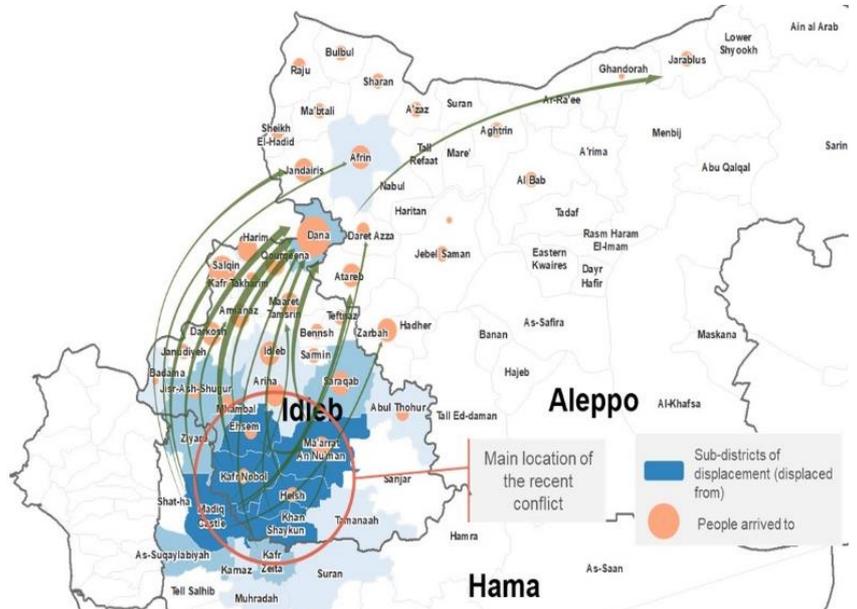


HIGHLIGHTS

- Over the past week, airstrikes, shelling and ground fighting intensified across the demilitarized zone in northwest Syria, exacerbating the impact of the conflict on civilians, civilian infrastructure, and humanitarian service provision in northern Hama, southern Idlib, and western Aleppo governorates.
- Almost 270,000 displacements from northern Hama and southern Idlib governorates were recorded between 1 and 22 May.
- A total of 24 health facilities, 35 schools, four facilities providing protection services, three IDP settlements, and one refugee camp were reportedly affected by hostilities in recent weeks.
- Humanitarian response is ongoing with tens of thousands of people being provided food, protection, nutrition, health, shelter, education and WASH services, while considerable gaps across sectors remain.
- Provision of emergency response remains challenging, as numbers of displaced people continue to rise. A further escalation of violence, triggering waves of displacement, would overwhelm an already stretched response.
- Between 29 April and 29 May, reports indicate that an estimated 3,075 persons displaced to government-controlled areas through unofficial routes going to Latakia (750), Aleppo (2,050), and Tartous (275).



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.

270,000

Recent displacements from 1 to 22 May

60,252

Individuals already assisted with NFIs

76,276

Individuals to be assisted in the coming weeks

103,751

Displacements to IDP sites and reception centres

203,592

Displacement outside IDP sites and reception centres (1 April to 22 May)

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The toll of the conflict on people in northwest Syria continues to grow as violence in northern Hama, southern Idlib and western Aleppo governorates continues between Government of Syria (GoS) and allied forces and non-state armed groups (NSAGs). In less than three weeks, almost 270,000 displacements from northern Hama and southern Idlib were registered, bringing the total number of displacements from these areas to approximately 307,000 since the beginning of April 2019. The situation continues to evolve as the violence continues and people may choose to move.

About a third of these displacements were recorded at IDP sites and reception centers, whereas more than 200,000 displacements were recorded outside IDP sites. Dana in Idleb Governorate remains by far the subdistrict that received the largest number of IDPs with more than 173,000 displacements while Aleppo Governorate received about 28,000 displacements. At community level, Atma remains the largest recipient with some 80,000 displacements, followed by Qah with some 48,000 displacements. The pattern of displacement indicates that the recently displaced individuals have moved into areas with high numbers of existing IDPs, which is challenging already overstretched services inside and outside camps and creating the need for reinforcing humanitarian response in these areas. For those residents who remain in areas directly affected by the conflict in northern Hama and southern Idleb, safety and security concerns reportedly severely limit their ability to reach services such as health facilities and food markets, making the provision of humanitarian assistance in these areas all the more critical. Many humanitarian responders who provide food, nutrition, education, health, and humanitarian protection services to people have been forced to suspend activities in the conflict area, which damages the civilian population's ability to cope at a time when needs are increasing.

On 22 May, the GoS announced that Morek-Souran crossing point will be opened to allow civilians leave NSAG-controlled areas. As of 31 May, crossings were not yet open¹.

Impact on civilians, civilian infrastructure and humanitarian activities

As the fighting prolongs, the impact on civilians continues to worsen. Unconfirmed reports suggest the use of barrel bombs and incendiary ammunition, exacerbating the effects of hostilities on civilians and civilian infrastructure, resulting in crops and farmlands being burned and destroyed. Receiving accurate information from the areas affected by the conflict continues to be challenging. Different sources report that some 160 to 300 people, including some 40 children and 40 women, have been killed in the violence since the beginning of the recent hostilities. The reports of fires across agricultural fields are worrying, as the crops such wheat and barley were ready to harvest. This loss will potentially undermine food security for months to come and damage livelihoods in this agricultural area.

Vital civilian infrastructure continues to be heavily impacted by the hostilities in northwest Syria. As of 31 May, a total of 24 health facilities and one ambulance, have been impacted by the conflict, with two hospitals being affected twice. Of those health facilities impacted, thirteen are in Hama Governorate, ten in Idleb and one in Aleppo Governorate.

Local sources report that 35 schools have been damaged due to hostilities in northern Hama and southern Idleb governorates since 2 May. Eighteen static service points, which include community centers, women and girls' safe spaces, child-friendly spaces and health facilities, are currently non-operational, with four Protection Cluster members in Madiq Castle, Ehsem, Heish and Kafr Nobol sub-districts reporting direct impact, damage or destruction to their facilities from airstrikes and shelling.

FUNDING

Priority activities to address gaps in the response have been shared with the Turkey Humanitarian Fund for Syria Response (THF), such as replenishing pipelines of the tents and non-food items (NFIs) and education support. The Syria Humanitarian Fund is setting aside 5 million USD to respond to a potential emergency response to support the needs of any people who choose to leave the area into GoS controlled territory. Donors are working with humanitarian organizations to enable flexibility within existing programmes to ensure that additional caseloads of people are supported. Additional funding will be required to support the response, especially if the violence prolongs.

¹ The UN has not been party to any specific discussions on such efforts and reiterates that any such movement of civilians must comply with international humanitarian law and human rights standards, including people's right to choose whether to stay or leave, and the destinations involved. The UN continues to remind all parties to the fighting of their obligations under international humanitarian law to ensure safe, unimpeded and sustained humanitarian access and to ensure the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The humanitarian community is implementing a readiness plan for up to 700,000 internally displaced people, prepared in case of a large-scale escalation of conflict in northwest Syria. The plan also articulates the support planned for people who move out of the de-escalation zone. Humanitarian organizations are responding to the needs of the population through existing interventions while identifying additional needs. For the affected communities in southern Idlib and northern Hama, healthcare, non-food items, and water, sanitation and hygiene are the top three most reported needs according to a REACH rapid needs assessment.

Humanitarian response efforts continue to be challenging due to the insecurity and the large-scale displacement that took place within the space of a month. The ability of humanitarian organizations to respond has been compromised by the violence, as some staff are displaced themselves and infrastructure to deliver services has been damaged or destroyed. Donors have been requested to allow for flexibility in terms of reprogramming existing funds, allowing their humanitarian partners to respond more effectively. Such reprogramming to support newly displaced people is ongoing. Reprogramming of existing activities involves risks and may result in gaps in existing programmes that will need to be funded urgently in order not to negatively impact other vulnerable populations.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Needs:

- The CCCM Cluster triangulated 269,627 movements towards different communities in northern Aleppo and Idlib governorates between 1 and 22 May 2019. This brings the total number of displacements reported from northern Hama and southern Idlib between 1 April and 22 May to 307,343. Given that the current displacement is highly dynamic, the numbers are based on information received from member organizations and include secondary displacements.
- 103,751 displacements were recorded at IDP sites and reception centers whereas 203,592 were recorded outside IDP sites and reception centers.
- Among a total of 548 communities (309 in Idlib and 237 in Aleppo governorate), the four communities having received the largest arrivals are Atma (79,580), Qah (47,878), Deir Hassan (10,757), and Sarmada (9,762).

103,751

Displacements to IDP sites and reception centres

Response:

- CCCM cluster members are working to support people and fulfil their needs.
- From 6 to 27 May, the CCCM & SNFI Review Board of the Contingency Stock (CS) received 20 separate requests from cluster members for tents and NFIs. The organisations who will benefit from the recommended requests will respond to the needs of approximately to 39,355 newly displaced people with 7,871 NFI kits and 3,990 family tents.
- Additional requests are being received daily and the Review Board plans to release stock as quickly as possible. Requests are evaluated and coordinated based on the availability of items and on other ongoing responses reported to the CCCM & SNFI Clusters to avoid duplication and ensure complementarity.
- On 16 May, a practical training was conducted for the organizations who are responding with tents. The objective of the training was to familiarize cluster members with the tents IOM is procuring and releasing, and to build their capacity to implement graveling activities for these tents. The participants were from organizations that had already received tents from the CS and from organizations who have identified spaces to install additional tents.

Gaps & Constraints:

- A key challenge remains to be the lack of safe space for the IDPs to move to and for the cluster members to respond.
- Access is reported by members as a key challenge.
- Lack of funding continues to be a challenge for cluster members as the funding against the response plan has been limited.
- Four CCCM Reception Centres in northwest Syria are currently hosting approximately 2,500 people and have additional capacity for about 6,300 individuals. Reported gaps at the RCs are new arrival kits, dignity kits and baby kits.

Education

Needs:

- Of the 270,000 newly displaced individuals, the Education Cluster estimates that 80,000 are school-aged children in need of immediate education services. These include access to their final exams, non-formal education such as remedial education, catch-up classes, self-learning programs, recreational activities, and provision of learning supplies.
- The conditions at education facilities are deteriorating due to overcrowded classrooms absorbing more children in camps.
- Approximately 250,000 school-aged children are affected by ongoing hostilities in Idlib.

Response:

- A total of 11,740 children (6,536 females and 5,204 males) were reached with the provision of non-formal education such as self-learning programs, catch-up classes and remedial education by cluster members in Darkosh, Kafr Nobol, Maaret Tamsrin, Idlib, and Dana sub-districts in Idlib Governorate.
- Education 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.
- The Education Cluster is monitoring the situation on the ground continuously through its online reporting mechanism.

Gaps & Constraints:

- **Schools used as shelter:** 92 schools have been used as shelters by IDPs due to ongoing clashes in Idlib.
- **Attacks on education:** Since 2 May, local sources report that 35 schools in southern Idlib and northern Hama have been damaged or affected due to hostilities, including two schools in Kafr Nobol and Ariha damaged due to airstrikes on 28-29 May.
- **Suspension of learning:** The Education Directorate suspended all learning activities in the areas affected by the conflict for the safety and security of children and education personnel. Eight cluster members also suspended their education activities in the sub-districts of Ma'arrat An Nu'man, Ehsem, Ariha, Saraqab of Idlib and Madiq Castle of Hama, affecting 5,521 children and 204 teachers.
- **Cancellation of exams:** A total of 400,000 students of grade 1-12 who were registered to sit for final exams between the end of April and June in Idlib were affected due to hostilities.
- **Critical funding gap:** The Education Cluster identified a critical funding gap of USD 4.7 million for the provision of a holistic education service to deliver non-formal education, catering to the critical learning needs of girls and boys from 5 to 17 years, including children with disabilities during summer break from June to August and ahead of the new academic year starting in September. The activities aim to respond to education and psychosocial needs of 37,500 most recent IDP children and 1,600 education personnel for the next 6 months.
- **The package of prioritized activities** will be limited to the provision of protective learning spaces addressing the ongoing challenge of over-stretched classrooms, psychosocial support (PSS), textbooks and learning materials, and stipends for teachers both in camps and host communities. Addressing this critical gap will help support the referral of out-of-school children and those at risk of dropping out to maintain attendance at formal schools.
- The goal is to place the recently displaced children back to school, provide them with 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:

- Some 307,343 displaced people may have immediate food needs.

Response:

- Food Security Cluster members continue to step up their response to meet the emergency food needs of people affected by the ongoing crisis.
- First line response is provided through the distribution of ready to eat rations (RTEs), which are dry rations of mainly canned food sufficient on average for one week for a family of five, repeated as needed; 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 May, WFP through its partners distributed approximately 37,500 RTEs to serve approximately 187,500 newly displaced individuals. About 25,000 RTEs have been distributed in Dana sub-district. WFP has over 22,500 RTEs inside Syria and about 17,000 prepositioned in Turkey.

- In May, NGOs members (non-WFP) have assisted:
 - 11,779 households through RTEs,
 - 7,772 households through cooked meals,
 - 13,958 households through emergency food baskets,
 - 1,482 households through MPCGs.
- Emergency food assistance has been distributed in 35 sub-districts (20 in Idleb, 14 in Aleppo and 1 in Hama) and 173 communities (111 in Idleb, 61 in Aleppo and 1 in Hama).
- In terms of cumulative beneficiary reach of emergency food assistance since the beginning of May to date, the four main sub-districts are Dana (185,687 individuals), Ariha (45,877), Maaret Tamsrin (28,084) and Ma'arrat An Nu'man (42,081). The four top communities are Atma (97,291), Ariha (42,377), Qah (25,199) and Armanaz (19,489). 52% of beneficiaries are in camps and IDP sites, and 48% outside of camps.
- Agriculture has been heavily affected by the conflict. Unconfirmed local and international media reports incendiary weapons have been fired repeatedly at agricultural fields. Farms are damaged by shelling and airstrikes, leading to the destruction of crops through burning, including fruit and nut trees, and damage to agricultural equipment. Agricultural production will be negatively affected as farmers are prevented from tending their crops due the lack of safe access to farms as a result of shelling, displacement of farmers and their families to other locations, the difficulty to acquire fertilizer, pesticides and other equipment due to the displacement of the area's main service provider, difficulty obtaining fuel in the areas close to the conflict zone, and loss of the labour force due to the large population displacement from the area.
- An assessment carried out by a cluster member found that the effects of shelling as well the security situation will cause substantial losses and damages. Due to changes in control of territory and hostilities along the front lines, farmers can no longer access their lands to reap their crops and all crops near the front lines are highly exposed to immediate damage, causing up to 100% of losses. Shelling may cause from 25% up to 100% losses.
- Losses and damages estimated based on the impact of the current security situation excluding the effects of shelling are the following: early harvesting of some crops before maturity is estimated to lead to losses of up to 50% of production, and harvest delays of some crops such as cumin after maturity are estimated to cause losses of up to 50% of production.
- Due to insecurity in the area, many farmers harvested their crops before they reached maturity, resulting in a 50% decrease in productivity, and a related decrease in prices. For example, the potato harvest did not exceed 2 tons per donum, an area about the size of an acre, and prices did not exceed 150 Syrian Pounds per kilogram.
- Another member estimated that around 1,850 of wheat crops and 2,400 donums (1000 m²) of barely have been burned and damaged.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Members have demonstrated high capacity of response to the short-term emergency food needs in May due to preparedness stocks available, which coincided with the month of Ramadan. However, several operational partners informed that they have exhausted their available stocks.
- The cluster's strategy is to address mid-term food needs through the distribution of food assistance for 2-3 months, while proceeding with targeting and assessing vulnerabilities.
- Partners expressed concerns about the availability of funding and capacity to assist newly displaced households and integrate them into regular programming in the next 3 to 6 months.
- WFP through its partners is assessing vulnerabilities of displaced people, mainly in Dana camps, to integrate targeted households in its monthly general food assistance.
- Displaced people are moving with their essential items, including the livestock, which will create a need for animal/fodder, vaccination and proper treatment and re-stocking to access to micronutrients and protein-rich foods.



Health

Needs:

- Mobile medical teams and clinics still need to be relocated.
- There is a call for the immediate training of community-based health workers on Psychological First Aid and to help responding to the needs of IDPs.
- Further provision of funds is urgently needed to enable the Health Cluster to provide health services for vulnerable people, including populations living in areas of acute need, regions witnessing increased hostilities and overburdened communities.

Response:

- Mobilization of all the fixed non-specialized and specialized Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) facilities and provision of immediate MHPSS services to the IDPs are ongoing.
- Mobilization of all the mental health mobile clinic teams is ongoing to respond to the areas where IDPs are located and without any MHPSS services available.
- Cluster members' mobile clinics visited nine camps (Safsafa, Al rahman, Qadimoun, Kafr Houm, Abu Talha, Jabel Harem, Omahat Almomenoon, Delbia and Samidoun) on a regular basis. During the past weeks, the camps with new IDPS were visited more frequently (Safsafa, Al rahman, Qadimoun, Kafr Houm, Jabel Harem, Delbia and Samidoun), covering 1100 families.
- A cluster member added three hospitals to their regular programming (Al Sahel, Jisr-ash-Shugur and Ma'arrat An Nu'man). Each hospital was provided with one first aid kit and one surgical kit each.
- Atmeh camp is a cluster of camps falling under the name of "Atmeh". In response to the displacement to this area, one cluster member launched a new mobile clinic at the southern part of the river to respond to the new compartment of the camp. In Atmeh, the member supports two primary health centers (PHCs). In each of these PHCs, there are five clinics and one protective health care clinic, also providing mental health services.
- The areas with low coverage of health services included Samidoun, Kalbeet and the area 30 kilometers west of Atmeh. A response was initiated in this area, in which WHO will be funding one primary healthcare center as of 1 June. Also, three WHO-funded mobile clinics will operate in the same area, serving up to 18 communities per week. Vehicles to support referrals are operating in this area for emergency and non-emergency cases. WHO is looking into options to strengthen secondary healthcare in this area as well. For the moment, Atmeh Hospital is functioning and provides various services.
- WHO's five surgical units are operational in northern Hama and Idleb, providing essential care in these areas. These continue to be supported by 13 ambulances. WHO and health cluster partners held a coordination meeting last week to ensure ambulances are being utilized strategically. In other areas of Idleb, WHO continues to coordinate with partners to ensure minimum health service coverage for the internally displaced. While coordinating with NGOs and other partners, WHO concluded that Atmeh camp is considered covered in terms of health service provision.
- Displaced Extended Programme on Immunization (EPI) teams (from two EPI centers) will be relocated to the areas where most of the newly displaced people have settled in Atmeh camps.
- In relation to the medical ambulance referral system, referrals in southern Idleb are focused on emergency cases because most facility operations in southern Idleb are suspended. Given the large flow of displaced people towards northern Idleb, the referral network reorganized this mechanism and relocated 12 vehicles and ambulances funded by WHO and partners to locations where affected individuals are displaced.
- WHO is currently in the process of procuring additional essential medicine supplies to cover 30 primary healthcare centres. This will be a strong contribution to the supply line, delivering monthly medicines and medical supplies inside Syria. This month's delivery took place last week, as updated previously and the next monthly shipment is being prepared at the moment. Cluster members are being asked to report on their needs and afterwards a distribution planning meeting will be held.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There is an urgent need to scale up or maintain the response in areas which have recently witnessed considerable population displacements. Health Cluster members are under considerable strain with reported attacks on 24 health facilities and more than 50 supported health facilities experiencing interruption of services. Services at 30 of these health facilities remain suspended and five of these facilities are no longer accessible by cross-border actors due to ongoing conflict.
- In areas receiving newly displaced individuals such as Dana sub-district, there are major gaps in hospital-bed capacity for children and women inpatient health care services. Failure to invest in essential health services – including rehabilitation/refurbishment of health structures and capacity-building of health care workers – will lead to increased mortality and morbidity among an already-vulnerable population.

 **Protection**
Needs:

- The continued shelling and airstrikes in northwest Syria, particularly due to the use of indiscriminate weapons 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. The past week saw a significant increase in hostilities, with reports of dozens civilian casualties and hundreds of injuries, many of whom are children. In addition, the Child Protection Sub-Cluster received anecdotal reports of several children killed as a result of aerial bombardment in Ariha, Ma'arrat An Nu'man, Ehsem and several other locations.

- Multiple displacements and the lack of access to basic services further exacerbate individuals' and communities' needs, increasing risks for death, injuries, disabilities, 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 that further exacerbate protection threats, such as exploitation, child labour, early marriage and children associating with armed groups.
- 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. A significant number of unaccompanied and separated children have been identified, including one reported case of child abandonment. Unaccompanied and separated children need safe interim care, but such services remain extremely limited except for ad-hoc, unsustainable arrangements.
- Approximately 50,000 women and girls of reproductive age are in need of dignity kits (DKs), of which the existing stock can only serve an estimated 17,000, leaving an approximate 33,000 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.
- Indiscriminate shelling and attacks on civilians have disrupted delivery of child protection services. The lack of basic services coupled with multiple displacements have severely impacted communities and families' ability to cope and protect their most vulnerable including children at time when needs are critically increasing. Needs and priorities on the ground outweigh partners' capacity. Protection of civilians, particularly children from the conflict is a paramount priority.

Response:

- From 21 through 27 May 2019, fifteen Protection Cluster members provided emergency response services for civilians recently displaced from northern Hama and southern Idleb due to the ongoing hostilities. Cluster members provided 10,440 protection services to IDPs and affected host community members in 45 communities within 15 sub-districts in Idleb and Aleppo reaching 5,426 individuals (1,183 girls, 1,213 boys, 1,877 women, and 1,153 men). The main services protection actors provided are as follows:
 - Psychological First Aid (PFA)
 - Psychosocial Support (PSS)
 - Dignity kits distribution
 - Explosive hazard risk education
 - Family tracing and reunification
- In addition, Cluster members referred individuals to other services including health and specialized protection services. Through the Protection Monitoring Task Force, the Cluster initiated rapid protection monitoring – the report will be circulated the second week of June.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Between 22-28 May, three Cluster members reported an additional three protection static service points closed with services suspended due to conflict activity in Ariha and Maaret Tamsrin sub-districts. An additional three Child Protection Sub-Cluster actors reported temporary suspension of services in Atareb, Kafr Nobol and Ehsem sub-districts due to the ongoing hostilities, affecting three child friendly spaces and child protection services delivered from there.
- In total, since 29 April, 15 Protection Cluster and Sub-Cluster members reported suspension/closure of programming due to the increase in conflict activity in southern Idleb, Aleppo and Hama. In total, 18 static service points, which include community centers, women and girls' safe spaces, child-friendly spaces and health facilities, are currently non-operational, with four members in Madiq Castle, Ehsem, Heish and Kafr Nobol sub-districts reporting direct impact, damage or destruction to their facilities from indiscriminate airstrikes and shelling.
- As highlighted by the Cluster in the northwest Syria preparedness plan, the Cluster expects additional disruption to protection service delivery if the hostilities continue. Even with existing emergency response capacity and resources, the tempo of the conflict and the patterns of displacement may render response across sectors limited and insufficient.
- Recent intensification of violence and hostilities adds yet another layer of explosive contamination. 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.
- 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.

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

Needs:

- Dana remains the sub-district with the largest number of newly displaced individuals. However, the people displacing have moved across more than 24 sub-districts since 29 April. As the number of IDPs continue to increase, the need for shelter and NFIs increases as well. Cluster members continue to report that most IDPs need NFIs.

60,252

Individuals already assisted with NFIs

76,276

Individuals to be assisted in the coming weeks

Response:

- 22 SNFI cluster members reported SNFI activities (completed and planned) to respond to the ongoing emergency in May.
- 18 members requested 14,395 NFI kits from the Contingency Stock and are responding to the needs. 7,519 kits have already been released. The Review Board has received new requests for 5,976 kits in the past two days, and half of them have already been approved.
- Cluster members have already assisted 60,252 individuals with NFI kits and plan to reach 76,276 additional people in need in the coming weeks (total NFI response is for 136,528 individuals).
- The SNFI Cluster conducted a gap analysis and contacted several partners in areas where the assistance was very limited. The partners were able to scale up their response in the past week. Sub-districts such as Afrin, Jandaris and A'zaz have been reached recently. However, access remains challenging in these areas.
- The SNFI Cluster conducted an NFI stock analysis in collaboration with partners. The partners have at least 30,425 full NFI kits and additional items (mattress, blankets, kitchen sets and/or jerrycans etc.) for a total of 231,636 individuals.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Several organizations have distributed their available stock and are now requesting NFIs or tents from the Contingency Stock, mainly due to lack of funding.
- The organizations providing shelter assistance informed the Cluster about the difficulties to get authorization from land owners to stay on their land.

In addition to the humanitarian response across these sectors, Early Recovery, Nutrition and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Clusters are also assessing the situation and responding to the needs of the displaced population and receiving communities.

GENERAL COORDINATION

Clusters are rolling out the readiness plan and implementing the response activities identified in the plans as best they can, given the volatile context. However, the dynamics of the conflict impact the ability of humanitarians to respond to people's needs in the locations where they are. Some families are temporarily moving short distances, before moving onwards, while other people chose to stay in their areas of origin which are now near the frontline of conflict. Needs assessments are being carried out by individual organizations in areas into which people have moved. In some areas NGOs have created ad-hoc groups on the ground to work together and coordinate response. The remote nature of the operation to provide humanitarian assistance to affected populations in northwest Syria continues to be a challenge for the overall coordination of humanitarian response to the emergency. In addition to the current response, planning for the months ahead is required. Food insecurity may increase due to the destroyed crops in agricultural areas of the northwest. Shelter and NFI pipelines will also need to be replenished. Capacity of services will have to be increased in areas that are already overcrowded. Winterization activities will have to be planned for well in advance of the winter months. Preliminary information for future planning will be gathered in the coming weeks.

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