

Hajin City, Deir-ez-Zor


Syria, January 2019




Introduction


Following the expulsion of the group known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) from Hajin city in December 2018, households that were previously displaced as a result of conflict activity have started spontaneously returning to the area. REACH identified the magnitude/extent of spontaneous returns and the critical humanitarian situation in the city between 20 and 31 January 2019, during data collection for the fifth round of the Deir-ez-Zor Situation Overview. Five interviews were conducted remotely with Key Informants (KIs) in Hajin city as part of this assessment. Findings in this document should be considered relevant to the time of data collection only.


Affected Population


 KIs estimated that **9,000 individuals** were staying on the outskirts of the city, with 6,000 to the north, and 3,000 to the south (down to and including Abu Hasan).


 KIs estimated that the number of individuals who have spontaneously returned despite critical humanitarian conditions ranges from **20,000 to 25,000 individuals**.


Key Findings


 KIs reported that some of the households who return to the city may only be staying there temporarily, and returning to the city outskirts in the evening.

 Widespread **shelter damage** was reported by KIs. While some households have reportedly been able to return to their pre-displacement homes, others were unable to return due to shelter damage, fear of unexploded ordnances (UXOs), and private shelters being used for military purposes.

 **No food markets** were reportedly available in Hajin city. Spontaneous returnees are instead relying on purchasing food from markets in other communities and on donations from family and friends in the area.

 **Winterisation** items, such as blankets, winter clothing and shoes, and heating fuel were reported as the most common NFI needs by KIs.

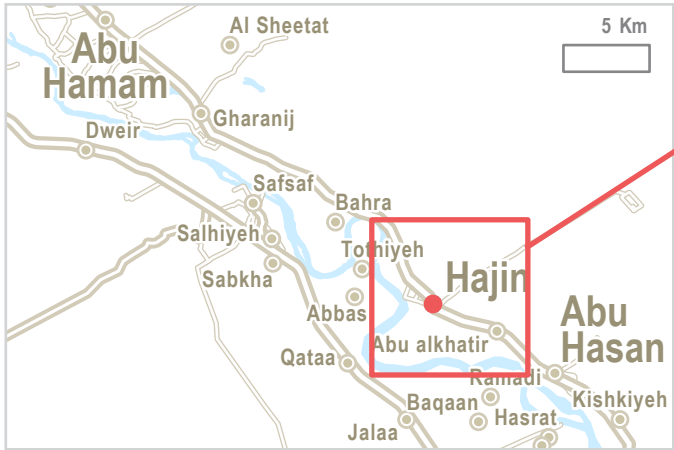
 **No medical facilities or pharmacies** were reported to be present/functioning in Hajin city, with the nearest accessible hospital being in Abu Hamam, approximately 20 km north of the city.

 Water trucking was available through paid services. However, KIs reported that the **water tasted bad, that costs were high, and that some households did not have enough water to meet their basic needs**.

 KIs reported that some households practiced **open defecation**.

 **Selling assets** was reported as a commonly used mechanism to cope with a lack of income.

The findings in this document should be considered as indicative only. The situation in Hajin sub-district is extremely fluid and accurate information is challenging to obtain. There is no baseline data available prior to this assessment as Hajin city has only recently become accessible. The high level of movement in the area makes population estimates particularly difficult. REACH plans to launch an ad hoc monitoring system in this area to more accurately monitor population flow.



Satellite-Detected Damage as of 26 January, 2019

