




## The Difficulties Faced by Deir Ezzor IDPs

March/2019

منظمة العدالة من أجل الحياة  
Justice For Life Organization



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# **The Difficulties Faced by Deir Ezzor IDPs**

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Thousands of Deir Ezzor IDPs were not offered with the opportunity to return to their homes until this moment for multiple reasons as mentioned by JFL in [previous report](#).

Fourteen IDPs from Deir Ezzor who are residing in [Al Bab city](#), Jarabulus town in the countryside of Aleppo, Al Raqqa city, Idleb governorate, Al Hasaka governorate, and different areas held by Syria Democratic Forces in [Deir Ezzor governorate](#) talked to [Justice for Life organization](#) about their daily sufferings in the displacement areas along with their basic demands to enhance their living.

Many of the difficulties are common despite the difference of displacement areas including lack of job opportunities, lack of [readiness of the schools, absence of the medical expertise](#), and deterioration of security conditions

## **The Most Outstanding Difficulties:**

### High cost of housing rentals and living:

The displacement areas that were the destination for Deir Ezzor IDPs witnessed high cost of housing rentals, which is one of the most remarkable difficulties for Maher, who fled to the SDF held countryside of Deir Ezzor as his house rental is one-third of monthly salary.

Mohammad, an IDP in Al Bab city in the countryside of Aleppo says “There is no job opportunity. I cannot find one for more than three or four days in the week with a salary that is only enough for the high rental expenses”. Saleh, another IDP in Al Bab city, suffers from the high price of water that he must buy along with the electricity.

Mustafa, an IDP in Idleb, earns about 80,000 SYP per month, which is equal to \$150, half of this sum has to be paid for the house rental, whereas the rest does not meet the needs of food and medication for one month.

Rami, is an IDP from Al Kasra town in the western countryside of Deir Ezzor, lives with his family in an old building as he cannot rent a house. Rami says “the monthly rental of some houses reached 100,000 SYP, whereas my monthly salary along with the overtime did not reach this amount”.

### Lack of Humanitarian Aid and Prevalence of Nepotism:

Some displacement areas suffer from lack of humanitarian aid, and others suffer from unavailability of that aid. Khalid, an IDP from Deir Ezzor to Salqeen in the countryside of Idleb, has a BA in Arabic literature. He says that aid is hardly available for those who are renting houses. He talks about cases of nepotism and bribery that form a barrier in front of gaining a job opportunity based on his academic background. Thus, he seeks for any job to meet the needs of his families. Ahmad, an IDP in Al Raqqa city, says “Aid is available, but nepotism plays a major role in distributing them in an unfair manner, where part of the IDPs lose aid”.

For two months, no aid has been distributed in the village where Maher is residing in the SDF held areas of Deir Ezzor.

### Lack of Hospitals and Medical Staff:

Lack of medical expertise and shortage of medical staff in some of the displacement areas led some IDPs to take the cost of travel to distant areas, including Syrian government held areas, to receive treatment. Taha, an IDP in Al Hasaka city, says “The medication expenses are extremely high, and many doctors left the city”.

Mamdouh, an IDP in Al Bab city, says “the medication expenses for my son are extremely heavy as he suffers from kidney failure. I work day and night to secure the price of the medication”.

Not all types of surgical operations can be made in the areas in the north of the river; this leads IDPs to travel to Syrian government held areas. Due to lack of staff, the medical consultation price is about 2000 SYP, which is high price according to the witness Abdulrahman.

Jameel, an IDP in SDF held village of Deir Ezzor says “The medications for some chronic diseases and cancers are not available except in Damascus. Many IDPs fear the prosecution, and accordingly they cannot travel to the Syrian government held areas”.

### Security Issues:

The pace of explosions and assassinations increased in a number of displacement areas, specifically in the north of Euphrates River in Deir Ezzor governorate and Al Bab city in the countryside of Aleppo. Maher says “The area was exposed to a series of explosions such as the one that targeted the civil affairs directorate, the western entrance of Al Kasra sub-district in Deir Ezzor countryside, along with people who were affiliated to ISIS”. That was confirmed by Saleh and Khalid, who are IDPs in Salqeen and Al Bab respectively.

### Lack of Adequate Schools:

There is a considerable problem in education without any realistic solutions until now, according to witnesses. Mohsen says “Two of my children could not continue the high school due to the displacement. Now there are out of the school as there are no institutes or universities in the north of Syria”. In Al Raqqa city and the north of the river areas in Deir Ezzor, the schools are not ready to receive the increasing number of students. Abdulrahman says “The teachers in some schools have no experience. The experienced teachers do not want to teach in the SDF held schools”. The 9-year-old son of the witness Maher cannot read yet.

Ibrahim, is an IDP in Azaz in Aleppo countryside, says “When the revolution erupted, my eldest son was in the second grade, and due to the war conditions and displacement, now he can neither read nor write. Now, I cannot enroll them in the available schools as they are supporting me in securing livelihood”.

Taha, is an IDP in Al Hasaka, says “The education costs are high and not every family has the capacity to secure them, and this is a constant nightmare”.

## Recommendations:

In the light of the difficulties faced by Deir Ezzor IDPs, where the report presented part of them, JFL recommends the following:

### The International Community, states and other stakeholders in Syria:

- 1- To work on a safe and voluntary returning for the IDPs to their home within the frame of clear mechanism where no risk may arise against those who desire to return.
- 2- To continue in providing the humanitarian aid in Syria and have access to all areas.

The local authorities in Al Raqqa, Al Hasaka, north of the river areas, and Euphrates shield areas:

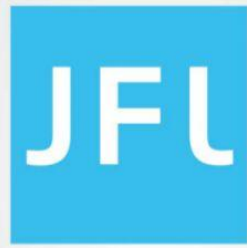
- 1- To work on imposing an observatory mechanism on the process of distributing aid, shouldering responsibility of reaching them to the IDPs, receiving complaints and taking them into account.
- 2- Determining the housing rentals in a way that is reasonable and in accordance with the current conditions of the IDPs.
- 3- Observing the prices of basic material in the markets in accordance with the current conditions of the IDPs.
- 4- Rehabilitating more schools to receive more students.
- 5- Paying attention to the newly arriving students and providing them with the requirement of education.
- 6- Qualifying more teachers to meet the increasing needs and filling the gap of lack of staff.

### International and Local Humanitarian Organizations

- 1- Increasing the relief aid allocations
- 2- Providing the psychosocial support to the newly arrivals
- 3- Supporting the education sector in the displacement areas.
- 4- Supporting the health sector and providing it with the basic requirements and medical staff.
- 5- Working on providing free of charge medications for the chronic diseases, especially for IDPs who have no stable income.
- 6- Updating the records of IDPs on periodic basis as some of them returned to the government held areas, and others were displaced following the recent military

ctions in Deir Ezzor countryside





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