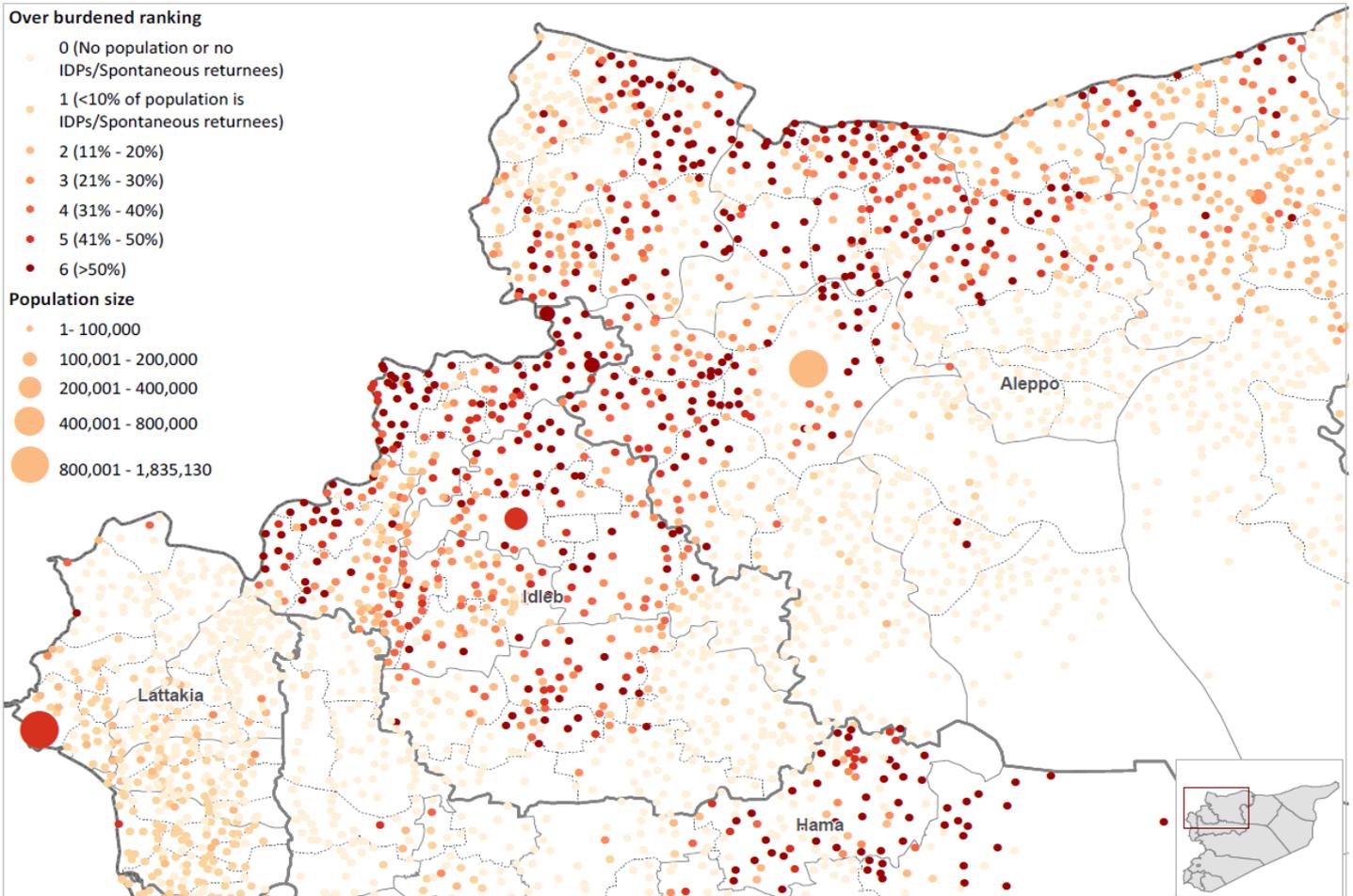


### HIGHLIGHTS



The map reflects the density of IDPs/Spontaneous IDP returnees out of total population by community. Communities where more than 30% of the population are IDPs are called as over-burdened communities. Source: IDP/Pop TF  
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

**2 million**

Internally displaced people in northwest Syria

**400,000**

People displaced since 1 May

**4 million**

people in northwest Syria

**51% children**  
and  
**25% women**

**2.7 million**

People in need of humanitarian assistance in northwest Syria

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

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As the Syria crisis enters its ninth year, the humanitarian situation for people in northwest Syria remains alarming. Of the four million people in northwest Syria, living across northern and western Aleppo, northern Hama, eastern Latakia and Idlib governorates, an estimated 2.7 million are in need of humanitarian assistance. Years of conflict have eroded the ability to cope for people across resident and displaced communities, making timely and principled provision of humanitarian assistance for them all the more critical.

The most recent escalation of hostilities between the Government of Syria forces and its allies and non-state armed groups compounded an already dire humanitarian situation in northwest Syria, where an estimated two million people are internally displaced. Following an increase in violence that began in late April, more than 400,000 people have fled their homes in search of safety and to access to basic services. Entire communities of people fled north mostly to areas near the Syrian-Turkish border that are already densely-populated and where humanitarian assistance inside and outside camps is over-stretched. Of the approximately 630,000 IDPs who live in camps or informal settlements in northwest Syria, some 457,000 are concentrated in Harim District, in particular in Atma and Deir Hassan sub-districts.

Adequate shelter remains one of the most pressing needs for the internally displaced people and for the host communities. With winter rapidly approaching, winterization needs are becoming more urgent as women, children and men who live in open air, makeshift settlements or unfinished buildings will be at greater risk as the weather gets colder. As part of overall preparedness efforts, humanitarian actors have worked to develop a winterization plan aimed at mitigating the impacts of adverse conditions on the most vulnerable people.

While the levels of violence did subside following the announcement of a ceasefire on 31 August, shelling and airstrikes along the frontlines continue to affect communities. In particular, airstrikes have been reported in the Kabani area in northeast rural Latakia governorate as well as along the frontline in southern Idlib, albeit at a much lower frequency when compared to the period from May-August. Artillery shelling also continues to be reported along the frontlines in northern Hama, southern Idlib and eastern Latakia governorates. On 3 October, local sources reported that shelling damaged an NGO-supported health facility in Ma'arrat An Nu'man town in Idlib governorate, injuring two medical personnel and five civilians. The widespread destruction of vital infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, water stations and bakeries hampers the provision of urgent humanitarian assistance and the return of displaced people.

With the start of the school year in September, the impact of the hostilities on education becomes more alarming. Half of the schools in NSAG-held areas in Idlib governorate are estimated to be damaged or destroyed during the fighting or are being used as shelter for IDPs. Areas to which the majority of the civilians have moved are witnessing a shortage of space in schools, equipment and teachers, as the capacity of available schools has been greatly exceeded. Some 150,000 children are estimated to be among the 400,000 who have been displaced in recent months.

While active fighting between GoS and NSAGs does not affect northern Aleppo governorate, frequent security incidents reported in recent weeks such as fighting between armed groups, kidnappings and IED incidents negatively impact civilians and the operating environment for humanitarian partners and their ability to deliver. On September 24, a car-borne IED exploded in the center of Jandairis city, reportedly killing at least five people and injuring 15 others. The following day, a landmine exploded on the Kaljibrin – A'zaz road, injuring two people. On 26 September in the early morning hours, an IED reportedly exploded in east of A'zaz city, injuring one person. On 5 October, three IED explosions were reported in Ar-Ra'ee, Qabasin and Jarablus in northern Aleppo governorate, reportedly injuring 17 people including four children and killing one child. In Aleppo city, an explosion in a park reportedly injured six people on 5 October. Such incidents, particularly those taking place in public spaces not only endanger the lives of civilians but also hamper access to basic services.

## FUNDING

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Response to the latest humanitarian emergency in northwest Syria has been predominantly based on existing financial resources. While the humanitarian community scaled up its operations within existing programs to provide humanitarian assistance to all those in need across newly displaced and host communities, these resources are rapidly depleting. To maintain the levels of humanitarian response and to further plan for increasing needs that may arise, more funding is urgently needed. In addition to existing needs, the humanitarian community estimates that USD \$242.8 million may be required to support the basic needs of 1.1 million people in northwest Syria who may be affected by any escalation in violence. Funding for "winterization" is urgently required to provide assistance to help people cope with the winter months. This includes \$16.8 million to address winterization requirements for the shelter and non-food items sector. With the start

of the academic year, an additional funding of \$30.3 million is urgently needed to provide education services to newly displaced children and children from host communities.

The Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF) disbursed about \$24 million for 37 projects under its second reserve allocation, supporting health, water and sanitation, shelter/non-food items (NFI), camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) and coordination/common services. The projects under this allocation aim to respond to the immediate emergency requirements of people affected by the violence that have either been recently displaced in areas with the highest severity or remained in heavily affected frontline areas. The planning for the launch of a second SCHF standard allocation is underway. The estimated amount for this allocation is USD \$30 million with an aim to channel funds to address the most acute needs. The strategic priorities of the allocation are to help creating a safer and more secure environment for children and other extremely vulnerable individuals and to improve the living conditions and livelihoods of vulnerable conflict-affected people, both in camps and out of camps.

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND COORDINATION

The Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG), responsible for the technical coordination of humanitarian response from Turkey into northwest Syria, updated the Northwest Syria Response Plan. The updated version of the plan outlines potential humanitarian response until the end of 2019 for up to 1.1 million people, including about 400,000 who were displaced since May and about 670,000 people who live in areas that may be affected by a further escalation of conflict. These needs are in addition to those already being addressed. The affected area already hosts some 2 million IDPs living both in and out of IDP settlements, as well as overstretched host communities and other vulnerable groups who are already receiving humanitarian assistance. The funding would be used to cover emergency needs such as shelter, upgrading new informal IDP sites and the extension of the existing IDP sites, winterisation needs such as fuel and insulation, providing basic WASH services, and helping provide education, health and protection services. Shelter is a particular need, especially in view of the coming winter. At least \$7.7 million is requested to scale up shelter rehabilitation for the out-of-camp population. Education support is crucial as the school year has begun and large gaps remain, and at least 150,000 children were displaced since May. However, it is likely that severe challenges will remain in implementing the response plan at the scale required, given the severe limitations of operating in situations of open conflict, the displacement of humanitarian staff themselves, land issues, challenges with logistics, humanitarian access challenges, and other issues.

With the winter season approaching, “winterization” assistance, such as fuel, stoves, clothes, thermal blankets, insulation for tents, school heating, and similar measures are needed. Winterization assistance ideally would be provided before December. Flooding is also a danger in northwest Syria, with thousands of families affected last winter, and hundreds of thousands of new IDPs now in these areas. The updated Northwest Syria Response Plan includes detail on some potential winterization and flooding needs, and a workshop will be held on 9 October between the relevant sectors to consolidate existing planning for the winter, including on flood mitigation and response.

Further information on the emergency response can be found via the following link:

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/stima>

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<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/stima>