



In this Issue

- P.1 Humanitarian conditions in north-west worsen
- P.2 Families brave winter at Areesha camp
- P.4 New insight into disability in Syria
- P.5 Working to build response quality and accountability

FIGURES

People in need of humanitarian assistance	11.1 M
People in acute need of humanitarian assistance	4.7M
Internally displaced people (as of July 2019)	6.1M
Population Movements (January-September 2019)	1.27M
Returnees (September 2019)	341,247

Source 2019 PMR

HRP 2019 FUNDING

3.29 billion requested (US\$)

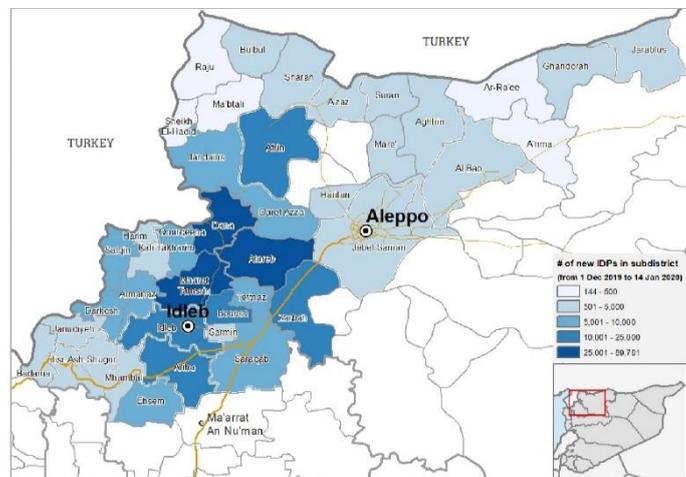
2.09 billion received (US\$)

62.0% funded

Source OCHA FTS in 27 January 2020

Humanitarian situation in north-west worsens

Humanitarian conditions for people in north-west Syria have worsened as the UN and its humanitarian partners work to address the needs of some 358,000 newly displaced people in Idlib Governorate, the vast majority of them women and children, following a second wave of displacement which began on 1 December 2019.



Source: CCCM
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

The deteriorating humanitarian conditions follow increasing reports of violence in the area and heightened concerns for the safety and protection for the over 4 million civilians in north-west Syria, over half of whom are internally displaced.

On 11 January alone, some 26 communities in Idlib were affected by airstrikes, including schools, hospitals, camps for internally displaced people (IDPs) and markets, as well as locations hosting those newly displaced.

Most of those displaced fled airstrikes and artillery attacks in Ma'arrat An Nu'man area and the surrounding countryside in southern Idlib; fleeing northward to urban areas such as Idlib city, Saraqab and Arihah, in addition to overstretched camps for displaced people in the northwest of the governorate.

Some 45,000 newly displaced people chose to move to areas in northern Aleppo Governorate, seeking safety and to reach services, including Afrin and A'zaz, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported on [15 January](#).

This latest wave of people displaced, compounds an already dire humanitarian situation as over 400,000 people were displaced between the end of April and the end of August, many of them multiple times, worsening levels of vulnerability further in Idlib.

Some 1,506 civilians have been killed in the violence since the renewal of hostilities in the de-escalation zone in Idlib and surrounding areas on 29 April 2019 until 15 January, the

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Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) confirmed on [17 January](#), including 293 women and 433 children. Of these, 75 civilians, including 17 women and 22 children (five per cent of the total), were in areas under the control of Government forces.

Conditions on the ground have been further exacerbated by extreme winter weather, including flooding and sub-zero temperatures, and rising fuel prices.

Vital services are contingent on a consistent supply of fuel, including hospitals, emergency operations, transportation, agriculture and bakeries. In winter, fuel is crucial for safe and reliable heating. With the decline of the Syrian Pound (SYP) and only imported fuel now available in much of the northwest, people are struggling to cope.

In Idleb, the price of one litre of imported first grade diesel rose 21.5 per cent over the past month, from 650 SYP to 790 SYP between 17 December 2019 and 13 January 2020, with similar price increases now being reported for second grade imported fuels also.

Key concerns over fuel price increases include the possible disruption of vital services, and the added risk of people resorting to using lower quality fuels to stay warm, fueling the risk of fires, especially in densely populated camps and shelters.

Response efforts

Meanwhile, the UN and its partners continue to scale up their response efforts in the area, including non-food items, shelter, food and cash assistance.

As of 9 January, proposals for camp extensions in 14 locations have been developed to provide shelter to some 3,827 families, while 346,566 people have received food assistance. Some 116,000 ready-to-eat rations have been provided to meet the needs of 580,000 people, in addition to food rations for regular assistance. Life-saving nutrition has been provided to 22,696 children and mothers in 87 communities in 25 sub-districts. Some 10,742 protection interventions reaching 5,133 individuals have been provided to 34 communities within 17 sub-districts in Idleb and Aleppo, including psychological first aid and psychosocial support, distribution of dignity kits and of winterization kits for children, risk education and reunification of unaccompanied and separated children with their families. To bolster health services, additional general practitioners are currently being hired, while a referral pathway has been established to transfer patients between IDP shelters in sub-districts with particularly high numbers of people and nearby primary healthcare centres for pediatric, internal medicine and gynecological services. Education services, including formal and informal education activities, home schooling, and student bags and textbooks have also been provided, reaching 8,552 school-aged children.

Some 2.7 million in north-west Syria are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, including food, shelter, water and sanitation, health and winterization assistance. An updated Readiness and Response Plan for approximately 850,000 people is being prepared, focusing on the needs of those newly displaced since 1 December (some 358,000), as well as possible further displacement of another 500,000 people in front-line areas.

Families brave winter at Areesha camp



Winter continues to take its toll on displaced families living at the Areesha IDP camp, as well as other camps and informal sites in north-east Syria.

First established in 2017 to host people fleeing conflict from Deir-ez-Zor Governorate, the Areesha IDP camp in Al-Hasakeh Governorate witnessed a further

influx of families after the onset of Turkish military operations in north-east Syria in October 2019 which resulted in the displacement of over 200,000 people; 70,000 whom remain displaced today. Today Areesha is now at capacity hosting some 13,436 people. Many of these families have been displaced multiple times and are struggling to cope.

“Life couldn’t be more difficult,” Hanan, a pregnant woman and a mother-of-five children, originally from rural Deir-ez-Zor, noted. “Here, my children continue to be exposed to illness, even when doing daily activities like cleaning, collecting water, or even going to latrines.”

With particularly heavy rainfall recorded over the past month, there have been increased reports of flooding and the destruction of tents at IDP camps and informal sites across north-east Syria, making some areas where families are living temporarily uninhabitable while others have had no choice but to move to higher ground.

Others still have taken the initiative to build drainage systems around their tents in an effort to keep their possessions dry, however, even if they keep their tent dry, the ground outside routinely turns to mud, making movement around the camp – including to education and health facilities – a challenge.

Humanitarian partners have been responding at Areesha – and other locations across the north-east – to help mitigate the strain on displaced families. Included in this is the distribution of winterization assistance, including winter clothes, thermal blankets, sleeping bags, stoves, solar lamps and plastic sheets which commenced in October, while ongoing fuel distributions, over 160,000 litres in total, have been undertaken in December and January. In addition to shelter maintenance, plans are also afoot to rehabilitate the camp roads and build new latrines. Additional humanitarian assistance includes daily bread distributions and healthcare. There are currently five health partners working at Areesha, with facilities, including clinics and a mother-baby centre (supporting safe breast-feeding practices) and psychosocial services.

Meanwhile, at the larger nearby Al Hol IDP camp, home to over 66,000 residents – the vast majority of them women and children – over 350 families have been voluntarily relocated within the camp when their tents were damaged or destroyed by flooding, with humanitarian partners replacing 2,800 tents and providing non-food items (NFIs) to those affected.

As of [13 January](#), OCHA reported inclement weather had badly affected the camp over December, with winter temperatures, three significant rainstorms and two sandstorms, reinforcing the urgency of shelter intervention and distributions of tents and NFIs. A winterization distribution – including high thermal blankets, sleeping bags, extra plastic sheeting and family winter clothing kits – was completed in early November, followed by children’s clothes, solar lamps, food assistance, hygiene kits and jerry cans in

December, with heaters and the first round of fuel (20 days' worth for each household) in parts of the camp (phases 1 to 8), as well as the camp's annex. A second round of fuel distributions started in mid-December and remains ongoing.

Following the most recent wave of displacement in the northeast in October 2019 - when more than 200,000 fled their homes - over 70,000 remain displaced in north-east Syria, joining the already 1.2 million who were displaced prior to the recent crisis.

While most families are staying with host families, many continue to shelter in 79 active collective centres and six IDP camps and sites, including Areesha, Al Hol, Mahmoudli and Ein Issa. Overcrowding in shelters pose protection risks on the most vulnerable residents, exacerbating existing health and sanitation concerns while creating challenges for actors to provide services. This in turn can increase the risk of seasonal illnesses, which for children, the sick, and the elderly, can potentially be fatal.

NFI and shelter assistance throughout the winter months continues to be essential and life-saving, particularly for those newly displaced or forced to relocate. Shelter and NFI partners estimate that across Syria, three million people, including 380,000 in the northeast are in need of assistance this winter. Winter distributions and shelter assistance – focusing on replaced damaged or worn out tents or distribution of basic weather items like plastic sheeting are ongoing across the country, but there is still a US\$13 million funding gap. By the end of December, over 1.2 million people had been reached with additional planned distributions continuing throughout January and February 2020.

New insight into disability in Syria

A new [report](#) offers greater insight into the challenges faced by over 3 million Syrians with a disability.

People with disabilities are particularly vulnerable and face challenges in accessing basic services and are therefore vulnerable to exclusion from the humanitarian response, despite significant and often heightened needs.



Some 27 per cent of the Syrian population over the age of 12, have a disability, pointing to elevated prevalence above global rates and raising concern about potential negative impacts among this group which are more pervasive in developing and crisis-affected countries, the report by the Humanitarian Needs Programme (HNAP) confirmed.

Based on the results of a national household survey conducted in June 2019, the report provides humanitarian stakeholders a greater understanding of the number of people (aged 12+) across Syria living with different types of disability, as well as patterns across areas, age groups and population types, including resident, or non-displaced host communities; internally displaced persons; and households returning from displacement (returnees) within 2019.

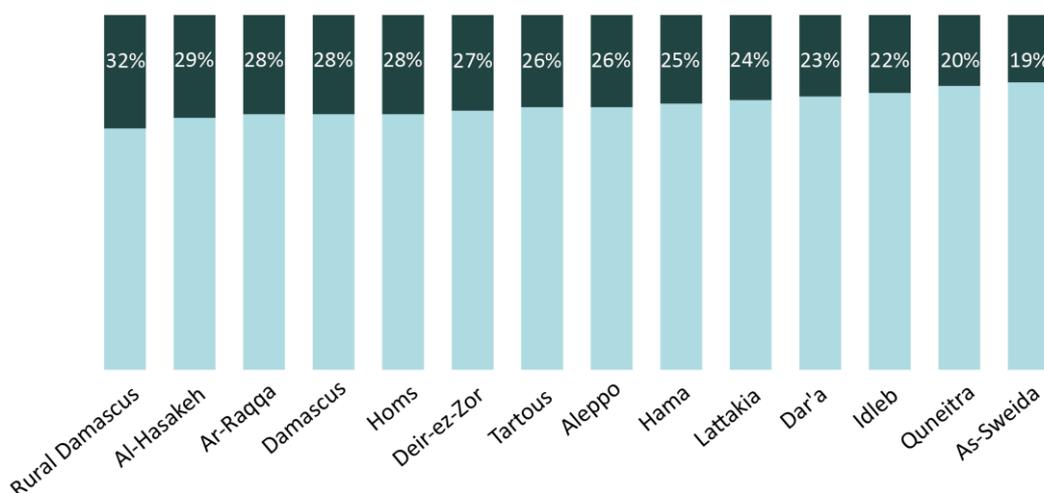
With the conflict entering its ninth year, the impact of disabilities are compounded where individuals with disabilities experience increased threats of violence and limited access to medical assistance. Indeed, 62 per cent of individuals with disabilities are out-of-

work, as compared to 48 per cent of those with no disability, the report revealed. 20 per cent of females who suffer from disabilities are widowed, significantly higher than males (5 per cent) and females without disabilities (4 per cent).

Some 29 per cent of IDPs have a disability, as compared to 25 per cent of returnees and 26 per cent of residents.

Years of hostilities have resulted in increased rates of disabilities in a number of specific areas, including Rural Damascus, Al-Hasakeh, Homs, and Ar Raqqa governorates, as a result of a combination of injuries related to hostilities and exacerbation of difficulties related to pre-existing conditions, among other reasons.

Population (12+) with Disabilities by Governorate



According to the report, households fleeing violence frequently lose access to essential socio-economic safety nets, including access to savings, employment, domestic support and income generating household members. Disabilities increase individual and household vulnerability through exclusion in social, economic and political areas which can further the cycle of exclusion and poverty, especially for more vulnerable population groups like IDPs and returnees. Although the assessment did not capture higher number of people with disabilities in Idleb Governorate as compare to other governorates, considering Idleb as the higher number of IDPs a further follow up is required.

In [April 2019](#), Ursula Mueller, the Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs acknowledged the need to address the specific protection and psychosocial needs of persons with a disability, and their frequent exclusion from humanitarian programming.

“We must do our utmost to support and protect persons with disabilities,” she said, emphasizing the need to ensure that their diverse needs are addressed, notably by ensuring service accessibility, training staff and collecting data disaggregated by disability.

Working to build quality accountability

Efforts are underway to build quality and accountability (Q&A) amongst humanitarian responders to the Syria crisis.

A key area of this development is to establish a common understanding of risk management, quality and accountability, with further understanding that allows responders to provide services to the affected population in line with the standards enshrined in the Core Humanitarian Standards ([CHS](#)) and the Humanitarian Standards Partnership ([HSP](#)), including [Sphere](#).



An inter-agency Q&A capacity building programme in Arabic is currently underway, implemented by OCHA Turkey, IOM Turkey, CHS Alliance and Sphere (with support from SIDA) to develop a pool of Q&A specialists from within the humanitarian community, capable of training other Syrian humanitarian workers in an approach that enhances this knowledge to every level of humanitarian responder.

Using a pilot methodology designed to be scalable and adaptable to other global contexts, the Q&A capacity building programme provides Syrian humanitarian workers with tools to mainstream humanitarian standards and principles through the Project Cycle Management and the Humanitarian Programme Cycle – adopting a bottom-up approach focusing on local needs, embedded into local accountability frameworks and other contextualized humanitarian guidelines developed for the Syria response.

In October 2019, a Whole-of-Syria Training-of-Trainers (ToT) effort was undertaken following the completion of the programme design phase in July 2019.

In total, 26 Syrian trainers and implementers participated; a special needs, inclusive and gender-balanced group of 12 women and 14 men from Syrian NGOs, INGOs, various branches of the Red Cross/ Red Crescent Movement, and UN agencies.

Over seven days, participants were facilitated by an international lead trainer, as well as three Syrian co-trainers with information on Q&A, alongside adult learning and facilitation skills, to enable them to deliver their own three-day trainings on Q&A in the Syria response.

Since the capacity building programme entered its third phase in November 2019, a total of nine Q & A trainings have been completed. Delivered by participants of the initial ToT implemented in October and coached by the Syrian co-trainers, three roll-out trainings were completed in Turkey in November and December, led by IOM Turkey. Three more were completed in north-east Syria in December, led by OCHA Turkey in close coordination with the North-East Syria Forum and two Syrian NGOs; and in north-west Syria two of three roll-out trainings led by OCHA Turkey and implemented by two Syrian NGOs have been completed this January, with the third taking place before the end of the month. In total, more than 225 Syrian humanitarian workers based in Turkey,

north-west Syria and north-east Syria have benefited from the programme since October 2019, with potential modalities to implement roll-out trainings in Government-controlled areas now are being explored.

The trainings' impact is that all levels of humanitarian responders across Syria have access to information to ensure quality and accountability of the programmes they provide to people in need.

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