement. 77% of the people in Deir Ez-Zor are currently occupying residential spaces, but in terms of shelter arrangement; the majority of the people are renting and co-renting (14% and 35% respectively), or living in own house (25%). Others are hosted by relatives and family members (10%), only 3% of them are hosted to residential spaces.
- 6% of the people are living in non-residential spaces, including offices, garages, commercial spaces, and unofficial collective shelters. Almost 9% of the people occupy temporary shelters (such as makeshift houses, staircases, and warehouses), most of which are in Al Muhajireen and Al Thawra neighbourhoods.
- Collective shelters currently host 3,900 persons (2% of current population), distributed across 12 locations (Map 4). These collective shelters have received adequate support from NGOs and relevant government institutions. The largest collective shelter is in the public university dormitory, hosting 413 families. The remaining collective shelters are either vacated schools, mosques or premises provided by local charities.
- Around 6% of the population occupy partially damaged or unfinished building spaces. Few families in the eastern side of the city are living in partially damaged apartments despite the huge proportion of damage. This is attributed to the abundance of vacant houses as compared to remaining population, and to the fact that most of the occupants of eastern neighbourhoods are lodging to ground floor vacated apartments and commercial spaces as they are more protected against shelling. Nearly 850 families (around 7,600 persons) currently live in unfinished buildings, mostly in the unfinished houses located at the western fringes of the city. (Figure 8)
- In terms of shelter arrangements, hosting is reported by key informants as the most common, with 35% of the households hosted by relatives and extended family members. This has, however, increased the prevalence of overcrowding in some neighbourhoods to record rates (example; 2.7 families per 1 shelter in Al Qusour, and 4.3 in Al Thawra). Besides hosting, many families have left their apartments to relatives when they decided to leave the city, without receiving any rent, but simply for the sake of protecting their properties (nearly 7% of the occupants live in charity shelters as an arrangement; which includes the occupants of collective shelters, and occupants hosted to vacated apartments of relatives).

Figure 9: Population by shelter arrangement

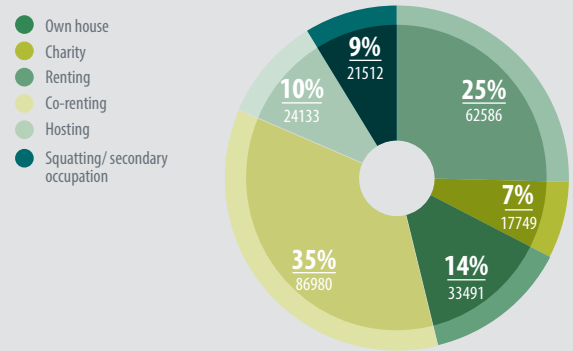
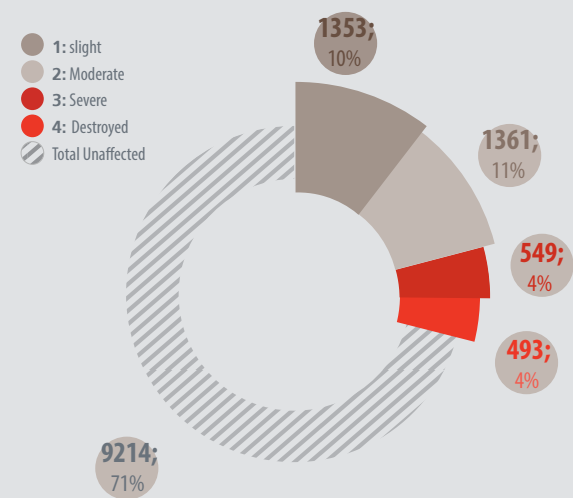


Figure 10: Buildings by level of damage



FIGURES/ TABLES:

Figure 11: City residential units by type of required intervention

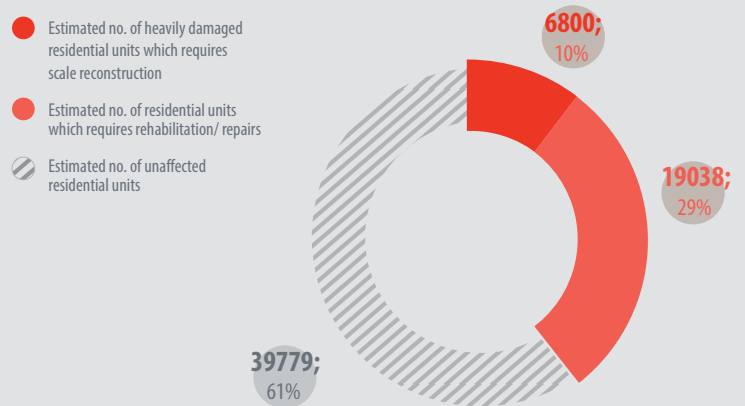
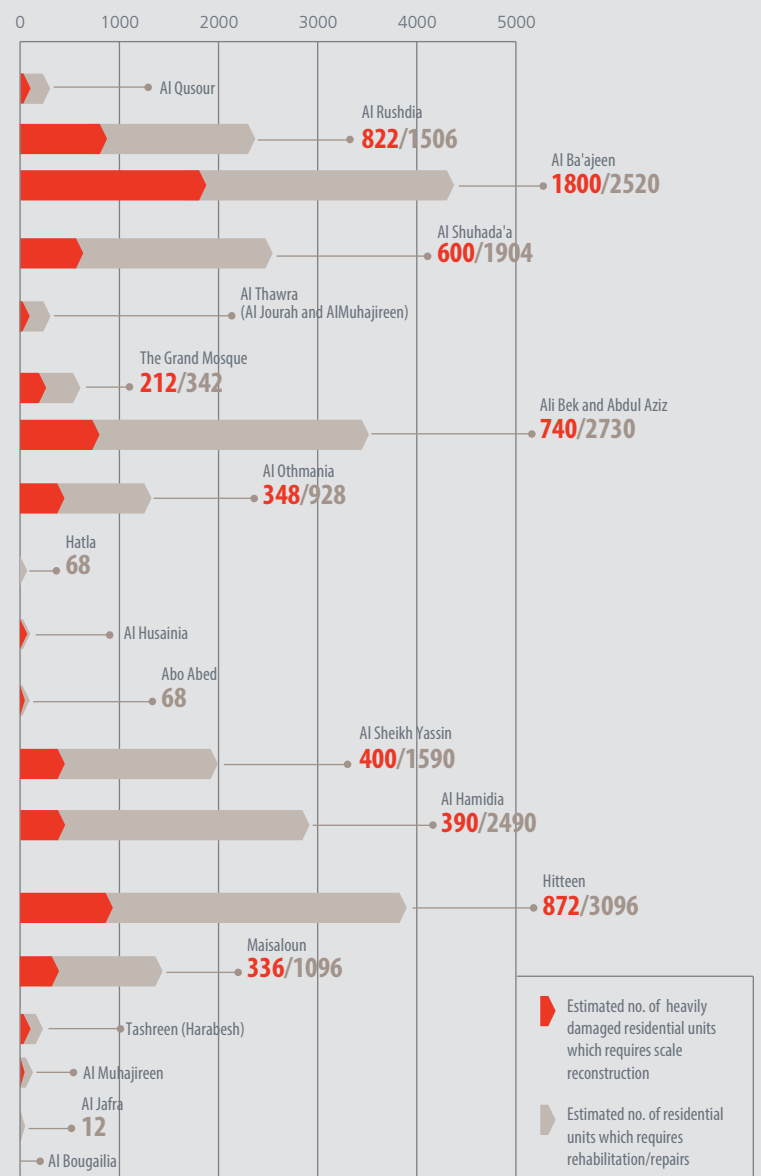


Figure 12: Number of damaged residential units per neighbourhood



Damage to housing stock

Using pre-conflict figures for the number of housing units in Deir Ez-Zor (2010), and through the analysis of a recent satellite imagery (JRC-December, 2015), the following estimates were concluded (Map 5):

- 29% of the city buildings were affected (8% severely damaged or destroyed). (Figure 10)
- Of all the city housing stock, 39% of the residential units were affected, and in broad terms will either require rebuilding, or will only require rehabilitation and repairs. (Figure 11)
- Residential damage is concentrated in the eastern neighbourhoods. The most heavily damaged neighbourhoods (based on the number of damaged residential units) are Al Ba'ajeen, Hitteen, Ali Bek and Abdul Aziz, Al Hamidia, Al Shuhada'a and Al Rushdia (Figure 12). Map 5 illustrates the proportional distribution of damage to buildings, which reflects the analysis of the VHR satellite imageries.

2. Electricity

- Electricity is still supplied to the city at a regular rate of 4.5 hours per day, equally covering eastern and western neighbourhoods. The city is receiving its supplies from Jandar thermal plant (south of Homs city). ISIL is controlling a major natural gas plant (Conoco factory, 30 km north east of Deir Ez-Zor)⁷, and they are supplying fuel to Jandar plant and receiving electricity supply in return.
- The electricity grid has been severely affected in the eastern neighbourhoods, especially in Al Rushdia, Al Ba'ajeen, Al Othmania and The Grand Mosque. The grid infrastructure was subject to continuous looting by different militias (locally known as the "copper battalions"). Such infrastructure damage has reduced the domestic supplies in many areas, which are mostly unpopulated. Recently, ISIL led a project targeting the maintenance of the grid in the mostly populated neighbourhoods under its control, resulting in improved supplies are reported by key informants from the area. (Map 6).

⁷

Conoco factory is also producing butane gas for domestic uses (adequate to supply 10,000 gas canisters per day, which are being filled in an independent factory close to Al Mayadeen, which is also under ISIL control). Conoco factory is also producing 15,000 barrels of condensed liquid gas, and it's available in the market and mainly used to operate private generators.

Table showing distribution of population by shelter type and arrangement

Population by shelter type

NEIG.	RESIDENTIAL	NON-RESIDENTIAL	UNFINISHED BUILDING	COLLECTIVE SHELTER	PARTILLY DAMAGED	TEMPORARY*
● Al Qusour	43397	4980	2520	2700	0	2350
● Al Rushdia	2750	350	0	0	1600	115
● Al Ba'ajeen	1830	155	0	0	750	100
● Al Shuhada'a	780	25	0	0	30	0
● Al Thawra (Al Jourah and Al Muhajireen)	96605	3610	3600	1080	0	1510
● The Grand Mosque	0	0	0	0	0	0
● Ali Bek and Abdul Aziz	2940	65	0	0	425	0
● Al Othmania	255	18	0	0	35	0
● Hatla	0	0	0	0	0	0
● Al Husainia	0	0	0	0	0	0
● Abo Abed	290	40	0	0	125	0
● Al Sheikh Yassin	1970	770	0	0	45	25
● Al Hamidia	15780	2968	0	0	5440	656
● Hitteen	1195	70	0	0	35	0
● Maisaloun	3910	230	0	0	0	152
● Tashreen (Harabesh)	0	0	0	0	0	0
● Al Muhajireen	13205	40	110	0	0	17020
● Al Jafra	0	0	0	0	0	0
● Al Bougailia	6960	1190	560	120	0	970

* Temporary shelters include tents, caravans, makeshift shelters, and stockades

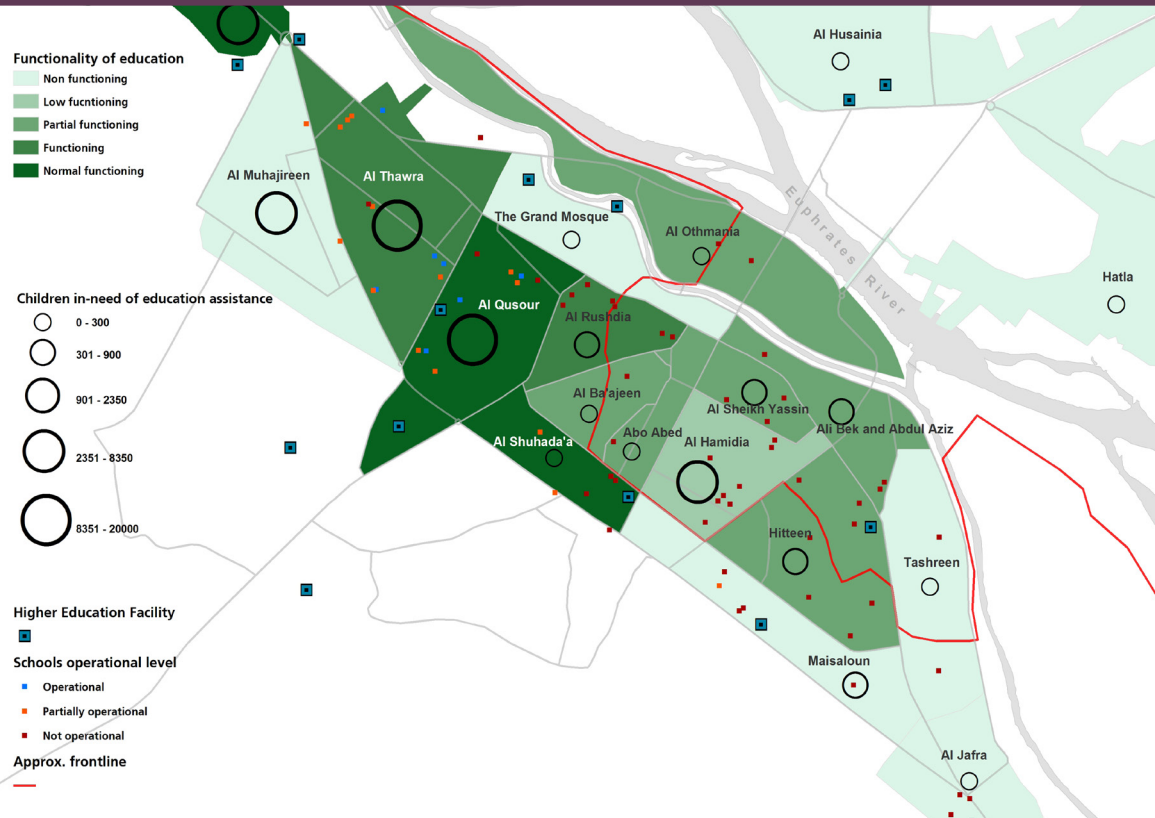
Population by shelter arrangement**Rental prices (S.P.)**

OWN HOUSE	CHARITY	RENTING	CO-RENTING	HOSTING	SQUATTING/ SECONDARY OCCUPATION	FURNISHED	UNFURNISHED
15407	7210	7850	18005	4460	2980	40000	30000
2150	340	1015	1165	90	50	18000	12000
315	0	0	0	610	1910	N/A	N/A
595	0	30	80	50	80	15000	10000
15418	4280	18856	51130	12770	3020	30000	25000
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2580	450	90	0	0	315	N/A	N/A
142	106	0	0	0	60	N/A	N/A
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
215	68	0	0	152	20	N/A	N/A
1730	910	0	0	58	109	N/A	N/A
9880	990	0	0	1090	12880	N/A	N/A
990	115	105	0	88	0	15000	10000
3250	180	840	20	0	0	N/A	N/A
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6804	3010	4055	13620	2870	0	25000	18000
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3110	90	650	2960	1895	88	20000	15000

Education Findings

Severity level: **Major Concern (2)** 

MAP 7



Education vulnerable persons:
45,800
(77% of school aged pop.)

Students currently attending:
44,900

Drop-out rate:
32.2% (14,500 child)

Capacity of functioning schools (per shift):
13,615

Overcrowding rate*:
1,6

Education conditions in Deir Ez-Zour are categorized as a "Major Concern", with nearly 32.2% of children not attending schools. It is estimated that 45,800 children are in need of education assistance ⁸. Despite all the challenges they face, both male and female children living in the western area have access to public education, unlike their eastern peers, who are either prevented from attending (specifically the females), or only have the choice to attend different forms of religious education.

- Drop-out in the eastern side of the city is mostly attributed to Drop-out rate, as well as to the fact that some parents refrain from sending their children to religious schools. Al Hamidia neighbourhood has the worst attendance rate in the city, as nearly 6,000 school aged children residing in the area are not attending schools.
- Drop-out rates in the western side of the city are mostly attributed to poverty, overcrowding, and lack of teaching materials. Al Muhajireen neighbourhood has the worst attendance rate in the west, as nearly 2,600 school aged children are not attending schools.

- Poverty is forcing many families to stop sending their children to schools in order to cut the expenses, or to send their children to work. Child labour was reported by all key informants in both sides of the city.
- There are sufficient numbers of school teachers in the western areas as most of the city teachers relocated in the Government-held area, however, teachers and their students have less access to schools that are located close to front-lines, which is the case in Al Shuhada'a, Al Ba'ajeen and Maisaloun neighbourhoods.
- The non-functionality of numerous school facilities (due to damage or to their use as collective shelters), and the intra-city east to west displacement trend have increased overcrowding in the operating schools, and forced all the schools to deliver two shifts. **(Table 5)**

Map 7 shows the distribution of children in-need of education assistance, number of children not attending schools, and functionality of the educational facilities.

* Overcrowding rate refers to the number of students per 1 shift, divided on the functioning schools capacity. Current overcrowding rate in Deir Ez-Zour is estimated to be 1,6. This means %60 additional students per classroom. The fact that all the city's schools are delivering two shifts make the overcrowding rate figure more expressive, as the city's schools used to have only 1 shift before the conflict with overcrowding rate at 1.1 only (Syrian Central Bureau of Statistics quoted for per-conflict figures).

⁸ Education vulnerable persons are identified in the context of the City Profile as the number of children currently attending to schools but beyond the intake capacity of the school facilities that are operating in 2 shifts, added to them are children who are not attending schools or have dropped-out.

Figure 13: Damage to school facilities by educational level

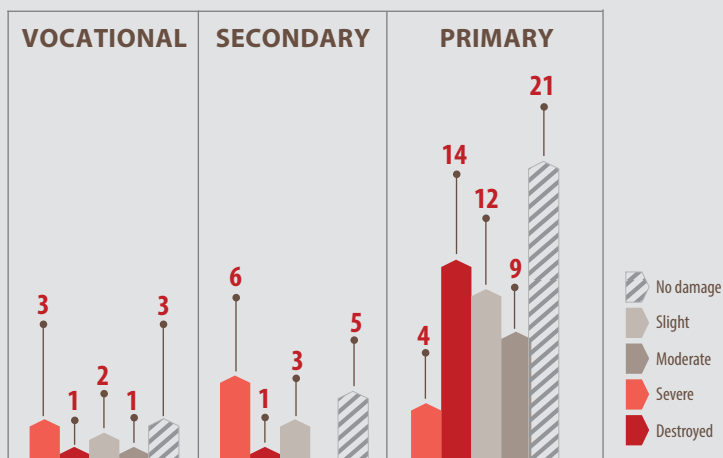


Figure 14: Schools operations by educational level

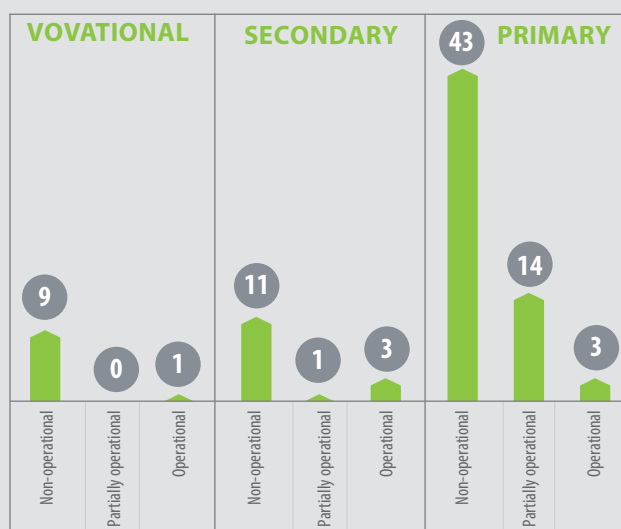


Table 5: Priority education interventions

IMMEDIATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitate affected schools in Al Ba'aheen, Maisaloun, and Al Shuhada'a Provide cash incentives targeting poverty related drop-out cases (approx. 5,600 hhs) Rehabilitate the operating unfinished schools (2 schools in Al Muhajireen)
SHORT TERM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease overcrowding in Al Thawra and Al Muhajireen by rehabilitating accessible schools in Al Muhajireen, Al Rushdia and Al Shuhada'a Raise the awareness, campaign re-enrolment and denounce children labour Provide teaching materials
MEDIUM TERM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitate schools occupied by collective shelters Re-enroll students in programs designed for cases of multiple years' drop-out (east)

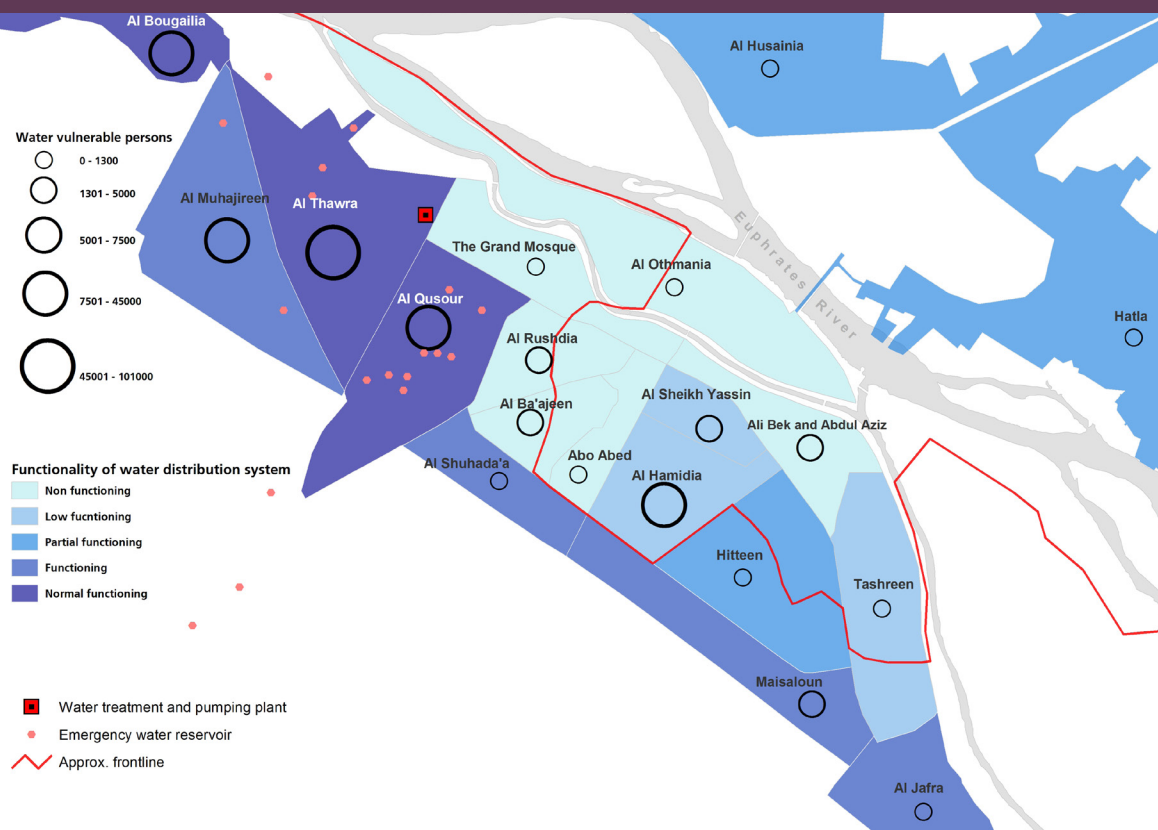
Education infrastructure

- School infrastructure was severely impacted by the conflict. Out of the city's 85 schools (primary, secondary and vocational), 29 schools are either destroyed or severely damaged, 17 schools are moderately damaged and 39 schools have minor damage (Figure 13).
- Beside reported structural damage, school properties were largely looted and vandalized (many school desks were used for heating). In addition, 5 schools are being used as collective shelters (Map 4).
- School functionality is mostly impacted by damage to the infrastructure, their use for non-educational purposes, and by the intermittent accessibility to the schools located in conflict areas. (Figure 14).

Water Supply & Sanitation Findings

Severity level: **Major Concern (3)** 

MAP 8



Water vulnerable population:
71,300
(28.7% of pop.)

Current water pumping capacity
3,975 m³/ day

Per capita quantity of pumped water:
16.06 liters/ day

Actual average per capita quantity of supplied water (given current grid condition):
7.8 liters/ day

Water supply gap:
1,425 m³/ day

Current daily supply hours:
4.5 h/ day

Minimum Quantity of water per capita required:
20 liters/ day

1. Drinking water

Water supply in Deir Ez-Zor is categorized as a "Major concern", both in terms of quantity and quality. There are no significant differences in networked water supply between the city's eastern and western sides, as the city's pumping and treatment facilities located in the western side are still pumping water to the network (Map 8). However, the damage to the public network varies, and thus the share of the actually delivered water per capita varies across city neighbourhoods.

- The city's water treatment and pumping plants are currently utilizing their emergency stocks of chlorine. Immediate amounts of chlorine need to be provided to relevant authorities.
- UNICEF distributed chlorine capsules for emergency domestic use in October 2014, and currently, it is estimated that an additional 1.5 million capsule (1.67 g each) will be required to increase water resilience among civilians.

- The operational pumping units are totally dependent on electricity to run the networked supply system, providing an average of 1 hour of supply every 5 hours. Current daily pumping capacity during 4.5 hours/ day of electricity supply is 3,975 cubic metres (m³), and an additional 1,425 cubic metres/ day will be required to alleviate the supply gap.
- There are currently 71,300 water vulnerable persons⁹ in the city (Map 8, Figure 15). These persons are receiving different quantities of clean water depending on the condition of the distribution network in their residence locations. The populations with the poorest access to networked water supply are specifically concentrated in Al Thawra, Al Hamidia, Al Muhajireen and Al Rusthia neighbourhoods.

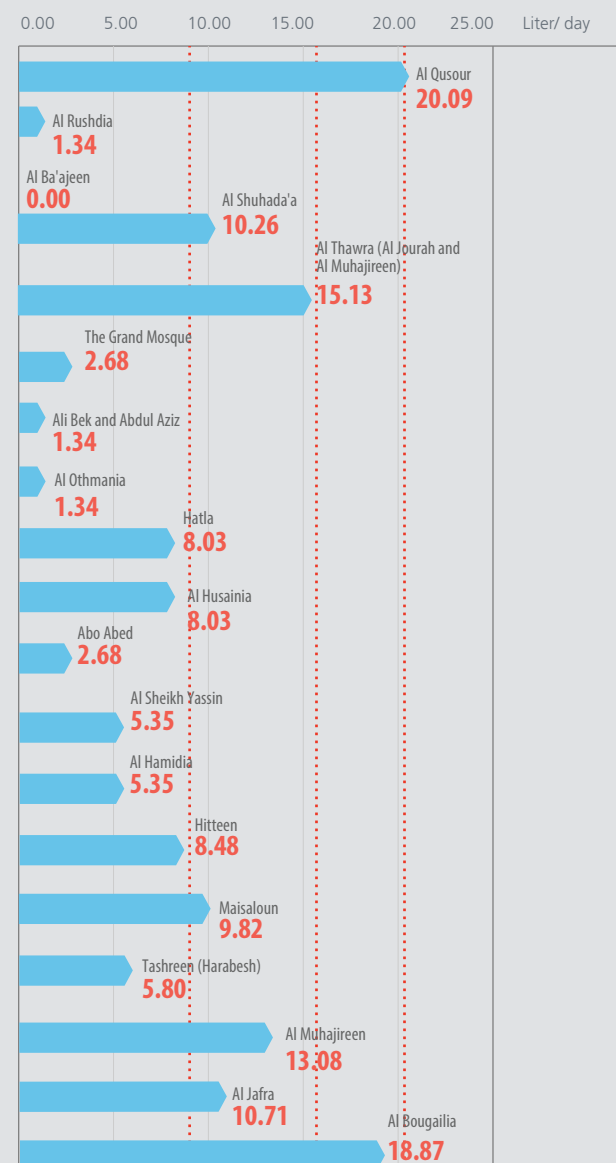
⁹

Water vulnerable persons were identified in the context of this profile as the those who are receiving daily quantity of clean water which is less than 20 liters per day, which is recognized by WHO as the minimum quantity that should be assured to take care of basic hygiene needs and basic food hygiene. The equation used to identify water vulnerable persons per neighbourhood represents the current population, minus the population who are expected to acquire the minimum daily quantity of clean water, given the current water pumping and distribution capacity. The additional emergency water reservoirs installed by ICRC/ SARC was factored in the calculations.

Table 6: Priority water interventions

IMMEDIATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinstate chlorine stock at the operating treatment and pumping plants Provide 1.5 million chlorine capsules for domestic use Secure fuel supplies for the generators at the pumping stations
SHORT TERM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of the emergency reservoirs to cover all neighbourhoods Support SARC and the municipality systems of water trucking (equipment, maintenance and fuel)
MEDIUM TERM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide shelters with cisterns, especially at the inhabited unfinished buildings (approx. 120 hhs) Provide additional treatment and pumping units (additional 9 units, 150 m3/ day are required) Improve awareness on water quality and consumption issues Maintain damaged primary network in populated neighbourhoods (Al Rushdia, Ba'ajeen, and Al Hamidia)

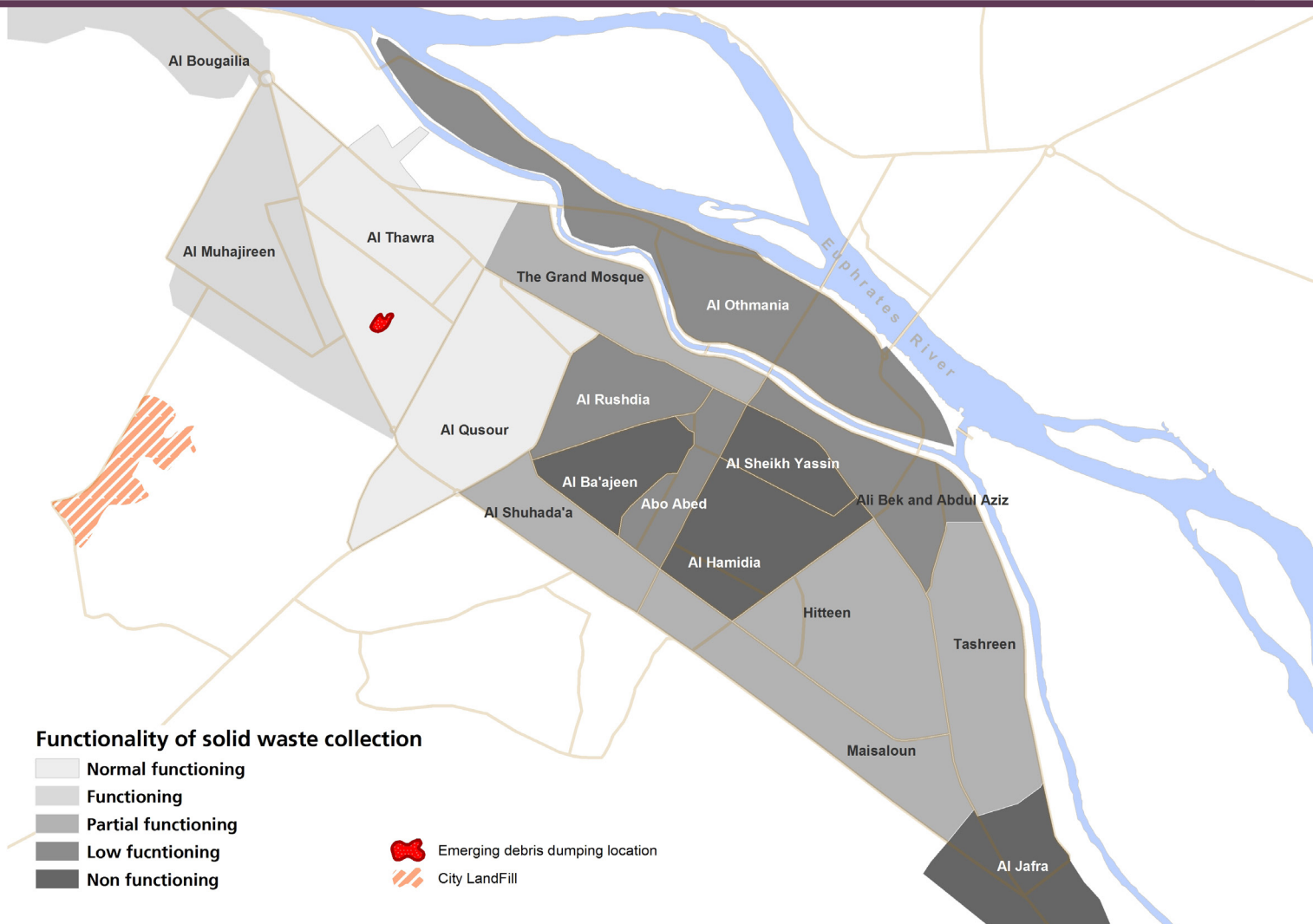
Figure 15: Current quantity of water supply by neighbourhood (liter per capita)



Water supply and distribution infrastructure

- Al Joura Treatment and Pumping Plant in Al Thawra neighbourhood is the Governorate's largest water station (20,000 m3/ day) Other smaller pumping units are located in Basel Al Assad Plant (4 units, 150 m3/ day each) (Map 8). All pumping units are currently operational; staff still access, operate and maintain the facilities. However, a severe shortage of filtering and treatment materials is reported. The last chlorine containers that were provided by UNICEF/ ICRC accessed the city in October 2014. Three months hence, ISIL confiscated an additional shipment, and currently, the city's water authority is utilizing the "strategic" reserves of treatment materials, which are expected to expire within 2 months.
- ICRC installed a water polarization salt chlorine generator at Al Joura Station to increase grid supply. Lack of fuel however has minimized the added value of the generator. In addition, SARC has installed 16 public water reservoirs inside the western neighbourhoods to enhance access during emergency conditions (electricity blackout for example). Water is trucked to these reservoirs both by SARC and the municipality.
- The water network is damaged in most of the areas that were affected by the conflict, which is specifically the case in Al Ba'ajeen, Al Rushdia, and Al Othmania neighbourhoods (Map 8). Key informants in the water sector reported that the network in these neighbourhoods is severely damaged, mostly due to tunnels created by the fighting militias, which is also true for the sewerage network. Most of the city households use small pumping units to increase access to drinking water during the limited supply hours, which is resulting in infiltration of wastewater into the drinking water network.

MAP 9



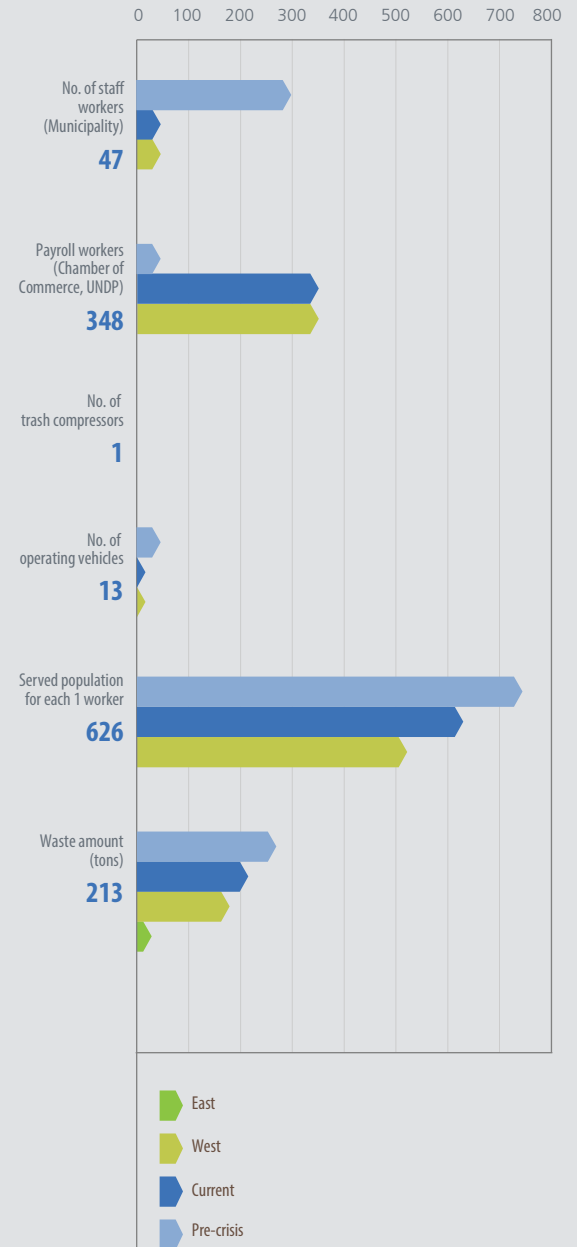
2. Sanitation

- The city has a simple wastewater treatment facility in the east, consisting of basic pumping units attached to several oxidation ponds and discharging into the Euphrates River (**Map 8**). An unfinished and a more sophisticated plant was under construction next to the old facility at the beginning of the conflict in 2011.
- Currently, most of the city's wastewater is discharged directly into Euphrates River, and the old wastewater treatment plant is no longer operating due to access constraints, and as the sanitation network has been severely damaged in three neighbourhoods: Al Ba'aheen, Al Rushdia, and Al Othmania. This is resulting in serious hygiene risks and numerous recorded health problems.

Figure 16: Solid waste collection and disposal capacity

3. Solid waste

- The city's solid waste disposal capacity has been severely impacted since the start of the conflict in 2011, specifically in terms of:
 - Lack of access to the landfill: which is located 22 km south west of the city on the road to Damascus. An alternative dumping site was improvised by the governorate 5 km west of the city, where waste is currently collected and incinerated. Analysis of a recent satellite imagery suggests that the alternative site is currently being further upgraded for longer term uses, and several landfill spaces are already operational. **(Map 9)**
 - Trash is accumulating inside the city: there are over 83 informal dumping sites inside the city, both in the eastern and western sides (12 in the west and 71 in the east). In addition, there is a major site where debris of damaged buildings is being dumped in. **(Map 9)**
 - Waste collection capacity is severely impacted: both in terms of number of labourers and equipment (compactors and vehicles). Collection capacity and operations have ceased in the city's eastern side. **(Figure 16)**
- Waste collection in the west depends on both the municipal capacity which is covering Al Qusour and Al Thawra neighbourhoods (5 times a week), and on a community project initiated by UNDP in collaboration with the governorate's Chamber of Commerce. The initiative supports paid and volunteer laborers to reinstate the collection capacity, and its covering part of Al Muhajireen neighbourhood (4 times a week). However, this project is still dependent on municipal vehicles to transport the waste to the temporary dumping location. This service is frequently interrupted due to the lack of vehicles, maintenance and fuel.
- Immediate assistance is required to improve collection and disposal conditions in the mostly populated western city sides, and priorities include:
 - Improving the operations in Al Muhajireen neighbourhood (specifically in the informal housing area in the southern part of the city) by supporting the already operating community project.
 - The removal of the informal dumping sites starting with the trash piles that exist in the populated areas (Al Muhajireen and Al Bougailia).
 - Reinstating municipal capacity by providing equipment, fuel supplies and cash assistance for workers.
 - Supporting the completion of the alternative landfill currently under construction if needed.
- Waste collection and disposal in the eastern neighbourhoods is not functional, as ISIL have suspended the improvised operations that were created by the community local council in 2012. Key informants from the area reported negotiations between ISIL and the community leaders to resume the waste collection operations. Currently, the waste is accumulating in the streets (mostly dumped in damaged locations). Waste is unsystematically collected from a few populated areas and dumped east of the city, where it is eventually bulldozed into the Euphrates river.



DEIR-EZ-ZOUR CITY PROFILE

April 2015

City profiles will be updated every three months

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