Response

In June 2019, 22 Protection Cluster members provided emergency response services for civilians recently displaced from Northern Hama and Southern Idlib due to the ongoing hostilities. Cluster members provided 84,998 protection services to IDPs and affected host community members in 119 communities within 31 sub-districts in Idlib and Aleppo reaching 44,055 individuals (15,515 girls, 13,429 boys, 13,587 women, and 1,524 men). 12 PMT members conducted 889 XI interviews in 131 communities covering 24 sub-districts, 9 districts and 2 governors (Aleppo and Idlib). GBV SC members were able to provide 5511 specialized GBV services in 67 communities/neighborhoods across North Syria (NW). They were also able to reach 30451 women, girls, boys and men with GBV prevention and empowerment activities. In addition, 4 GBV SC members distributed 3,895 dignity kits (DKs) in 9 sub-districts across Idlib and Aleppo as part of the protection emergency response in those areas that are having significant numbers of newly displaced women and girls. The Syria based Capacity Building Taskforce (CBFT) met for the first time in Aleppo and Idlib, with the participation of the 4 CBFT members in Aleppo and 5 in Idlib. The TBDs were finalized during the meeting and a work-plan for the CBFT was developed. The GBV SC conducted one case conferencing in Idlib, with 15 GBV case workers/managers from 12 organizations discussing two GBV cases. In Gaziantep, the GBV SC conducted one learning session (10 participants from 9 organizations), with a case discussion and a brief assessment of the group’s needs. The GBV SC developed a guidance note to support its members in the provision of cash assistance in the framework of case management. Finally, representatives of the GBV SC participated in the regional workshop of the Global GBV Localization task-team, sharing lessons learnt and best practices based on the positive experience of GBV SC localization efforts. In June 2019, escalation of hostilities has taken a high toll on children. Attacks on critical civilian infrastructure, has resulted in high numbers of children casualties including deaths. CP SC members were able to provide 45,554 Child Protection interventions in 13 districts, 36 subdistricts and 117 communities/neighborhoods across North Syria. Partners were also able to reach 27,069 community members in awareness raising efforts as to prevent and respond to child protection issues. Structured, sustained child protection programmes including psychosocial support, reached 13,846 girls and boys, 1,449 number of women and men were engaged in participating programmes along this reporting period. Psychosocial support continues to strengthen girls and boys coping mechanisms and resilience. Similarly, Parents’ Programmes have strengthened primary caregivers’ skills and resources to care and protect for their children under severely overstretched communities’ capacities. Additionally, specialized services continued through case management and reached 346 boys and 275 girls. Case Management plays a central role in facilitating individual child protection assessments, monitoring of cases and referrals. Multiple displacement along the month of June, attacks on critical civilian infrastructure has continued to hinder partners capacity to deliver case management. Nevertheless, it plays a central role in facilitating individual child protection assessments, monitoring of cases and referral to specialized services. The CP SC members continued to engage and train child protection teams and communities both females and males at different levels on basics of child protection in line with the Child Protection Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Action. Building on earlier efforts and in June 2019 163 women and men across different communities in North West Syria were trained. In June 2019 a number of capacity building initiatives have taken place including case management and psychosocial support with a view of strengthening partners capacities and consistency in the delivery. The Youth and Adolescence Task Force of the Child Protection Subcluster made preparations for an assessment to be rolled out in July 2019. The exercise aims at promoting youth and adolescence participation in programming. Findings will contribute to further shape interventions targeting this group.

Gap
Limited specialized services or inclusive services for other groups with specific needs, e.g. persons with disabilities or older persons, remains a critical gap for the Cluster. Guaranteeing continuity of services remains challenging due to the short turnaround of funds. Available stock of DK is not sufficient to cover the current need, funds are therefore needed to immediately cover for this gap. Women and girls with disabilities are at particular risk of GBV but they continue to face difficulties accessing services ranging from physical access barriers at the level of the facility, lack of skills or positive attitudes at the level of service providers as well as lack of specific essential services they may need.

There is a need to step up partners’ capacity to provide interim care in emergencies and early response for children with disabilities. Multiple displacements continue to further strain already stretched protection capacities of families. In their turn, protection teams work is hindered as protection interventions continue to sustained access, predictability and continuity which is hard to ensure in populations on the move.