QRCS launches emergency response to floods in northern Syria

December 31st, 2018 — Doha: Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) has responded to the heavy rain and subsequent floods in northern Syria, which affected thousands of internally displaced people (IDPs) in 22 camps across five towns of Idlib and Aleppo Governorates.

The bad weather damaged 2,214 tents inhabited by 2,329 households in Atme, Sarmada, Deir Hassan, Al-Dana, and Al-Bab.

In response, QRCS's representation mission in Gaziantep, Turkey, activated its disaster information center to manage the emergency response. It coordinates with United Nations agencies, as well as local and international relief providers, to monitor the movement of IDPs, evacuate the submerged camps, and secure transportation and shelter.

So far, they have distributed 3,190 blankets to the IDPs in Idlib countryside, set up 200 tents at Atme IDP camps, deployed three mobile clinics to the IDP destinations, and participated in the UN cluster coordination meetings.

Based on the needs assessment on the ground, a plan was developed to provide $750,000 worth of medical and relief aid for 6,100 households (30,500 persons, basically children) in Aleppo, Idlib, and Hama Governorates.

The plan will cover food and nonfood items, water and sanitation, makeshift shelters, first aid supplies, mobile clinics, and medical equipment. These provisions are aimed at alleviating the suffering of IDPs, reduce the morbidity and mortality rates, meet the basic needs of IDPs, address the shortages in medical supplies at camp clinics, and help the municipalities and health authorities to contain the situation.

Among the items to be distributed are mattresses, blankets, medicines, surgical consumables, and drinking water. Also, the plan involves deploying multi-service mobile clinics, graveling roads and footpaths to prevent them from turning muddy,
laying sewage pipelines, installing clean toilets, opening catering hubs to provide meals, and clearing roads to allow rescue and evacuation activities.

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**About Qatar Red Crescent (QRCS)**

Established in 1978, Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) is a humanitarian volunteering organization that aims to assist and empower vulnerable individuals and communities without partiality or discrimination. QRCS is a member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which consists of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and 190 National Societies. QRCS is also a member of several GCC, Arab, and Islamic organizations, such as the Islamic Committee of International Crescent and the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organization (ARCO). In this legally recognized capacity, QRCS has access to disaster and conflict zones, thus serving as an auxiliary to the State of Qatar in its humanitarian efforts — a role that distinguishes it from other local charities and NGOs.

QRCS operates both locally and internationally and has ongoing international relief and development projects in a number of countries throughout the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Europe. QRCS's humanitarian actions include providing support in disaster preparedness, disaster response, risk reduction, and disaster recovery. To mitigate the impact of disasters and improve the livelihoods of affected populations, QRCS provides medical services, healthcare, and social development to local communities. It is also active at the humanitarian advocacy front. With the help of a vast network of trained, committed staff and volunteers, QRCS aspires to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. QRCS works under the umbrella of the seven international humanitarian principles: Humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, and universality.