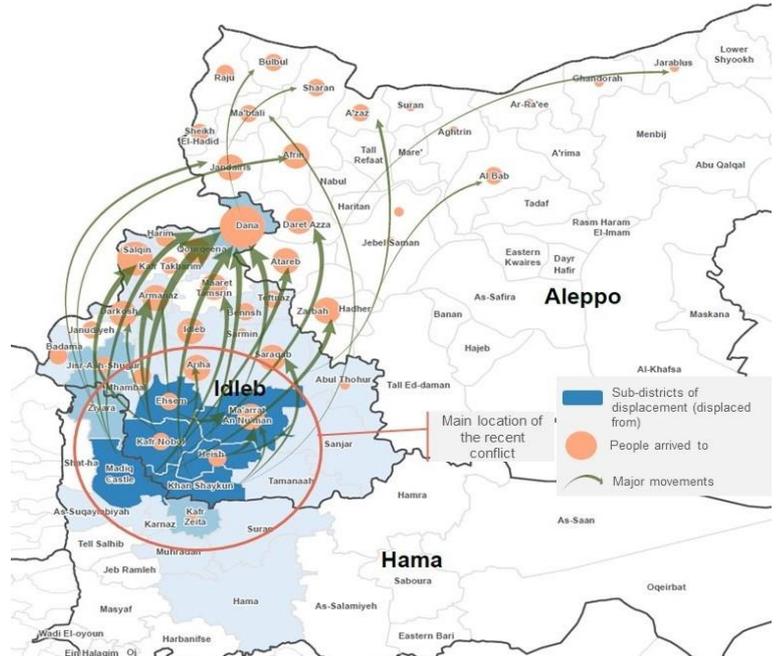


HIGHLIGHTS

- Violence in northwest Syria continues unabated, which is taking a heavy toll on the three million civilians who live in the area. Since the end of April, hundreds of civilians are killed by airstrikes and shelling, while many more have been injured.
- Hundreds of thousands of civilians have been forced to flee their homes to escape the violence. The majority of those who are displaced are moving to densely-populated areas where humanitarian assistance is over-stretched.
- Widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure, such as homes, bakeries, markets, hospitals, schools and water stations, add to the suffering of civilians in northwest Syria and further complicates the provision of humanitarian assistance.
- Humanitarian response is ongoing with hundreds of thousands of people receiving critical assistance essential for their survival while additional funding is required to continue supporting all people in need across northwest Syria.



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



SITUATION OVERVIEW

Violence continues unabated in northwest Syria, taking a heavy toll on the three million people who are living in the Idlib “de-escalation zone”. As the fighting between the Government of Syria (GoS) forces and their allies and non-state armed groups (NSAGs) across southern Idlib, northern Hama and western Aleppo governorates continues, the humanitarian situation in northwest Syria is deteriorating. Civilians living in NSAG-controlled areas suffer from daily attacks such as airstrikes and shelling. Civilians in GoS-controlled areas adjacent to frontlines live in fear of attacks. Since the beginning of the escalation of hostilities in late April, hundreds of civilians, many of whom are women and children, have lost their lives. Countless others have suffered severe injuries, and in many cases, these are life altering injuries, leaving them permanently disabled. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has documented the deaths of at least 450

civilians as of 26 July. Unconfirmed reports from local sources indicate that more than 700 civilians have been killed as a result of hostilities in northwest Syria since late April.

Some of the most horrific attacks in northwest Syria witnessed since late April took place in the past two weeks. On 16 July, in Maar Shurin in Idlib governorate, 12 people, including one child, lost their lives as a result of airstrikes at a market. On 21 July, ten civilians including three children and two women were reportedly killed by airstrikes in Orm Eljoz town. 22 July was the most violent day this year with at least 59 civilians reportedly killed and over 100 women, children and men injured. In Ma'arrat An Nu'man, airstrikes in a busy market reportedly resulted in the deaths of at least 39 people, including eight women and five children in the morning hours. In the evening hours, airstrikes in a local market in Saraqab resulted in eight reported deaths, including one woman and four children. On July 24, at least twenty people were killed across northwest Syria due to airstrikes, including eight women and six children. In particular, airstrikes hit residential areas, gravely affecting families in Ariha, Mhambal and Tabish, almost exclusively killing women and children.

The widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure, such as homes, bakeries, markets, hospitals, schools and water stations, adds to the suffering of civilians in northwest Syria. Since late April, at least 37 incidents involving health facilities or personnel have been reported, killing and injuring civilians, and damaging or destroying vital health facilities that are essential for the survival and wellbeing of the people. As health facilities are perceived to be in danger of being impacted by airstrikes, health personnel reportedly strive to discharge the patients as fast as they can, in an effort to keep them safe. 47 schools and several water stations were reportedly damaged or destroyed by airstrikes or shelling, disrupting access to clean water and education for hundreds of thousands of people. This is in addition to the total destruction of residential areas as well. In southern Idlib and northern Hama, the United Nations has satellite imagery demonstrating that at least 16 out of 27 assessed communities have been almost completely destroyed in the fighting. These include people's homes, farms, markets, and mosques. Communities in GoS-controlled areas also continue to suffer from hostilities as the security situation in areas close to frontlines, particularly in parts of Aleppo city and Hama governorate, deteriorated in the past two weeks. Between 11 and 23 July, local sources reported that some 15 civilians were killed due to hostilities while dozens of others have been injured. Humanitarian workers who put their lives at risk to support the people in need are not spared from the violence. Since late April, nine humanitarian aid workers were killed due to hostilities. Some of them were on duty, trying to alleviate the suffering of others, when they were killed.

The threat of continuing violence, the destruction of homes, the decimation of the institutions on which people rely on to survive are leaving the population with few options but to flee their communities. People are taking calculated risks, as moving on roads exposed to airstrikes is also dangerous. Often it is the most vulnerable who do not have economic means or who are elderly or disabled who are left behind. Those who stay behind are often dependent on humanitarian assistance for their survival. Particularly in areas closer to the frontline that are more immediately affected by the violence, reaching people in need becomes more and more challenging as all movement is considered perilous.

Since the beginning of May, 452,623 displacements have occurred as people fled their homes in southern Idlib and northern Hama to escape from the hostilities. Of the three million people in northwest Syria, 1.3 million are estimated to be IDPs and many have been displaced multiple times during the conflict. This is yet another wave of displacement in a long succession of many, rapidly depleting what little resources civilians in northwest Syria may have, exacerbating their vulnerability to further shocks.

The majority of the newly displaced people are fleeing to northern Idlib to areas that are already densely-populated, mostly with IDPs that have been displaced to these areas previously. Dana sub-district remains as the destination for the majority of newly displaced individuals, where camps and host communities are already overcrowded, putting an additional strain on the provision of life-saving humanitarian assistance. Coupled with the widespread destruction of existing civilian infrastructure and on-going violence, the scale of the movement is likely to overstretch threadbare humanitarian services both for host communities and newly displaced individuals. According to a rapid needs assessment conducted across northern Idlib across communities hosting the highest number of new IDPs, key informants in 86% of the assessed communities reported that current levels of humanitarian assistance does not meet the needs of the IDPs. Areas under GoS-control in Hama governorate have, but to a much lesser extent, also received newly displaced people fleeing from hostilities. Since late April, 7,680 individuals have been displaced from NSAG-controlled to GoS-controlled areas, primarily to locations close to frontlines in Hama governorate.

The impact of hostilities on women and children, who make up for the 76% of the total population, is particularly severe. Of the three million civilians in northwest Syria living in NSAG-controlled areas, it is estimated that 25% are women and 51% are children. By way of comparison, the overall average for all Syria is 43% of children and 31% women in the total population. While many of those who are killed are women and children, those who are displaced or are part of the host communities suffer from the long-term consequences of hostilities. According to a rapid needs assessment, 51% of key

informants report that child labour is happening in communities across northern Idlib, likely exposing children to abuse and exploitation. Moreover, 98% of assessed communities report that there will be future problems for IDP children in accessing education and 97% report the same for resident children in northern Idlib. This is not to mention the mental scars that children will carry with them for decades as a result of the traumas they have experienced.

FUNDING

The Inter-Cluster Coordination Group, responsible for the technical aspects of coordinating the response, is developing an informed strategy for the response by sector and geographical areas. Based on the available information, the Turkey Humanitarian Fund (THF) is planning to launch a reserve allocation shortly to support the ongoing emergency response in Idlib. The strategy of the allocation is being finalized, based on the most recent needs assessments. It will focus on specific geographical areas and sectors, and specifically target critical emergency activities that have been identified in order to respond to the needs within a six-month period. Support to the replenishment of key pipeline will also be considered, as well as kickstart funding for winterization activities to support the objective of distributing 90% of the winter assistance before the end of December. Additional funding to support the emergency response and winterization is needed. The ongoing emergency in northwest Syria required the adaptation of ongoing programming to respond to immediate needs of the newly displaced communities, putting an already stretched response under significant strain. Partners have utilized resources from ongoing funding in order to respond to these needs and require additional funding to provide assistance to all people in need.

As of 26 July, only 26%, or USD 872.5 million of the USD 3.32 billion required for the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) had been funded (OCHA Financial Tracking Service). OCHA has published a critical funding gaps analysis to identify critical priorities in need of urgent funding. The Humanitarian Pooled Funds remain the quickest modality for disbursing funding to partners. However, with planned July disbursements, there will be limited funds to cover critical gaps in the HRP through a standard allocation in the second half of the year. Without donor support, partners will not be able to scale up their operations and respond to both new and existing needs.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Humanitarian actors on the ground are responding to the needs of the newly displaced individuals as well as the host communities wherever they can. However, response efforts continue prove challenging due to the violence and large-scale displacement taking place within a short time period. The ability of humanitarian organizations to respond has been undermined by the violence, as humanitarian staff are displaced themselves, infrastructure to deliver services has been damaged or destroyed and any movement is perceived to be dangerous due to shelling and airstrikes.

Humanitarian actors scaled up their operations to respond to the needs of the newly displaced individuals while continuing to provide humanitarian assistance to host communities. Hundreds of humanitarian workers are supporting the people in need with vital services such as providing food assistance to newly displaced households, surging health services in areas that are receiving more and more people, screening infants for signs of malnutrition, supporting the education of children ahead of the new school year and providing emergency protection services.



Education

Needs:

- The Education Cluster estimates 100,000 school-aged children, who are recently displaced, are in need of immediate education services. These include access to non-formal education services such as remedial education, catch-up classes, self-learning programs, recreational activities, and provision of learning supplies.
- In arrival locations, absorption capacity is overstretched for both IDP and host communities, and Temporary Learning Spaces are needed to provide access to education in camps in Dana sub-district to accommodate newly arrived crisis-affected children in the area. With the start of the school year in September, the burden on the formal and non-formal education facilities will be extreme.
- Regarding information gaps, the exact number of children with a breakdown of age or grades, number of teachers in the IDP and host community, number of functional schools and learning centers and their capacity are needed.
- Approximately 250,000 school-aged children are affected by ongoing hostilities in Idlib, mainly due to suspension of education activities.

100,000

School-aged children in immediate need of education services

Response:

- Cluster members supported the education of 14,107 children (7,727 females) in camps and host communities with the provision of non-formal education such as self-learning program, catch-up classes and remedial education in Darkosh, Kafr Nobol, Maaret Tamsrin, Idleb, Dana sub-districts.
- Cluster members continue carrying out outreach and awareness raising activities in Dana and other locations to enroll affected children in non-formal education in their learning centres. Nevertheless, the scope of the response is expected to grow as the beginning of the school year approaches.
- The Education Cluster is monitoring the situation on the ground continuously through its online real-time reporting mechanism.

Gaps & Constraints:

- To date, a total of 94 schools have been used as shelters by IDPs due to the ongoing violence in Idleb.
- Incidents involving education facilities continue in northwest Syria, resulting in loss of life and destruction of learning facilities. The Cluster has been informed that 47 schools have been damaged or otherwise affected as a result of airstrikes and shelling since the beginning of May in southern Idleb and northern Hama.
- 14 cluster members reported suspension of their education interventions due to lack of safety and security, affecting approximately 9,633 children and 374 teachers in the sub-districts of Ma'arrat An Nu'man, Ehsem, Ariha, Saraqab of Idleb and Madiq Castle of Hama.
- In the communities of Khan Shaykun, Kafr Nobol, Ma'arrat An Nu'man, Ariha, and Jisr-Ash-Shugur, the cancellation of final exams affected 97,104 students from 405 schools. In Idleb Governorate, a total of 400,000 students from grades 1 to 12 were affected due to the cancellation of their final exams between the end of April and June. Cluster members are trying to respond unilaterally and are also in efforts to organize for funding the end-year exams.
- Key priorities include provision of holistic education services to deliver non-formal education to meet the critical learning needs of girls and boys (5-17 years), including children with disabilities, during the summer break from June-August and ahead of the new academic year commencing in September. The package of prioritized activities will be limited to the provision of protected learning spaces addressing the ongoing over-stretched learning spaces, textbooks and learning materials, and stipends for teachers both in camps and host communities. Addressing this critical gap, which requires USD 4.7 million additional funding, will help support the referral of out-of-school children and those at risk of dropping out of formal schools.
- The activities aim to respond to the education and psychosocial needs of 37,500 of the most recent IDP children and 1,600 education personnel for the next 6 months.
- The goal is to place the recently displaced children back in school, provide them with psycho-social support (PSS) for their psychological well-being, and make sure the locations receiving the highest population influxes can absorb additional students without hampering the quality of education.


Food Security
Needs:

- Provision of first line response through emergency food assistance, Ready-to-Eat rations (RTE) (canned food), cooked meals, cash support for the first two to four weeks for displaced households.
- Integration of vulnerable and food insecure households into targeted monthly food assistance once the displaced households are settled and assessed.
- After the initial displacement, the following options need to be considered to support the displaced individuals and host communities: provision of appropriate life-saving livelihoods, support to affected communities and households by increasing agricultural production, support to small scale food production, protection of productive assets, and restoring or creating income generating activities to prevent negative or irreversible coping mechanisms.
- The main findings related to food security and livelihoods from a Rapid Needs Assessment are the following:
 - 80% of respondents reported food as the main humanitarian assistance received.
 - Food was reportedly the most commonly ranked priority need of IDPs living in assessed communities of Idleb and surrounding areas, in particular bread (reported in 58% of assessed communities) and fresh vegetables (49%).
 - People in 64% of assessed communities reportedly used negative coping strategies, such as reducing meal size (reported in 42% of assessed communities). In 10% of assessed communities, key informants reported that children were sent to work in order to make ends meet, which likely holds negative consequences for education.

925,000

People reached with food assistance from 1 to 24 July

- While the median price of flour remained the same, the price of bread increased by approximately 7% to 160 SYP. This is likely related to the large fires that spread across northern Syria in June, which have destroyed crucial crop fields. As a result, it is expected that bread prices will continue to rise in the coming months. Related to food security and nutrition, the price of baby formula increased sharply by 78% between April and June from 2,725 SYP to 4,850 SYP, respectively.
- Many people have insufficient incomes to cover basic household needs, leaving them extremely vulnerable. IDPs were commonly reported to rely on humanitarian assistance (reported in 30% of assessed communities) and food aid (20%), likely due to a lack of employment opportunities that match people's skills (66%), low wages (67%), and the physical difficulty of accessing possible jobs due to factors such as damaged roads or a lack of transportation (10%).
- Furthermore, the sale of livestock was reported to be a common source of livelihoods for some IDPs (reported in 20% of assessed communities), which coupled with a reliance on loans, remittances, food or gifts from relatives or friends (reported in 15% of assessed communities), highlights a lack of long-term and self-sufficient livelihood options.

Response:

- The Food Security Cluster continues to coordinate the emergency response through an online group, an online emergency tracker tool and ad hoc cluster meetings.
- Since the beginning of May, Cluster members are providing emergency food assistance to newly displaced households and re-programming their interventions. First line response is provided through the distribution of ready to eat rations (RTEs), dry rations of mainly canned food sufficient on average for one week for a family of 5, repeated as per needs, and the provision of cooked meals and distribution of emergency multi-purpose cash grants (MPCG) of 120 – 130 USD per household that includes coverage of food needs.
- In light of the ongoing deterioration of the conflict and in line with the humanitarian readiness plan, the FSL cluster lead remains ready to respond to the growing humanitarian needs. Almost 29,000 RTEs are prepositioned in Syria, which is sufficient for approximately 144,000 people. In both Syria and Turkey, around 131,000 RTE kits have been prepositioned, enough for approximately 655,000 people.
- The FSL cluster lead has received four rub halls (210 m² each) in order to increase storage capacity in and around the camps in northern Idlib and to mitigate storage challenges in order to ensure continuity of operations.
- Since 1 July, the FSL cluster lead sent 407 trucks with humanitarian assistance through the Bab Al Salaam and Bab Al Hawa hubs into northwest Syria. Since 1 May, this number stands at 1,051 trucks.
- Since 1 May, 46,656 RTEs have been provided to displaced families, covering an estimated 233,280 people.
- In June, food rations were distributed to an additional 29,000 displaced households in Dana camps, increasing the total caseload from 700,000 to 823,000 beneficiaries.
- A beneficiary selection based on vulnerability criteria was conducted. In July, more than 186,000 households were reached with general food assistance reaching over 925,000 beneficiaries in Idlib and Aleppo governorates.
- In July, other cluster members provided the following assistance to the displaced individuals:
 - 8,792 emergency food baskets (one-off) to assist 52,752 beneficiaries
 - 1 member distributed 570 MPCGs to assist 3,785 beneficiaries
 - 2 partners distributed 4,145 RTEs to assist 22,085 beneficiaries
- In July and August 2019 only, the nutritional value of food rations was increased from 1,550 kilocalories to 1,900 kilocalories.
- After the first line response with emergency food assistance, partners continue to assess and verify the newly displaced communities to include vulnerable households in second line response with regular monthly food rations (in-kind, voucher or cash). A number of displaced households have already been included in the General Food Assistance programme, receiving regular food rations.
- In July, 75,000 households were reached to vaccinate chickens against Newcastle disease in Idlib governorate. The vaccination campaign also included training for 478 local focal points to gain practical experience in handling vaccine reconstitution and vaccination of live birds.
- 10 solar powered irrigation systems were delivered to 60 households in Idlib governorate to help people grow more crops. However, the assembling and installation of the solar units has been suspended due to the security situation in the area.

Gaps & Constraints:

- After the first line response to address the immediate food needs of the newly displaced individuals in May, the Food Security Cluster's strategy is to respond to medium-term, life-sustaining food needs with the distribution of monthly food rations through the most appropriate modality (in-kind, voucher or cash) for 2 to 3 months while assessing vulnerabilities of the displaced households. Food-insecure households will be supported with regular food assistance as per Food Security Sector guidelines.

- The cluster expects to reach a higher number of people with monthly food rations in July, given the cluster lead's caseload increased in July to 925,000 people while the main operational cluster members confirmed their caseload reached 300,000 beneficiaries in northwest Syria.
- Overlaying the food security response to the reported number of displaced individuals, coverage increased in Salqin and Ma'arrat Tamsrin sub-district while low response and gaps in assistance were reported in Jisr Ash Shugur, Darkosh, Idleb city, Armanaz, Zərbah, Saraqab, Teftnaz.
- A cluster member highlighted an urgent food assistance gap in Idleb city, with 18,300 displaced households and very limited response by FSL members. The cluster is working with members to cover the needs.
- Due to the most recent intensification of airstrikes, two food security partners have temporarily suspended their operations in Ma'arrat An Nu'man.



Health

Needs:

- The significant increase in the demand for health services in Dana sub-district and Afrin district is putting pressure on the health staff and medical supply needs. This additional workload on the health facilities is also expected to require additional maintenance of equipment as a result (e.g. laboratories). Moreover, the drug procurement orders submitted by some cluster members did not anticipate a rapid increase of drug consumption compared to the normal average monthly consumption. Some clinics reported more than 60,000 new IDPs, increasing consultations by 20% compared to the normal average between May and June.
- Ariha sub-district in Idleb governorate, especially Ariha community, has been targeted by airstrikes many times, with an increased number of injuries and casualties resulting in an increased load on the hospital. Due to safety concerns, outpatient consultations in Ariha central hospital and outreach activities have been suspended. Ariha central hospital is now the main surgical hospital providing emergency life-saving health services in Ariha district. The hospital is covering more than 100,000 people and it needs more medical and surgical supplies.
- As a result of the increased military activity, some cluster members had to suspend several health activities and relocate planned trainings.

Response:

- Health Cluster members increased the number of working days and working hours in selected clinics (Al Doaa, Al Jolan, Al Salam and Qah) by providing services on two Saturdays during May. Up to 28% of all consultations in these clinics in May were provided to newly displaced IDPs.
- In order to support the teams to respond adequately to the high demand in certain clinics, doctors are reallocating to clinics facing the most pressure.
- Some health cluster members are asking their staff to work on weekends. They are currently recruiting additional doctors, midwives and nurse assistants to meet the demand and relieve some of the pressure on the existing teams.
- Following several requests from health actors for urgent medical support to avoid a shortage of essential drugs, 6 Primary Health Care and 2 Sexual and Reproductive Health emergency kits were distributed following needs assessments. In June, the needs of 5 clinics to relocate from Hama governorate to Al Dana sub-district in Idleb governorate were supported by facilitating the donation of emergency kits.
- Four Extended Programme for Immunization (EPI) centres in Hama governorate are not operational. The teams of two of these centres were relocated in Akkrabbat area, which hosts camps to the south of Atmah camps in northwest Idleb governorate. Teams from the other two centres from Hama have been moved to Zardana and Idleb city. In Idleb governorate, EPI teams from Kafr Nobol and Kafr Owied have been reallocated to Afis, Ezmarine and Idleb city.
- 29 health workers completed a training-of-trainers to conduct trainings on chemical exposure.
- A tuberculosis (TB) centre in Afrin city started receiving patients and providing diagnostic and treatment services. The rehabilitation activities are ongoing in the other 2 TB centres in A'zaz and Idleb cities.
- The procurement of dialysis kits is completed, and the distribution plan is being developed. The kits will be shipped into Syria the first week of August and will cover the needs of the cluster members for six months.
- In order to meet the reproductive health needs in northwest Syria for both host communities and IDPs, 270 Reproductive Kits, and other items as bulks (12,135 oral contraceptives, 25,000 IUDs, 576,000 male condoms, 550 Oxytocin ampules and 1,920 new born kits) have been distributed. 24 cluster members received these items for 133 health facilities, including mobile clinics, primary health care centres, specialized hospitals, Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC) and Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC). this distribution covers the needs of approximately 500,000 people for 6 months. The distribution has been divided into two batches, which were carried out in June and July.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Staffing of medical personnel is a gap.
- The need for medical and surgical supplies is increasing, and further gaps are foreseen.
- These elements are leading to an increased need for financial support to ensure continuity of care in supported facilities.
- Out of 98 EPI working centres, 6 in Idleb have temporarily suspended their activities due to the security situation.



Nutrition

Needs:

- Screening of children under the age of five years, and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) for acute malnutrition and the treatment of acute malnutrition.
- Prevention of acute malnutrition among children under the age of five years through promotion of optimal infant feeding and caring practices.

Response:

- From 1 to 26 July, four Nutrition Cluster members deployed 74 Community Health Workers (CHW) to provide curative and preventive nutrition activities to the new IDPs from northern Hama and southern Idleb governorates in 8 sub-districts. The CHWs responded through mobile clinics deployed to Qah, Sarmada, Ariha, Maaret Tamsrin, Armanaz, Atma, Jisr Ash Shugur and Afrin to provide the following services: Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screening for children under five and pregnant and lactating women (PLW), distribution of supplies and communication of infant and young child feeding messages. A total of 6,279 girls and boys aged 6-59 months and 1,705 PLW were screened for acute malnutrition using (MUAC). 63 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM), 277 children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 212 PLWs with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) were identified and referred to health facilities to receive treatment.
- CHWs reached 5,798 children under five and PLWs with preventive nutrition intervention.
- A total of 2,014 children under the age of five years and PLWs received high energy biscuits, 734 children aged six to 24 months received Plumpy Doz, used to treat malnutrition, and 2,260 children under the age of five years and 790 PLWs received micro-nutrient supplementation.
- 3,100 pregnant and lactating mothers received education on optimal infant feeding and caring practices.

5,798

Children under five and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) reached with preventive nutrition intervention

Gaps & Constraints:

- Any security deterioration might limit the access of beneficiaries to life-saving nutrition services.



Protection

Needs:

- The continued shelling and airstrikes in northwest Syria, particularly in civilian populated areas, puts the lives of women, men, girls and boys at risk every day and has significantly impacted their psychosocial well-being with reportedly high levels of trauma.
- Protection risks such as explosive hazard threats and family separation are perceived to be affecting all members of the community. Lack or loss of civil status documentation and Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) issues were identified as risks for men and women. Lack of physical safety due to conflict, restrictions to freedom of movement and domestic violence are more likely to be identified as risks for women and girls. Child labour and early marriage are both risks for boys and girls; however, boys are at greater risk of child labour and girls are at greater risk of early marriage.
- As many families fled on short notice, they are ill prepared for the financial and physical demands of displacement and are struggling to cope with their new circumstances, resulting in increased protection risks towards vulnerable members of the community, particularly boys and girls. Women and girls are at a greater risk of harm and exploitation during flight.
- Multiple displacements and the lack of access to basic services further exacerbate individual and community needs, increasing risks for death, injuries, disabilities, Gender-based Violence (GBV) and trauma, particularly among children. Additional displacements further strain already-stretched coping mechanisms of individuals and families, leading to desperate and risky decision-making, thereby increasing protection threats, such as exploitation, child labour, early marriage and children associating with armed groups.

\$2.45

MILLION

Needed to sustain the current protection response for six months

- There is a continuous need to integrate newly arrived IDPs and affected persons into existing humanitarian programming. This requires sustained funding for continuity and scaling up of life-saving protection, child protection, GBV and mine action services that address both immediate and medium-to-longer-term needs.
- Caregivers are barely able to care for their children, demonstrating extreme levels of distress, leading to physical abuse of their children and, in extreme cases, abandonment of their children. Unaccompanied and separated children need safe interim care, services in this regard and in the current circumstances remain extremely limited except for ad-hoc, unsustainable arrangements.
- Approximately 80,000 women and girls of reproductive age need dignity kits (DKs), of which the existing stock can only serve an estimated 35,000, leaving an approximate 45,000 displaced women and girls with no access to dignity kits. The DKs have essential life-saving items for women and girls of reproductive age such as menstrual pad sets, female underwear, cover and flash lights. Therefore, funds are needed to immediately cover for this gap.

Response:

- From 8 July through 22 July 2019, 10 Protection Cluster members provided emergency response services for civilians who are recently displaced. Cluster members provided 8,648 protection services to IDPs and affected host community members in 51 communities within 19 sub-districts in Idleb and Aleppo reaching 11,238 individuals (4,491 girls, 4,739 boys, 1,491 women, and 517 men). The main services protection actors provided are as follows:
 - Psychological First Aid (PFA)
 - Psychosocial Support (PSS)
 - Dignity kit distributions
 - Explosive hazard risk education
- Cluster members also referred individuals to essential services in addition to specialized services. The Protection Cluster had initiated Rapid Protection Assessment. The report will be ready by first of August.
- Gender-based Violence (GBV) Sub-cluster (SC) members continued to provide GBV specialized services through the static women and girls' safe spaces as well GBV prevention and empowerment activities. GBV SC outreach teams provided awareness sessions, group and individual counselling, psychological first aid, and referrals.
- Child protection partners reported through the emergency response tool that PFA continues to be implemented as well as awareness raising on child protection messages, particularly on the prevention of family separation and violence. Case Management has been difficult to implement since multiple displacements prevent child protection actors to establish continuity, access and predictability that such protection interventions require. Psychosocial support and recreation activities continue to be delivered to strengthen girls' and boys' coping mechanisms and resilience. Assessment from the field on recently displaced communities report high levels of distress and trauma particularly on children. Child Protection partners continue to strive in order to deliver with very limited resources within the scope of their existing programs.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Between 8 July and 24 July, six Cluster members reported the closure of protection static and mobile service points with services suspended due to conflict in 14 locations within Idleb and Aleppo (Mar'aa, Ariha, Saraqab, Jisr Ash-Shugur, Jebel Saman). These include Psychosocial Support and Case Management, including specialized child protection services and parenting programs, implemented by six Child Protection partners. These suspensions are affecting the implementation of protection interventions while the larger population who are living in these areas lose their access to services.
- Since 29 April, a total of 30 Protection Cluster and Sub-Cluster members reported the suspension or closure of programming due to the increase in conflict activity in southern Idleb, Aleppo and Hama governorates. In total, 25 static service points and mobile outreach services have been affected, which include community centres, women and girls' safe spaces, child-friendly spaces, and health facilities, in addition to seven mobile risk education and contamination impact survey teams.
- Following a number of attacks severely affecting civilians in this period, child protection partners report that families and communities fear approaching services for their children as they are afraid that gatherings could attract attacks.
- If large-scale displacement takes place due to military activities in Idleb or western rural Aleppo governorates, the Cluster expects significant disruption to the ongoing protection service delivery. Even with the existing emergency response capacity and resources, the pattern and intensity of the conflict may render the response limited. Continued advocacy by the humanitarian leadership, donors and member states with all parties to the conflict must reinforce their obligations under international humanitarian law, particularly their obligations to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure.
- Lack of multi-sectoral response hinders the delivery of protection services. Protection actors report challenges in the provision of PFA, PSS and referrals when these services are not accompanied with other basic services to meet IDPs' needs.

- The current intensification of violence and hostilities adds yet another layer of complications. Lack of access for survey and clearance puts the lives of the displaced population at risk. Further, it is estimated that the number of survivors of explosive hazards incidents due to the escalation has increased and the ability to provide immediate response services is limited.
- As a minimum, in order to sustain the ongoing protection emergency response for the duration of six months starting from middle of August, the Protection Cluster and Sub-Clusters would need an estimated \$2,450,000 USD. This will ensure the continuous support for the protection emergency response focal points (\$1.7 million USD) and the support for three new emergency protection focal points which are currently responding to the emergency with no dedicated funds (\$750,000 USD). Moreover, scaling up of protection services to respond to the influx of newly displaced IDPs will require additional funding.

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

Needs:

- Newly displaced individuals are in immediate need of shelter support as well as NFIs.

Response:

- **Out-of-camp shelter response:** The SNFI Cluster plans to rehabilitate housing units (apartments, houses) for 129,000 people. It is estimated that 10 Cluster members could rehabilitate 4000 additional units in the next nine months if they have funding (USD 4.4M would be required). This could accommodate around 24,000 additional individuals.
- **Out-of-camps shelter needs assessment:** An assessment to assess the shelter adequacy and the living conditions in northwest Syria was conducted. The number of households living in unfinished, damaged and inadequate shelter units will be shared soon.
- **Identification of potential buildings to be rehabilitated:** A new tool to identify damaged and unfinished buildings is being developed. This will also include empty buildings that cannot be identified with usual household surveys as there are no households in those buildings. The data will be shared with cluster members. This operational and practical tool will be in place in August.
- **Shelter rehabilitation training:** The aim of the training is to increase the number of NGOs capable of implementing shelter rehabilitation/upgrades and improving the quality of the out of camp response. Consultants, who are already selected, will assess the capacity of the partners and prepare the training materials. The training will start in October, first in Gaziantep and then in Syria.
- The Housing Land and Property (HLP) Technical Working Group and the SNFI / CCCM clusters joined their efforts to address HLP issues. Regular joint HLP WG and SNFI cluster meetings will start in August to discuss due diligence, security of tenure, and land negotiation for new camps or camp extensions. Technical support will be provided to the SNFI and CCCM cluster members implementing shelter projects in and out of camps.
- The SNFI cluster is organising meetings with the Cash Working Group to support and coordinate the organisations that are interested in providing cash assistance. One of the objectives is to scale up the cash response and share good practices (needs assessment, market assessments, risk analysis, mitigation measures, etc.)
- Many organisations have distributed all their NFI kits and tents in the last three months. The SNFI and CCCM clusters have released 4,288 tents and 15,337 NFI kits to their members that did not have any stock. The stock has been replenished. However, due to the scale of the ongoing emergency, there are only 7,681 NFI kits and 1,348 tents in stock while 6,750 tents are in the pipeline. This would enable members to continue responding to the ongoing displacement in the short term. However, USD 10 M funding is required to replenish contingency stocks and the stock of SNFI cluster members in order to be able to respond to further large-scale displacements (200,000 new IDPs in need).
- The SNFI cluster reviewed last year's winterization response. One of the recommendations is to get funding in August in order to procure the in-kind NFIs in time. The objective is to distribute 90% of the winter assistance before the end of December.

Gaps & Constraints:

- USD 10 million is required to replenish contingency stock and the stock of SNFI cluster members in order to be able to respond to further large-scale displacements
- USD 4.4 million is required to rehabilitate 4000 additional units to accommodate around 24,000 additional individuals.

24,000

People could benefit from rehabilitated shelter

\$14.4

MILLION

In additional funding required to provide SNFI support to IDPs



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Needs:

- WASH needs are constantly increasing with increased displacement.
- A rough needs assessment outlined the requirement to provide comprehensive WASH services and supplies to at least 150,000 IDPs in camps and informal settlements and to 100,000 IDPs accommodated within host communities. WASH supplies such as water purifying agents, jerry cans and hygiene kits are in high demand, apart from the need to augment water supply and sanitation services and the increased need for the management of water supply and sanitation services.
- Apart from supplies and services, there is a clear need to build technical and management capacity of cluster partners to enhance their ability to respond in a timely manner while maintaining agreed standards.

125,000

people receiving some form of WASH assistance

Response:

- At least 28 WASH cluster partners have reached out to over 251,000 displaced people. Well over 125,000 IDPs arriving at hundreds of camps and informal settlements are receiving some form of WASH assistance through additional water trucking, new community latrines, increased solid waste management, supply of water purifying agents and hygiene kits. There is a need to enhance comprehensive WASH services and supplies both inside and outside camps.
- Communal latrines and showers are under construction and water tanks are being installed in camps and informal settlements that are receiving additional IDPs. Only 100,000 IDPs accommodated within host communities received some form of WASH services and supplies, especially water purification agents, jerry cans and hygiene kits.
- Cluster members are collaborating among each other to reach out to the most vulnerable people with supplies and services. Collaboration between international and national NGOs has also increased to conduct such outreach to people in need.

Gaps & Constraints:

- WASH Cluster members are constantly facing challenges in providing supplies and services to displaced people along the displaced routes, because of the wider geographical spread and continuous movement of IDPs.
- The cluster members have continued to suspend their operations in several locations in northern Hama and southern Idlib due to security concerns.
- The cluster members responding to the situation are looking for additional resources to enhance much needed WASH supplies and services, such as to procure hygiene kits, carry out water trucking, build new latrines and maintain existing latrines, and support solid waste management.
- After almost three months of immediate response, there is a need to focus on mid to long term interventions as newly displaced individuals have settled.
- Increased support to ongoing WASH programs is required, especially in camps and informal settlements where IDPs took shelter in order to include them in the ongoing service and support.

GENERAL COORDINATION

An inter-cluster needs assessment was carried out in 125 communities that received the most IDPs in the recent escalation and key findings are being addressed through the clusters. This will be used to update overall planning for the response as well. Additional needs assessments are being carried out by individual organizations in many areas for their programming purposes and are often shared with other responders to help inform their response. The upcoming annual Multi-Sector Needs Assessment, which identifies needs for planning for the following year, will also be important in informing the current response. A plan to address shelter challenges is being put together, following dedicated meetings with several clusters, organizations, and humanitarian leadership. Joint efforts to address the issue of finding suitable land for shelter in particular will be required, given the over-crowding of northwest Syria. Local coordination efforts between NGOs on the ground occur in many areas, with humanitarian organizations trading information and working together to meet needs. Efforts to better link these local efforts with the formal coordination system, which can help support with technical expertise, advocacy, and resource mobilization/allocation, are being undertaken.

For further information, please contact:

Trond Jensen, Head of Office, UNOCHA Turkey, jensen8@un.org, Tel: (+90) 342 211 8601, Cell (+90) 530 041 9152

Annette Hearn, Deputy Head of Office, UNOCHA Turkey, hearsn@un.org, Tel: (+90) 342 211 8604, Cell (+90) 535 021 9574

For more information, please visit www.unocha.org | www.reliefweb.int
<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/stima>