

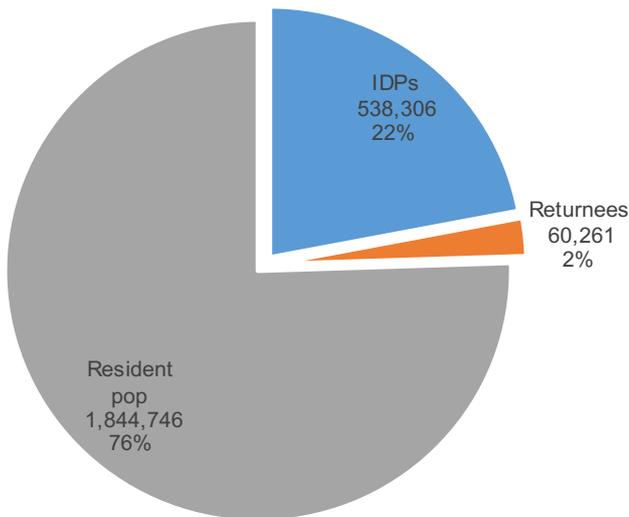
# UNHCR Syria/Qamishli SO

## End of year 2017/ Factsheet

January – December 2017

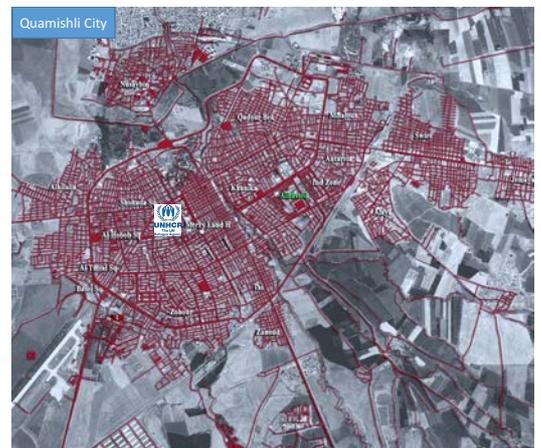
### Highlights

Population of Concern					
Government	Number of Sub-Districts	IDPs	Returnees	Resident pop	HNO_2018
Al-Hasakeh	16	229,023	12,310	865,826	1,107,159
Ar-Raqqa	10	157,483	47,429	235,364	440,276
Deir-ez-Zor	14	151,800	522	743,556	895,878
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>538,306</b>	<b>60,261</b>	<b>1,844,746</b>	<b>2,443,313</b>



### Presence in Qamishli

UNHCR National Staff	41
UNHCR International Staff	5
UNHCR Partners	5
UN Team in Qamoshli	9

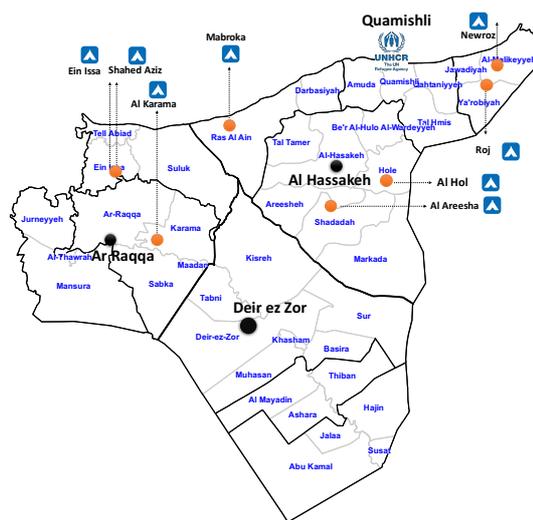


## OVERVIEW

Qamishli is a city in Syria's north-eastern governorate of Hassakeh, on the border with Turkey. It is an ethnically mixed city, inhabited predominantly by Arabs, Assyrians, Kurds and Armenians. The Qamishli Sub Office operates in the three governorates of Al-Hassakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor. The office staffing increased in 2017, and further increase is foreseen in 2018.

## ACCESSIBILITY

In 2017, major developments took place, on both military and political fronts, which allowed greater humanitarian access to earlier off-limits locations in Al-Hassakeh and Ar-Raqqa governorates, notably Ras Al Ain (Mabruka Camp), Tal Abiad City (Ain Issa Camp) and Tabqa City, while Ar-Raqqa City and Deir Ez-Zor governorate remained inaccessible to UNHCR and other humanitarian actors due to mine pollution and/or continuous armed hostilities.

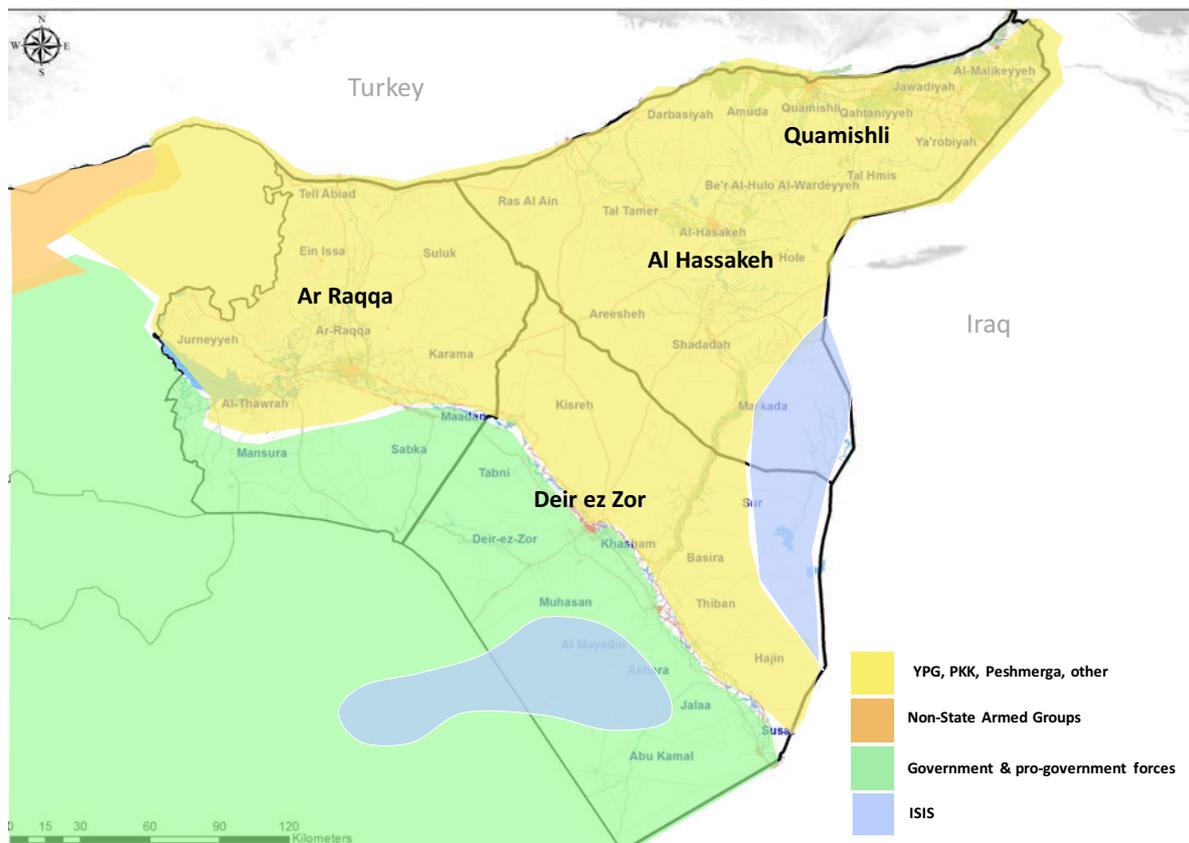


District	Who Has the Greatest Control Over the District?	Accessibility Status	Newly Accessible Areas in 2017
Qamishli	YPG	Full access	
Bu Kamal	Government of Syria	Accessible (UN has yet not conducted mission)	Newly accessed area
Mayadeen	Government of Syria	Accessible (UN has yet not conducted mission)	Newly accessed area
Malikeyyah	YPG	Full access	
Tabqa	YPG	Full access	Newly accessed area.
Ras Al Ain	YPG	Full access	Mabruka
Tal Abiad	YPG	Full access	Ain Issa
Al-Hassakeh	YPG	Access to all areas, except for Shadade and Markada.	Areesha
Ar-Raqqa	YPG	No access to Ar-Raqqa City	
Deir-ez-Zor (north of Euphrates River)	YPG	No access	
Deir-ez-Zor (south of Euphrates River)	Government of Syria	Accessible (UN has not conducted yet any missions)	Newly accessed area

## SECURITY

In 2017, the general security situation improved in Al-Hassakeh governorate, with the exception of the southern part, which witnessed sporadic clashes between SDF and ISIS, particularly in Shaddade and Markara.

The second half of 2017 witnessed important developments, with ISIS driven out of Ar-Raqqa city by Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)/YPG, while the Syrian army and its allies succeeded in ending the ISIS' 32-month long besiegement gaining full control over Deir-ez-Zor city.



## MAIN ACTIVITIES



### Protection

- Through five community centers, UNHCR provided a package of protection services including community mobilization, child protection, GBV prevention and response, psychosocial support, education, livelihoods as well as general and medical in-kind assistance and specialized services for persons with specific needs. The community centers' catchment area included the cities of Al-Hassakeh, Qamishli, Tal Abiad, Ras Al-Ain and their vicinities, in addition to the refugee and IDP camps, while hard-to-reach and newly accessible areas are serviced through mobile teams (one in the community center in Qamishli and two in Al-Hassakeh). Six new child friendly spaces (CFS) were opened in the community centres in Al-Hassakeh and Qamishli.

- Through community-based protection activities in the community centers, UNHCR trained 259 staff and volunteers working with communities in Al-Hassakeh and Ar-Raqqa (both camp and urban settings), including 165 Outreach Volunteers (ORVs), and established eight child protection committees and six women committees. To this end, 93,412 individuals, including 43,169 refugees and 50,243 IDPs were reached with protection interventions.
- In 2017, 22,667 IDPs benefited from legal aid, through SARC, and 160 asylum seekers and refugees benefited from direct counselling and interventions by UNHCR.
- In 2017, the freedom of movement for IDPs was one of the major protection challenges, which UNHCR continued to tackle through proactive advocacy and active interventions.
- In 2017, UNHCR SO Qamishli monitored the return of 18,530 persons of concern to Iraq. While neither encouraging nor facilitating repatriation to Iraq, UNHCR, nevertheless, undertook to mitigate protection risks for Iraqis opting to repatriate voluntarily through the issuance of "to whom it may concern" certificates as well as active interventions to ensure that their confiscated documents were returned to them.
- UNHCR SO Qamishli monitored the returns to Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, ensuring that potential returnees are well aware of the conditions prevailing in their intended areas of return.
- UNHCR supported the reunification of 23 out of 207 unaccompanied and separated children with their families. 98 of these children were identified in the camp and 109 in urban locations.
- UNHCR conducted child protection trainings to 66 staff of UNHCR, UNICEF as well as NGO partners on services for the elderly.
- UNHCR continued to strengthen advocacy on child military recruitment cases at field level, while feeding into the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on grave violations of children's rights in situations of armed conflict.
- UNHCR rehabilitated the deaf and mute centre run by the Directorate of Social Affairs (DoSA) in Al-Hassakeh City.
- In an effort to mitigate the risks of SGBV in north-eastern Syria, 12,348 PoCs in Al-Hassakeh Governorate and 4,363 Persons of Concern (PoCs) in Al Hol Camp were reached by UNHCR and its partners with awareness raising activities.
- In 2017, six women committees worked with the SGBV staff and volunteers in sensitizing the community and connecting it to the services of UNHCR community centres. UNHCR's partners also provided case management services to 240 SGBV survivors and distributed dignity kits to 1,322 PoCs.
- Against the backdrop of the particular situation in the formal education in north-eastern Syria, where the Kurdish curriculum is taught in schools, instead of the Syrian national one, which has an impact on the official recognition school diplomas by the GoS, UNHCR gave priority to education services in the community centres, through provision remedial classes and accelerated learning programmes to 8,962 students, including 1,222 drop-outs, in addition to the provision of school supplies.
- The total number of beneficiaries reached with the protection sector interventions, including child protection and GBV sub-sector interventions, was 356,205 in 2017.

- In 2017, 9,101 individuals/ 2,261 families were registered as asylum seekers, excluding the camp population.

 **NFI**

Throughout the year, UNHCR dispatched and distributed NFI in the governorates of Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hassakeh and Deir-ez-Zor. The locations were often camps, but also urban and rural areas. UNHCR also provided winterization response in the camps, including distribution of sleeping bags, winter jackets and winter clothing kits.

 **Livelihood**

Livelihood interventions were conducted for different target groups, namely refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs, returnees and affected local communities, supporting their resilience and dignity.

- **Cash for Work in Tent Repair Workshop in Hol Camp:** this programme targeted mainly vulnerable IDPs and asylum seekers, providing a regular source of income, thereby ensuring their dignity and enhancing their self-reliance. The workshop promoted coexistence between IDPs and asylum seekers, a sense of ownership and community self-management. 1,675 tents have been repaired by women, sheltering at least 8,370 individuals. 57 persons benefited from cash for work.
- **Vocational Training and Capacity building:** Rehabilitation of the Vocational Training Centre (VTC) of the Ministry of Public Works and Housings in Al-Hassakeh governorate: This intervention gave a chance to target groups in Al-Hassakeh to be involved in formal vocational training, with accredited certificates by the Ministry, which will give them employment opportunity in the public and private sectors. This work lays the foundation for further interventions with other UN agencies in 2018. In vocational training and capacity building programs, UNHCR SO Qamishli reached 1,693 individuals involved in vocational training in Al-Hassakeh. Of these, 600 asylum seekers received VT in Hol camp's CC, 24 persons receiving on-the-job training in workshops, 582 received life skills in CCs.
- **Tailored livelihood toolkits:** UNHCR SO Qamishli distributed 66 livelihood toolkits in Ar-Raqqa, and 275 kits in Al-Hassakeh through its partners GOPA and SSSD's Community Centres (CCs). The kits targeted the most vulnerable and skilled PoCs who had lost their assets during the crisis; the aim of the kits being to enhance the beneficiaries' self-reliance through the provision of a source of income, thereby also mitigating the risk of exposure to negative coping mechanisms.
- **Start-up small business grants:** 33 vulnerable families were supported with Start-up Small Business Programme (SSBPs) in Al-Hassakeh governorate. The programme aimed to enable vulnerable and unemployed PoCs to become self-sufficient and improve their standards of living by enhancing their income generating capacities.



## Shelter

Unlike other operations, the north-east Syria shelter response was mainly conducted through direct implementation. Despite the huge challenge of building five IDP transit camps with the complex procurement and constantly changing needs, UNHCR was able to have an accountable, efficient and quick response to the high influx of refugees and IDPs from Mosul, Ar-Raqqa, and Deir-ez-Zor.

UNHCR rehabilitated two bakeries in Al-Hassakeh and Qamishli cities in order to support food security and provide better quality and quantity of bread.



## Health

- UNHCR Sub Office Qamishli supported four Primary Health Centres (one in Qamishli, two in Al-Hol refugee camp 24/7, and one in Newroz and Roj refugee camps).
- In 2017, the Sub Office, together with its partners provided health services to 136,830 IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers.
- The Sub Office managed to evacuate nine special cases to Damascus to receive the necessary treatment that was not available in north-east Syria.

### Refugees & Asylum Seekers By the Country of Origin

Country	Refugees	Asylum seeker
Iraq	4,907	17,450
Others	0	4

### UNHCR Partners in Qamishli

Al Birr Association | Syrian Society for Social Development (SSSD) | Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East (GOPA) | Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC)

### UN Qamishli

UNHCR | OCHA | UNICEF | WHO | UNDP | UNFPA | WFP | IOM | UNDSS

### Contacts

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