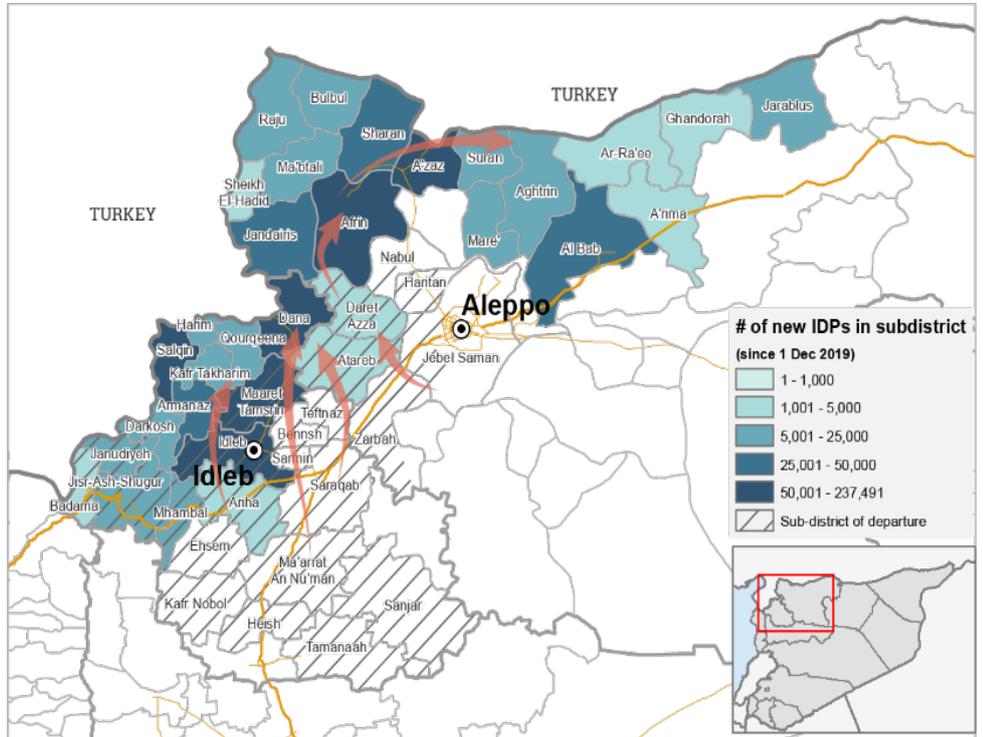


HIGHLIGHTS

- More than 948,000 people have been displaced in northwest Syria since 1 December 2019. Some 569,000 of them are children and over 195,000 of them are women, together comprising 81 percent of the newly displaced population.
- The current crisis is the worst that northwest Syria has experienced since the beginning of the conflict. More people have been displaced into a smaller area in a shorter period of time than ever before, with nowhere else to flee. Lives are increasingly at risk as increasing numbers of people are concentrated in smaller areas. Many are moving to unsafe areas as they have no other options. Their vulnerability and desperation is increasing, with reports of exploitation of women and girls, the separation of children from their families, and increasing rates of malnutrition.



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

- The humanitarian community has revised its readiness and response plan to reflect the needs of the newly displaced people, host communities and people who had previously been displaced. Increased funding, reprogramming flexibility and other support is needed to enable humanitarian partners to suitably scale up the emergency response. Most importantly, an immediate cessation of violence is critical to save lives and alleviate suffering of hundreds of thousands of people.

4 M

People in northwest Syria

51%

of them are children
(estimated)

25%

of them are women
(estimated)

over
948,000

People displaced between
1 December and 23 February

60%

of them are children

21%

of them are women

US\$ 500 M

Total funding requirement
for the next 6 months

over

US\$ 100 M

Emergency funding already secured

gap

US\$ 371 M

Additional funding requirement
for the next 6 months

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The current crisis is the worst that people in northwest Syria has experienced since the beginning of the conflict in 2011. More people have been displaced into a smaller area within a shorter period of time than ever before, with nowhere else to flee. The risk to civilians from the violence is extreme, as international laws and norms are disregarded, at the same time as cold weather and economic stresses affect them. Many people have fled with nothing, unable to bring even basic supplies with them as the violence pushed them out of their homes; others fled with everything they had, attempting to bring as much as possible because they do not expect to be able to return to their homes. Humanitarian workers and other service providers are themselves being displaced, and facilities and supplies worth millions of dollars have been lost as infrastructure is destroyed and activities are reprogrammed.

As intensification of hostilities move into the 13th week since commencing on 1 December 2019, intensive aerial and artillery bombardments and ground fighting persist while frontlines continue to shift, with over 200 communities in eastern Idlib and western Aleppo governorates coming under the control of Government of Syria (GoS) forces and its allies since December. Hostilities continue to impact communities such as Daret Azza, Dana, Idlib city, Nayrab, Sarmin and their surroundings, as well as areas further south in Idlib governorate, particularly in the vicinity of Kafr Nobol. People continue to flee these areas, leaving behind their homes in search of safety elsewhere. Some 48,000 people were reportedly displaced since 20 February, despite most civilians having already fled these areas during earlier stages of the current violence.

The total number of people displaced in northwest Syria is immense, with over 948,000 people reportedly displaced between 1 December 2019 and 23 February 2020. Some 569,000 of them are children, and over 195,000 of them are women. Together they comprise 81 percent of the newly displaced population. Many of those newly displaced before, with each displacement eroding resilience and exacerbating existing vulnerabilities as people lose access to existing livelihoods, services and networks. Most of the latest wave of people to be displaced – some 570,000 people – reportedly moved within the Idlib area. An estimated 237,000 people are in Dana sub-district alone, a location which is already home to over 712,000 people prior to the latest wave of violence. Maaret Tamsrin, Salqin, Idlib, Armanaz and Qourqeena sub-districts each host tens of thousands of other people newly displaced within Idlib governorate, while tens of thousands more are scattered among other communities. Some 380,000 people have been displaced to areas in northern Aleppo, mainly in the areas of A'zaz, Afrin, Jandairis and Al Bab.

The options for places to which people can flee are few and shrinking. There are more people in need than there are adequate shelters available, leaving many with no choice but to resort to unsafe or otherwise unsuitable accommodation. According to the CCCM Cluster, as of 23 February some 17,000 people were living under trees and in open spaces, some 163,000 people were residing in unfinished houses or buildings, and some 135,000 people were living in individual tents. Most people in these circumstances lack access to even basic infrastructure; that this is occurring during some of the coldest and harshest weather of this winter season aggravates the situation even further. As hostilities shift deeper into Idlib and western Aleppo governorates, locations where displacing people were fleeing, such as Atareb, and places along vital routes used by civilians to flee, such as Daret Azza, are increasingly impacted by airstrikes and shelling.

The pace and scale of the ongoing displacement is concentrating higher needs into ever smaller areas of the greater Idlib area, Afrin, A'zaz, and Jarablus, where civilian and humanitarian services are already heavily stretched. Shelter, non-food items, cash, food and protection assistance remain the most urgent needs. To meet these and other needs, humanitarian partners continue to scale up their response. From 1 to 26 February, 794 trucks transported UN humanitarian assistance into northwest Syria via the Bab Al-Hawa and Bab Al-Salama border crossings. This included food assistance for over 1.2 million people, health assistance for more than 445,000 people, WASH assistance for nearly 87,000 people and non-food items for over 71,000 people. Even more assistance has been provided separately by humanitarian NGO partners.

On 21 February the humanitarian community issued the updated inter-cluster readiness and response plan for northwest Syria, revised for the ongoing reality. The plan articulates the total cost to provide basic humanitarian support to some 1.1 million people for 6 months at US\$ 500 million to some 1.1 million people displaced or at risk of displacement in the greater Idlib area and northern Aleppo. More than US\$ 100 million has been raised towards this, including from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF), leaving a gap of some US\$ 371 million still to be filled.

The need for humanitarian assistance persists for people in over 200 northwest Syria communities that have recently come under GoS control in Idlib and Aleppo governorates. Some families are reported to have stayed in these areas throughout the hostilities, with more civilians reportedly returning temporarily to inspect their properties and assets, with no humanitarian response reported in these areas to date. As of 22 February, some 1,700 people displaced from other parts of northwest Syria were reportedly living in various neighbourhoods of Aleppo city and areas of rural Aleppo. Humanitarian actors within

Syria are responding to humanitarian needs in these areas, conducting assessments and delivering emergency assistance including food and NFIs.

The indiscriminate violence has grave implications for civilian lives and infrastructure, especially as population densities increase in towns, villages, camps and informal settlements in northwest Syria. On 20 February an IDP camp hosting some 850 people in Dana was reportedly struck by artillery shelling, injuring one woman and damaging several tents. Aerial and artillery bombardments reported on 25 February incurred a notably high civilian toll: as a result of hostilities affecting 10 schools and kindergartens in Idleb, at least nine children and three teachers were killed, and some 40 women and children were injured, according to UNICEF. On the same day, the Health Cluster reported hostilities impacting a hospital in Maaret Tamsrin and Idleb Central Hospital in Idleb city, reportedly injuring four healthcare workers in Idleb Central Hospital. Both hospitals incurred material damage and were put out of service. Prior to this, Idleb Central Hospital had provided 9,824 outpatient consultations, 378 hospital admissions, 250 major surgeries and 606 minor surgeries in the past month. Many incidents may be violations of international human rights or international humanitarian law.

Between 1 December 2019 and 24 February 2020, OHCHR recorded incidents resulting in the deaths of at least 465 civilians, including 145 children and 85 women, primarily in non-state armed group (NSAG)-controlled areas. Of these, 24 civilians, including six children and eight women, were reportedly killed in areas under the control of the Government of Syria. At least 1,746 civilians – including 513 children and 338 women – were killed in Idleb, Aleppo and Hama governorates in northwest Syria between 29 April 2019 and 24 February 2020, according to OHCHR records. 93 of these people, including 28 children and 23 women, were reportedly killed in areas controlled by the Government of Syria, and the rest in areas under the control of NSAGs.

FUNDING

A revised readiness and response plan for northwest Syria for the next six months is in place as of 21 February, to address the existing or potential displacement of 1.1 million people. The plan identifies a need for US\$ 500 million to provide basic humanitarian support. Over US\$ 100 million has already been raised towards this, including from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF), leaving a gap of some US\$ 371 million.

The SCHF has raised its envelope to US\$ 57 million for the ongoing reserve allocation to address the increased needs. The Deputy Regional Humanitarian Coordinator has approved 59 projects that will implement life-saving interventions and provide critical services. The aim is to have all projects start by the first week of March 2020. The CERF, which provides rapid funding during acute emergencies, has signed agreements with several UN agencies for US\$ 30 million to provide shelter support, water and sanitation services, food, non-food items, and logistics support, which are the most urgent priorities. The humanitarian community is coordinating to ensure complementarity between the two funds.

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Needs

- Existing reception centres and IDP sites are running over their capacity. There is a need to expand existing or establish new IDP sites and reception centres as part of the preparedness plan for the current and imminent influx of displacement.
- Most of the families hosted at the three existing reception centres have been there for three months. Their resettlement is prevented by lack of shelter options.

**Over
948,000**

People displaced
since 1 December 2019

Response:

- There are currently three functioning reception centres hosting 7,866 displaced people, with food, shelter and WASH services provided.
- Revisions of 12 SCHF project proposals for planned camp expansions/establishment are underway, by CCCM Cluster in coordination with other Clusters and OCHA.
- Providing technical guidance to Cluster members on international standards in site selection, site planning, housing, land and property (HLP) and due diligence, as well as other camp management related activities.

- Coordinating with partners to produce IDP displacement figures, snapshot infographics and dashboards.
- CCCM Cluster is closely monitoring 603 IDP sites hosting 973,861 people and producing timely reports of incidents affecting these sites.
- CCCM Cluster is providing expertise and recommendations for the Rapid Response Mechanism contingency stocks prepositioned in Syria, stocked in Turkey or in the pipelines.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Lack of available lands to expand or establish camps for the most vulnerable displaced people, with increasingly fewer options due to the ongoing hostilities and large scale of displacement. Reportedly, there are 4,735 IDPs in open areas, and 11,724 IDPs are under trees. In total, 19,489 people are in urgent need for shelters.
- Time lost due to information delays and/or conflicting information that require data cleaning and verification.

Education

Needs:

- An estimated 398,000 school-age children (5 to 17 years old) are among the over 948,000 people displaced in northwest Syria since 1 December 2019. Due to the large influx of displaced family, many schools were converted to temporary shelters. Education activities have also been continuously suspended due to insecurity.
- More than 300 schools are out of operation, impacting 117,000 children and more than 5,000 teachers: 135 schools in Ma'arrat An Nu'man and neighboring communities, impacting 48,649 children and 2,704 teachers; 23 schools in the communities of Ariha, impacting 5,681 children and 384 teachers; and 41 schools in the communities of Saraqab, impacting 4,901 children and 615 teachers. The education process has been suspended in Ariha sub-district with few schools still functional. For the time being, only 5 schools are still functioning with overcrowded classrooms due to displacement from nearby locations.
- To address the needs, the objectives of the Education sector are:
 - Advocating for the provision of shelter for newly displaced people, so that schools used as shelters can return to providing education services.
 - Providing psychosocial support (PSS) and psychological first aid (PFA) activities in coordination with the Child Protection Sub-Cluster.
 - Improving/establishing and furnishing temporary learning spaces.
 - Providing education personnel and teacher incentives and training.
 - Providing learning materials for children and teachers.

398,000

School-aged children whose education is impacted by the ongoing displacement

Response:

The Education Cluster was able to reach 50,518 school aged children with education assistance. Children are being reached with diverse packages of education services including PSS, PFA, formal and non-formal education activities, home schooling, student bags, textbooks and distribution of winter clothes to ensure minimum disruption to children's learning.

- 10,908 children supported with PSS and PFA in Idlib, Maaret Tamsrin, Harim, Dana and Atareb, Qourqeena, Daret Azza and Bennsh.
- 16,779 children supported with formal and non-formal education in Idlib, Harim, Dana, Atareb, Salqin, Maaret Tamsrin, Qourqeena; including children with disabilities.
- 825 children supported with winter clothes in Maaret Tamsrin and Atareb; 674 children benefitted from fuel for heating in schools.
- 4,159 children supported with recreational kits, school bags, student kits and textbooks in Ariha, Idlib, Harim, Dana, Armanaz, Salqin, Kafr Takharim, Idlib City, Marat Tamsrin and Qourqeena.
- 4,150 children supported for their mid-year exams.
- 173 children provided with medicine against headlice in coordination with the Health Cluster.
- 1,106 children supported with home-based education based on a self-learning programme, in Marat Tamsrin, Daret Azza, Ariha and Haritan sub-districts.
- 4,000 out of school children provided with Short life skills, recreation and PSS education activities.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Lack of funds received by Cluster members. This makes it challenging to provide quality education support, particularly in conjunction with the unfolding security situation in which children are constantly on the move.

- Education services need to be relocated to follow displaced populations and established in locations where displaced people settle. Lost or destroyed educational materials needs to be replaced.
- The education system in areas receiving new displaced families was already overstretched prior to the arrival of new displaced people. The needs to receive the new displaced people in the existing education services risk inflaming inter/intra-community tensions.
- Students and teachers lack basic education supplies, and school furniture and WASH facilities are insufficient.
- Many learning facilities remain cold and overexposed to the elements despite ongoing winterization efforts.
- Many learning facilities have no basic safety equipment/systems in place despite ongoing safety and security concerns.
- The current funding gap is US\$ 15.3 million, with a need for an additional US\$ 6.8 million in case of scaling up to respond to new displacement of an additional 200,000 people.
- Students and education personnel are not receiving the psychosocial support, knowledge and skills needed for a safe and productive learning environment.

Food Security

Needs:

- Many of the over 948,000 newly displaced people are moving with livestock, particularly those moving to Afrin district in northern Aleppo governorate.
- Emergency food assistance for recently displaced people is needed during the first 2 to 4 weeks of displacement, through cooked meals and Ready-To-Eat rations (RTEs). Following the frontline emergency assistance, the people should be integrated in the monthly regular food assistance.
- After the initial displacement, lifesaving livelihood initiatives are also needed to support the affected communities and households in increasing agricultural production, sustaining small-scale food production, protecting productive assets, and restoring or creating income-generating activities to prevent negative or irreversible coping mechanisms.
- Provision of animal feed is needed to limit sales of livestock by displaced and impoverished households. Due to the transport cost, feed distributions are expensive and hence extremely limited in scope. Voucher schemes for provision of animal feed involving local suppliers are cost-efficient and much more sustainable. To enable improved planning and targeting of activities, there is a need to obtain updated estimates of livestock numbers owned by displaced people. The main needs for the livestock now are dry storage fodder warehouses, water for the animals and three main vaccinations: Pastorilla, Entrotoximia, PPR vaccine.

752,513

People for whom additional food assistance support is needed

Response:

- The Food Security Cluster supports the frontline emergency response through the coordination with partners by online group, the emergency tracker tool (database), communication by phone, and the organisation of ad hoc Strategic Advisory Group and cluster meetings.
- The frontline response includes the distribution of ready to eat rations (RTEs) and the provision of cooked meals and emergency multi-purpose cash grants (MPCG) of US\$ 120-130 for each household to cover the immediate food needs.
- From 1 January to 25 February, FSL Cluster members provided the following assistance:
 - 16 FSL members distributed 35,230 Emergency Food Baskets (one-off) to reach 178,800 beneficiaries.
 - 16 FSL members distributed 153,166 RTEs to assist 764,870 beneficiaries.
 - 5 FSL members distributed 1,481,280 USD MPCGs to assist 68,260 beneficiaries.
 - 12 FSL members distributed 240,570 Cooked Meals to assist 240,570 beneficiaries.
- By the end February 2020, Food Security Cluster members will provide further assistance to newly displaced persons according to the following plan:
 - 9 FSL members will distribute Emergency Food Baskets (one-off) to reach 116,500 beneficiaries.
 - 15 FSL members will distribute RTEs to assist 357,140 beneficiaries.
 - 7 FSL members will distribute Cash and MPCGs to assist 159,210 beneficiaries.
 - 9 FSL members will distribute Cooked Meals to assist 100,225 beneficiaries.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The need for rapid food assistance continues to grow with the increasing number of newly displaced people. The latest estimation identifies a gap in food assistance for 752,513 individuals who require additional assistance by partners as of 25 February. The Food Security Cluster calls for additional support to meet these food assistance needs by delivering rapid emergency response (cooked meals, RTEs, food baskets either in kind, voucher, or cash).

- The main identified constraints regard security, transportation, access to safe locations, and harsh winter season that sharpen the urgent needs of the newly displaced people, that affected the IDPs and their livestock heads as well.
- The main identified constraints concern security, transportation, access to safe locations, and harsh winter weather that intensifies urgent needs, affecting people and their livestock.

Health

Needs:

- As of 18 February, some 84 health services have been suspended in Idleb and Aleppo governorates since 1 December 2019, including hospitals, primary healthcare centres, specialised care centres, and mobile clinics. Of these, 31 facilities were relocated elsewhere. Some 191 doctors, 304 nurses and 55 midwives had been employed by these 31 facilities. As a result, more than 106,000 medical outpatient consultations are suspended, nearly 11,000 trauma patients are not served, and 2,000 major surgeries will not be performed as they normally would in a four-week cycle.
- Based on the number of displaced people since 1 December 2019, the Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Technical Working Group estimates some 260,000 women and girls of reproductive age need essential Reproductive Health services such as Antenatal/Prenatal Care, family planning, and care for gynaecological diseases such as Urinary Tract Infections.
- There is need for Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care services for 20,000 pregnant women after displacement to safer areas, especially in A'zaz city. This is based on the assessment of reproductive health services available in Afrin and the A'zaz to Jarabulus corridor.
- Due to the closure/suspension of some Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) centres and the displacement of children with their parents, some 3,874 children aged below one year missed their vaccinations. They need to be located and brought back into the system for follow-up and vaccination.

Response:

- Four hospitals are being supported by the Health Cluster lead agency: two providing maternal and child health services, one paediatric hospital, and one general hospital. The hospitals provide medical consultations and treatments to 12,500 people, including 857 inpatients.
- Trainings were held on Modified Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Neonatal ICU training, for ICU staff in northwest Syria. The trainings targeted 52 nurses and ICU technicians, 18 physicians and 39 other medical staff, and aim to increase the capacities of ICU staff to respond to new displacements.
- The dialysis taskforce, in coordination with the Idleb local health authorities, is expanding the referral system by integrating haemodialysis patients into the network. This will ensure continuity of care by enabling easier access for newly displaced people to existing dialysis centres. This is a life-saving service, as interruptions to dialysis can jeopardise patients' lives.
- Tuberculosis (TB) patients displaced from Idleb to Afrin and A'zaz are being tracked by partners operating TB centres. Doctors working in the TB centres are using a group to better communicate the cases and ensure proper follow-up of treatment and to avoid duplication of services.
- Four mobile teams have been activated to provide medical care to newly displaced people who are unable to travel to health facilities. This is being implemented in four locations.
- On 25 and 26 February, medicines were sent from Turkey into northwest Syria to cover the needs of three TB centres for three months and 225,000 treatment courses, including 3,200 trauma and surgical treatments, for 156 health facilities to ensure continuity of health services. Recipients of this distribution include 69 primary healthcare centres (PHC), 24 mobile clinics and 38 secondary care facilities operated by 24 health partners. As part of the SRH response, 130 reproductive health kits were distributed to humanitarian partners, especially in locations receiving most new IDPs. 51,750 family planning items were also distributed.
- Four mental health mobile clinics and six mental health and psychosocial services (MHPSS) static facilities are being funded by the Health Cluster lead agency and managed by different health partners in northwest Syria.
- 102 EPI centres are currently operating, including five new EPI centres.
- A contingency plan was developed to relocate the TB centre in Idlib city to Armanaz sub-district in case the military operation continues and reaches Idlib city.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Since 1 December 2019, health partners were obliged to suspend services in 84 health facilities, of which only 31 have been re-located to respond to the wave of IDPs in safer locations. During the reporting period:
 - Seven health facilities supported by the Health Cluster lead agency were suspended: Maaret Elnaasan PHC, Kafr Karmin PHC, Atareb hospital, Abin PHC, Alfardous hospital, Hur PHC and Afs PHC.

- An NGO-managed Maternal and Newborn Care hospital suspended its activities, in addition to two mobile clinics. The hospital staff and assets were relocated.
- Six dialysis centres suspended their life-saving services: five in Ma'arrat An Nu'man, Kafr Nobol, Babilla, Ariha and Saraqab in southern and eastern Idlib governorate, and one in Daret Azza, western rural Aleppo.
- 29 EPI centres remain closed: 24 in Idlib governorate and five in Aleppo governorate. All EPI centres in Al Marat & Saraqab districts have stopped their services. Most of the temporarily closed EPI centres remain non-functional due to the security situation.

Nutrition

Needs:

- Need to scale up nutrition response to reach all displaced mothers and children within the accessible geographic areas.
- Multi-sectoral responses to address Acute Malnutrition among displaced Pregnant and lactating mothers and Chronic Malnutrition among displaced children 6-59 months.

81,679

Children below age 5 and pregnant and lactating mothers reached with life-saving nutrition services

Response:

- Since the start of the last escalations in Idlib and western Aleppo governorates, 24,182 pregnant, lactating mothers and 57,497 children under the age of five years were reached with life-saving nutrition services in 135 communities in 31 sub-districts in Idlib through 65 Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) and mobile teams by 18 partners. This represents nearly 31 percent of the population in need, with a 4 percent increase in coverage since the last situation update.
- 14,532 displaced children under the age of 5 years and pregnant and lactating mothers received high-energy biscuits for preventing acute malnutrition. It is also reported that 30,981 pregnant and lactating mothers and children aged 6-59 months received micro-nutrient supplementation, while an additional 26,494 children aged 6-59 months received high calories lipid-based nutrition supplements for prevention of acute malnutrition.
- Of the 81,679 mothers and children screened for Acute Malnutrition, 313 cases of severe acute malnutrition and 1,049 cases of moderate acute malnutrition were identified among displaced children, with the highest number of cases found in Afrin and camps in northern Idlib. Identified malnourished children were referred for appropriate care. Malnutrition among pregnant and lactating mothers is also identified, with 2,034 acutely malnourished mothers identified and referred for appropriate care. The increase in Acute Malnutrition cases among mothers has increased by 46 percent in two weeks. Around 23,632 mothers and caregivers were reached with infant feeding and caring practices messages and counselling.
- During the last two weeks, Nutrition Cluster data shows stability in the cases of Acute Malnutrition among displaced children, especially for Moderate Acute Malnutrition. Acute Malnutrition among pregnant and lactating mothers has exceeded 30 percent, with a weekly increase of 3 to 6 percent, highlighting the possibility of increased illness and reduced access to food among mothers. This requires comprehensive maternal health and nutrition care in close coordination with Food Security, WASH and Shelter clusters. The Chronic Malnutrition proxy indicator among displaced children is at 28 percent, exceeding the emergency threshold of 20 percent.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Increased insecurity and displacements which affects both population and nutrition partners.

Protection

Needs:

- Ongoing conflict and civilians' direct exposure to hostilities, including the use of explosive weapons in densely populated areas and particularly in the Idlib area, continue to pervade the protection environment in northwest Syria, exacerbating physical safety risks, high levels of trauma and distress, and contributing to forced displacement and restrictions on freedom of movement.
- Of the over 948,000 people displaced in northwest Syria since 1 December, 81 percent are women and children (some 570,000 children). Ongoing protection monitoring highlights the desperate situation of displaced civilians, with many households in western districts of Idlib governorate indicating that they have run out of options to seek safety and security. Some who would like to relocate indicate a lack of resources to pay for transport.

29,533

Protection interventions provided from 10 to 24 February

- Actual civilian casualties of the ongoing hostilities are likely higher than reported numbers. The high number of civilian casualties and civilian objects hit suggest that at least some of these strikes may have been launched in an indiscriminate manner and/or without due regard for principles of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). It should also be noted that the killing and maiming of children represents a grave child rights violation.
- All parties to the conflict are reminded that they have obligations to protect civilians under international humanitarian law, human rights law, and criminal law. The Syria Protection Cluster (Turkey) urges parties to the conflict to immediately cease hostilities, to allow civilians to move securely and voluntarily to safe places and to allow civilians safe access to humanitarian assistance, while also allowing humanitarian workers to respond to civilians' needs, especially those who are trapped in frontline areas. Parties to the conflict are reminded of the right to freedom of movement for civilians.
- The threat of aerial and artillery bombardment leads to severe distress amongst the population, with reports received through protection monitoring teams that in some areas, women fear queuing for water in groups as they feel it may lead to them being targeted by airstrikes or shelling.
- The risk of death and injury due to explosive hazards, including unexploded ordnance (UXOs), is increasing due to increased artillery and aerial bombardments in locations where civilians are located or moving, and the legacy of years of conflict.
- Protection risks have increased due to the ongoing displacement, the lack of shelter options, and sub-standard living conditions in areas of displacement. Some displaced people are reportedly moving to immediately unsafe areas due to a lack of available accommodation, while others are sheltering under trees, in open spaces or in overcrowded unfinished buildings. Related Child Protection (CP) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) risks include:
 - Overcrowding in rental accommodation, collective centres and makeshift shelters in IDP sites, as well as a lack of privacy and suitable gender-segregated WASH facilities. This places women and girls at particular risk of GBV. In the past weeks, GBV Sub-Cluster partners reported several incidences of rape in camps and informal IDP sites. This overcrowding may also have negative consequences for personal hygiene and public health.
 - GBV Sub-Cluster partners are reporting incidents of men in positions of power exploiting and abusing displaced women and girls in exchange for cash or material assistance. Increased economic vulnerabilities due to displacement place women and girls at risk, especially recently displaced female-headed households.
 - Pregnant women identified on the road and in informal IDP sites are in need of medical and other support. Some pregnant women are reportedly delaying birth due to lack of access to medical facilities.
 - Children who are displaced are at higher risk of recruitment or use by armed forces and/or groups due to reduced family/community protection and exhaustion of coping mechanisms, as well as the impact of lack of economic and educational opportunities caused by displacement itself.
 - Displacement of families severely affects the protection of children and their caregivers. Death of caregivers and unreliable means of transportation are among the causes of cases of unaccompanied and separated children as well as child-headed households and female-headed households.
 - Child Protection and humanitarian concerns are mutually compounding. Multi-sectoral coordination of responses would aid in mitigating Child Protection concerns by prioritising children and caregivers in vulnerability criteria. Risks are further mitigated by including Child Protection specialised staff in rapid assessment and response teams.

Response:

- From 10 Feb to 24 Feb, 13 Protection Cluster members provided emergency response services for civilians displaced from Idlib and Aleppo governorates due to the ongoing hostilities. Cluster members conducted 29,533 protection interventions for IDPs and affected host community members in 44 communities within 13 sub-districts in Idlib and Aleppo governorates, reaching 8,078 individuals (2,306 girls, 1,643 boys, 2,954 women and 1,175 men). The main services protection actors provided are as follows:
 - Psychological First Aid and Psychosocial Support
 - Information sharing about other services
 - Child Protection case management
 - Dignity kits distribution
 - Risk education
- Cluster members also referred individuals to other basic services, notably to shelter.
- GBV Sub-Cluster partners aim to ensure GBV survivors have access to quality and life-saving responses, including specialised services such as case management, while engaging with communities to prevent and mitigate risks of GBV.
- GBV Sub-Cluster partners continued to distribute dignity kits, reaching 18,471 women and girls of reproductive age (through 15 GBV Sub-Cluster partners) since the beginning of January.
- Distributions of dignity kits give GBV Sub-Cluster partners the ability to provide other essential protection services such as referrals to urgent services (medical and legal), psychological first aid (PFA), Individual Protection Assistance (IPA)

and information about available services with emphasis on how these services should be free of charge to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse.

- In areas where partners were able to continue their work, including in locations in Afrin and the A'zaz to Jarabulus corridor, Child Protection partners prioritised the response to protection needs of displaced families, particularly in the delivery of psychosocial support and case management. In areas most affected by shelling and displacement, partners were in some instances unable to deliver most structured interventions, such as case management, parenting programmes and psychosocial support. In those areas, partners identified the most vulnerable with specific protection concerns for delivery of in-kind Individual Protection Assistance to prevent their exposure to further protection risks.
- Efforts to identify and respond to reunification needs of unaccompanied and separated children have intensified since 15 December 2019. In most cases separation is caused by disrupted transportation, often being a temporary separation of children from their parents/caregivers. To date all 79 cases identified under these circumstances have been reunified with their caregivers, including 24 in February to date.
- Since 1 December 2019, 319 recreational kits, 33 Early Childhood Development and 34 Adolescent kits for implementation of child protection interventions were distributed, reaching 32,060 children in Harem, Jebel Saman, Jisr ash Shugur and Idleb districts. Wristbands for prevention of family separation were also distributed, reaching over 28,000 beneficiaries in Harem, Jebel Saman, Idleb and Jisr ash Shugur districts.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Protection Cluster members continue to report suspension of activities in outreach units and static service points, such as community centres and women and girls' safe spaces. All suspension notifications cited airstrikes and shelling as the main reason. Displacement of humanitarian staff has been reported.
- Suspension of child protection services in the reporting period are of particular concern. Since 1 February, 69 suspension notifications of child protection services delivered by the Child Protection mobile teams and Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) were received. None of the suspension reports were from camps or IDP sites, and most were temporary. Delivery of CP services was affected in Atareb, Bennsh, Daret Azza, Idleb city and Maaret Tamasrin sub districts in Aleppo and Idleb governorates. Activities suspended included psychosocial support, life skills activities for adolescents, parenting programs, case management and referrals. Suspension has continued to severely affect the transportation of children with disabilities, which is key for accessing support.
- Child Protection teams and their families have themselves been displaced, affecting teams' capacity to respond. Some partners also reported loss of equipment and supplies, affecting their response capacity when moving to new locations.
- Segments of the population who experience barriers in accessing existing humanitarian assistance and who generally lack specialised and focused response services continue to generate concern. This includes older people, people with disabilities, adolescent boys and girls, unaccompanied and separated children, female-headed households, and other individuals with specific legal and/or protection needs. Due to the specific nature of situations in which these individuals find themselves, flexible and ad hoc assistance remains a strong need, including using small-scale cash and in-kind assistance via the Individual Protection Assistance modality.
- Contrary to humanitarian principles, the requirement of civil status documentation by donors and humanitarian actors continues to be reported as a barrier for displaced people to access basic services and humanitarian assistance. Furthermore, GBV Sub-Cluster partners are reporting difficulties in efficiently and safely utilising GBV case funds due to some donors requesting documentation requirements that are not in line with GBV guiding principles.
- GBV specialised services are still unavailable in 1,641 communities across northwest Syria, mostly due to limited funding. Additional resources are needed to support GBV prevention and response with a particular focus on vulnerable groups such as adolescent girls, widows and divorced women, persons with disability, as well as men and boys who have experienced sexual violence.
- The current stock of dignity kits is only enough to meet the needs of 25 percent of the currently displaced women and girls of reproductive age.
- Severe lack of fulfilment of basic protection needs continue. Families cannot meaningfully engage in parenting programmes and awareness sessions unless the most basic needs of their families are first met.
- Parents and caregivers fear for the safety of their children and often prevent their attendance of public gatherings, including Child-Friendly Spaces.
- Child Protection emergency case management funds continue to be insufficient to meet the urgency and priorities on the ground. This is particularly affecting serious Child Protection cases (including child recruitment, child marriage and child labour) which require additional emergency funds for an effective response and follow up. Overcrowded IDP locations such as Dana and Jebel Saman where these cases are present are of concern.
- Donor flexibility is urgently needed to redirect the funds for the new emergency in order to avoid long-term negative consequences for children and their caregivers.

Shelter

Needs:

- The Shelter / Non-Food Items (SNFI) Cluster estimates that 385,000 people newly displaced in northwest Syria are in need of emergency shelter.
- Finding land and obtaining authorisation to extend or establish new camps is one of the main challenges experienced by humanitarian partners in the current situation, especially given urgent needs for extensions of existing camps and establishment of new camps.
- Capacity-building for site planning, land and property rights is needed for SNFI Cluster members.
- There is a need to establish a site planning taskforce, with technical support for SNFI and CCCM Cluster members.
- There is a need to provide tents for informal IDP settlements.
- Shelter rehabilitation needs to be scaled up for people living in damaged/unfinished buildings, including provision of sealing-off kits and quick fixing.

Response:

- SNFI Cluster members provided shelter and/or NFI assistance to almost 400,000 individuals in January, including both displaced people and host communities, and planned to reach 460,000 people in need in February.
- In IDP sites, 57,010 people have been provided with shelter that has already been installed or for which installation is currently underway. 14 ready-to-start sites, 14 new sites identified in public lands and 56 existing camps with capacity to expand will enable shelter to be provided for a further 95,000 people.
- The SNFI Cluster is aiming to provide 77,000 tents to shelter 385,000 IDPs. Of this, 11,403 tents have been installed or are currently being installed, 14,111 are in stock for distribution and 44,875 are in the pipeline. A gap of 6,612 tents remains.
- Shelter rehabilitation projects are ongoing to reach 51,257 people living outside formal camps.
- 45,161 household NFI kits have been distributed or are currently being distributed. A further 15,991 NFI kits are in stock and 52,314 are in the pipeline.
- Winterization assistance has been provided to 639,253 people as of 31 January, for both newly displaced and previously displaced people. Winterization assistance is in progress for a further 307,087 people.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Housing, land and property rights remain a critical issue for legal access to land for people to settle.
- Shelter availability is extremely limited: some 100 communities that hosted displaced people in the past are now abandoned. Displaced people are left with very few shelter options in areas where there are three times more IDPs than residents. Humanitarian workers are also affected by displacement and struggle to find shelter for themselves and their families.
- Shelter remains the main gap for the SNFI Cluster. Adequate shelter for an additional 232,990 people moving to camps is needed, and US\$ 23.3 million is needed to rehabilitate shelters outside camps for an additional 105,743 people.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- WASH cluster members reported continued high needs with regards to life-saving WASH supplies and services for at least 500,000 people displaced in the greater Idleb de-escalation zone, Afrin, and the A'zaz to Jarabulus corridor. Displaced people need WASH services including domestic water, solid waste management, community latrines and wastewater management. The need for desludging septic tanks, water purification, supply of hygiene kits and jerry cans has increased proportionately to the number of displaced people.
- In both formal and informal camps, there is immense need to increase water supply and manage drinking water safety, to mitigate against diarrheal and other communicable diseases. In most of these locations, the number of IDPs sharing the same level of services and supplies has increased.
- The need for desludging septic tanks and pit latrines and for solid waste management has increased with the rising number of displaced people. Landfill rehabilitation is becoming increasingly important, especially in northern Idleb, Afrin, and the A'zaz to Jarabulus corridor where rapidly increasing numbers of displaced people is resulting in the creation of new, improperly managed dumpsites/landfills.

US\$ 28 M

Funding gap for providing WASH assistance to 1.1 million people

- As displacement is ongoing and newly displaced people are prioritising communities in which to settle, there is a need to increase the operational support to existing piped water systems in order to handle additional population in communities and in surrounding informal/formal settlements and camps.
- It is unlikely that new displaced people will return to their areas of origin in the near future. There is thus a need to include them in the ongoing sustained emergency programs to ensure their continued access to all WASH services.

Response:

- The ongoing WASH response has reached 380,000 recently displaced people in 552 locations through 25 Cluster members (77 percent of locations responded to are camps, 15 percent in communities, 5 percent in collective centres and 3 percent in other locations).
 - 103,682 people received and continue to receive water trucking.
 - 90,398 people received solid waste management service and will continue to receive this for 2 to 3 months.
 - 19,513 people received new latrines (most existing public/community latrines are overcrowded due to fewer latrines being available).
 - 81,000 people benefited from hygiene kits (including 12,250 family hygiene kits and 5,000 baby hygiene kits).
 - 68,839 people benefited from water purifying agents (including Aquatabs).
 - 101,557 people benefited from the distribution of jerry cans (34,000 cans distributed; 2 cans per household).
 - 15,000 people received tarpaulin sheets (3,000 tarpaulin sheets distributed; 2 sheets per family).
- As two thirds of the newly displaced population are moving into communities, pressure on existing water and sewerage infrastructure is increasing. This reduces adequacy of host communities' access to safe water, causing conflict between host communities and displaced people. Increasing operational support and rehabilitation of systems supporting communities with a high number of displaced people will reduce the risk of conflict, as well as reduce reliance on alternative unsafe, untreated water sources. This will also ensure wider coverage for the needs of displaced people in communities, who are not considered in first responses as they are less vulnerable in comparison to displaced people in camps who rely heavily on humanitarian assistance.
- WASH Cluster members are preparing to scale up the response to meet at least the needs of newly displaced people in their existing areas of operation, in anticipation of additional funding and supplies becoming available. Currently available supplies and services including water distribution via water trucking, provision of hygiene kits, construction and maintenance of latrines and provision of jerry cans are currently limited due to recent fund allocation processes, with subsequent implementation only commencing in early March.
 - 208,623 people are expected to receive water trucking (planned by Cluster members).
 - 188,707 people are expected to receive solid waste management services, especially in locations with large IDP populations. This will also benefit host communities (65 percent host community and 35 percent IDPs).
 - 182,435 people will benefit from new latrines currently under construction.
 - 243,268 people will benefit from currently available hygiene kits (16,400 family hygiene kits and 10,000 baby hygiene kits).
 - 372,500 people will benefit from available jerry cans (45,000 jerry cans available; typically 2 cans per household).

Gaps & Constraints:

- Inadequate space in existing shelters complicates the response, as recently displaced people continue to move from one location to another. Recently displaced people are looking for potential shelters with existing services or where the likelihood of receiving services from humanitarian partners is promising. The WASH Cluster is working with the CCCM and Shelter Clusters to ensure joint planning and installation of new camps with requisite WASH services. The immediate gaps in nine sub-districts for 100,000 displaced people is as follows:
 - 119,026 displaced people lack water trucking (many more displaced people are sharing the existing water supply of host communities and other displaced people).
 - 97,768 people need rehabilitation/construction of public latrines.
 - 119,857 people need recurrent solid waste management.
 - 30,549 people need hygiene kits.
- Challenges are notable with regard to delivery of hygiene kits. Local production levels and the cross-border pipeline are acceptable, yet logistics inside Syria are proving difficult due to a lack of drivers and trucks as well as continued hostilities. Advocacy efforts to improve this situation are ongoing.

- This is also constrained by the unequipped private sector, which finds it difficult to increase supplies and services in certain locations on short notice.
- To ensure a timely and effective WASH response to the increasing needs and to mitigate against the potential outbreak of communicable diseases, additional financial resources are urgently required for the aforementioned activities.
- The revised humanitarian readiness and response plan estimates an additional need of US\$ 12 million to address the WASH needs of newly displaced people in formal/informal camps and settlements. This will also support the WASH funding needs for recently planned formal camps that are likely to accommodate some 35,000 displaced people. Support for an additional 65,000 people is planned through the allocated CERF funding.

Logistics

Need:

- Organisations responding to the needs of the affected population in northwest Syria require a reliable and consistent transshipment service that facilitates the delivery of life-saving cargo from Turkey into the region.
- As the situation becomes more dynamic and volatile, coordination and timely information sharing with partners will be critical to assist with partner operational decision-making and to avoid the duplication of effort.
- Visibility on storage capacity and transport routes inside northwest Syria is vital for the planning and repositioning of organisations.
- Moving transshipment operations from the customs yard at Bab Al-Salam to the dedicated transshipment hub in Kilis is required to increase the safety and security of humanitarian actors, and to expand overall transshipment capacity.

Response:

- In February to date, the Logistics Cluster has coordinated the transshipment of 794 Syrian trucks transporting humanitarian assistance into Syria: 669 through Bab al-Hawa and 125 through Bab al-Salam.
- To meet the needs of partner organisations responding to the needs in northwest Syria, the Logistics Cluster has coordinated with UNMM, UNDSS, customs authorities and partner agencies to increase the daily transshipment capacity at both Bab Al-Hawa and Bab Al-Salam to 100 trucks and 24 trucks respectively.
- Information on partner storage capacity inside northwest Syria has been compiled to help coordinate any storage gaps in the area, and updates continue to be reported.
- Coordination meetings are held in Gaziantep and Antakya on a monthly basis, and regular communication of logistics information and updates through a dedicated mailing list continues to be provided.

Constraints:

- With the escalation of hostilities in northwest Syria, delays and even cancellations of transshipment operations may occur. To cover the gap, timely information-sharing and coordination is essential.
- The Logistics Cluster continues to await approval to move transshipment operations from the customs yard in Kilis to the dedicated transshipment hub. This would increase standard capacity at Bab al-Salam from 8 trucks to 24 trucks daily and would provide greater flexibility in case of further scale-up.

GENERAL COORDINATION

Given the scale of the ongoing emergency and the rapidly changing situation on the ground, the DRHC convenes an emergency taskforce comprising cluster lead agencies, key cluster coordinators, NGO representatives, and OCHA. This operational taskforce meets at least three times a week. The purpose of these meetings is to consolidate the latest information and to agree on priority actions. The key clusters participating in these meetings – Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), Shelter and Non-Food Items (S/NFI), Protection and WASH – have temporarily co-located to facilitate better coordination for meeting urgent needs. This week, the Emergency Taskforce met with the donors to brief them. Clusters are also convening meetings as required to respond to emergencies as they arise, and humanitarian partners inside Syria are coordinating as much as possible in the current context.

The revised humanitarian readiness and response plan for northwest Syria is being implemented and used as the basis for funding advocacy. The elements within this plan are part of the overarching humanitarian response plan for Syria.

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