

New catastrophe in South Syria – EMERGENCY APPEAL by local NGO

28 June 2018

At least 350,000[i] people have been affected by a new round of artillery shelling and airstrikes in the rural area north east of Daraa, causing waves of displacements and practically emptying whole towns.

1,000s of families have been forced to flee, and so far it is estimated that 100+ have been wounded and many killed. It has been reported that napalm and cluster bombs have been dropped on the town of Mseifra. Along with Al-Lajat, Bisir Elharir, Nahta, Mlihet Elatash, Western Maliha, Hrak and Karak, these towns have been abandoned.

Local NGO Olive Branch Organization estimate up to \$2 million[ii] of support is needed now, to help 3,000 families fleeing the devastation. They are making a new emergency appeal to provide food, water, fuel and shelter. The appeal is directed at Olive Branch Organization (OB)'s partners but open to anyone able to provide financial or humanitarian support.

OB is a grassroots organisation that has been serving victims of the Syrian conflict since 2012 and has its registered headquarters in Gaziantep, Turkey. They do not have a media budget for fundraising and are unable to make broadcast or international appeals. The new appeal is for an initial \$1 million to cover tents, household items, food, water and fuel; a further \$1 million will ensure at least 3,000 families in total would be safeguarded[ii].

OB have reached up to one million people with some form of humanitarian assistance since 2012 [iii] and helped 500,000 children through educational projects. OB partners with Care, IRC, DFID in the UK, Save the Children and other major partners, as well as receiving donations directly. They employ around 300 people in the field delivering projects in Syria. Last year in 2017, OB provided[iii] :

Food parcels for thousands of people, which included rice, flour and oil

Shelter kits to provide shelter for up to 500 households

Basic household item packages for up to 200 households, including blankets, mattresses and utensils

Protection and support for upward of 47,000 mainly women and children, with counselling, dignity kits and access to safe spaces

Education and protection for 10,000 pupils and learning activities for 2,000 adults

Agricultural projects that give hundreds of people access to food and livelihoods

Employment for hundreds of workers, delivering OB humanitarian and educational projects.

Notes to editors:

Media enquiries in English and Arabic contact OB HQ Turkey +00 905 376 9253 info1@olivebranchorg.org

Photographs are available, sample for this release saved here <http://www.olivebranchorg.com/media>

Tammam Al Jamous heads the board at OB HQ; Hosam Odat is CEO and has direct contact with field workers in Syria; Nart Izhak is response co-ordinator and looks after the projects hub in Amman, Jordan.

References:

[i] The 350,000 figure is from OB's experience on the ground and confirmed by their safety department. UNOCHA estimates 271,800 (2 July 2018 [update no. 4](#)) and previously 50,000 (26 June 2018 update no. 2).

[ii] A fully costed inventory on a needs analysis is available. Approximate costs include \$300 for a tent, \$50 for a food basket, \$45 for health & hygiene. Prices vary daily due to demand border restrictions.

[iii] Project statistics from OB's work, details and examples can be provided.