Response

GP: In March 2020, 13 Protection Cluster members provided emergency response services for civilians displaced from Idlib and Aleppo due to the ongoing hostilities. Cluster members provided 53,314 protection interventions to IDPs and affected host community members in 82 communities within 19 sub-districts in Idlib and Aleppo reaching 27,497 individuals (11,092 girls, 11,040 boys, 3,985 women, 1,380 men). The main services protection actors provided are as follows: i) Psychological First Aid and Psychosocial Support ii) Information sharing about other services iii) Dignity kits distribution iv) Risk education Cluster members also referred individuals to other basic services, notably to health and shelter, and provided Individual Protection Assistance (cash grants for protection purposes).

It should be noted that the above emergency response activities are in addition to activities included in the HRP and monthly reported through the 4Ws.

GBV: During March, GBV SC members were able to provide 9,186 specialized GBV services in 47 communities/neighbourhoods across northwest Syria. They were also able to reach 30,472 women, girls, boys and men with GBV prevention and empowerment activities. In addition, 152 GBV and other 41 humanitarian actors were trained on different GBV related topics. GBV partners have embedded COVID-19 prevention and response messaging in their outreach as well as static awareness raising activities. GBV partners have also continued to distribute dignity kits reaching 54,516 women and girls in northwest Syria.

Capacity Building: The GBV SC in partnership with health cluster colleagues have organized two training sessions for 38 GBV partners inside Syria on how to communicate correct messaging about how to prevent and respond to the COVID-19 in ways they can understand. A 1-day training targeting GBV supervisors in Gaziantep on how to operationalize cash assistance within the framework of GBV case management was also organized besides a learning session for 19 GBV supervisors on GBV case management in time of COVID-19.

Referral Pathway: The GBV SC coordination team updated referral pathways for 9 districts in northwest Syria in order to reflect changes in service operation and access points.

Guidance note: The GBV sub-Cluster developed a guidance note on GBV Service Provision during the time of COVID-19 which aims to provide certain key points to be considered by the front-line GBV service providers for ensuring timely, dignified and safe GBV service provision in the time of COVID-19 with its heightened risks.

CP: In March, more than 40 CP partners provided regular and emergency response services, include 483 CP interventions in 25 sub districts reaching more than 68,469 children and caregivers (28,325 girls, 27,369 boys, 7,487 women and 5,338 men).

The main services provided are: i) CP Awareness raising activity targeted 26,042 ii) PSS structured/semi-structured activities targeted 39,847 iii) Case management targeted 1,678 iv) Capacity building targeted 389 v) Referral of CP cases to specialized services targeted 513 vi) PSS kits distributions for children 12,000 (5500 girls 6500 boys)

Survey on Impact on CP emergency response due to COVID-19: To date, 13 CP partners working in 7 districts of Idlib and Aleppo contributed to the survey conducted to map the impact of COVID-19 on delivery of protection services. Preliminary findings of the survey from the data received so far indicate that, overall 54% activities have continued, and 46% have been affected, suspended and/or required a different implementation modality. 95% of Specialized CP services continued. However, community-based activities, including and parenting programs show that 49% have continued. Structured activities in CPs have been suspended by majority of CP partners. Other activities, despite some limitation, include the referral system like CP Case Management and IPA continued. Structured activities in CPs were minimized as a precautionary measure against COVID-19 and only focusing on individual PSS and sharing of information in limited groups which also included COVID 19 prevention messages.

GAP

GBV: GBV partners are reporting increases in reported and observed GBV incidents due to extended quarantine and other social distancing measures being put in place throughout northwest Syria which is increasing household stress combined with forced coexistence in narrow living spaces. Incidents of family and domestic violence as well as emotional abuse and deprivation of services and resources were particularly cited. A new worrying trend has emerged of some pregnant women being forced to abort their babies who do not wish to have children now due to COVID-19 related concerns.

All GBV interventions, both prevention and response even in time of COVID-19, should continue including (WGSS), case management, dignity kits distribution, awareness raising, as essential to the broad COVID-19 response and should support partners to scale-up or adapt to the changing operational context.

CP: Limitations in an increasingly restrictive operational environment and suspension of (CFCA), CP partners have strived to deliver while incorporating where possible COVID prevention messages and messages on childcare in times of isolation and unpredictability.