

Inter-agency assessment mission to Hysie, Homs

On 12 June 2013, WHO participated in an inter-agency assessment mission to Hysie area in Homs governorate to identify health needs and facilitate the shipment of medical supplies to opposition-controlled areas. The main findings of the mission were as follows:

- An estimated 40 000 people have fled the fighting in al-Qusair to Hysie; approximately 2500 Internally Displaced Person (IDPs) are currently living in four schools;
- The majority of IDPs are women, children and elderly men. There are a few younger men and boys who are injured or mentally affected by trauma;
- The Ministry of Health (MoH) has a clinic in Hysie which is non-functional/not open regularly due to non-availability of staff and medical supplies;
- Food, water and sanitation services are being provided by UN agencies, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and the Danish Refugee Council;
- SARC is trying to reach IDPs throughout Homs with three mobile clinics offering Primary Health Care services, including reproductive health and services for children, and
- The mission identified people in urgent need of hospitalization with open bullet and shrapnel wounds and other trauma-related health problems and agreed that SARC would send mobile clinics the following day to attend to those in need of medical care.



Internally displaced person in Hysie, Homs

Photos: WHO

Inter-agency assessment mission to al-Qusair, Homs

On 15 June 2013, WHO participated in a one-day inter-agency assessment mission, jointly with the SARC to al-Qusair city in Homs governorate. The main findings of the mission were as follows:

- An estimated 90% of the city has suffered heavy destruction, a handful of buildings were partially destroyed and the majority of houses seen in the areas visited by the mission were unsafe for occupation;
- The SARC sub-office has been destroyed and the SARC clinic reduced to rubble. The only hospital in al-Qusair has also been severely damaged;
- All mosques in al-Qusair and along the road leading to the town have been damaged; the only church in the town was also damaged;
- All schools have been destroyed; one school was allegedly used as a military base;
- Electricity and water supply was not available, and sewage systems have been affected; the local market was non-functional;
- The UN team did not find any signs of civilian suffering nor the need to intervene by sending humanitarian supplies to the town, due to the very limited presence of civilians;
- The mission encountered only a handful of civilians, estimated not to exceed by any means 5-10 families; and
- The majority of al-Qusair residents have been displaced to Hysie, Ginda, Qara and Yabroud, with some people fleeing to Homs city, Damascus or Lebanon.



Al-Qusair's only hospital has been destroyed hospital (top);

SARC car drives through the city's deserted streets Photos: WHO