

North-west Syria

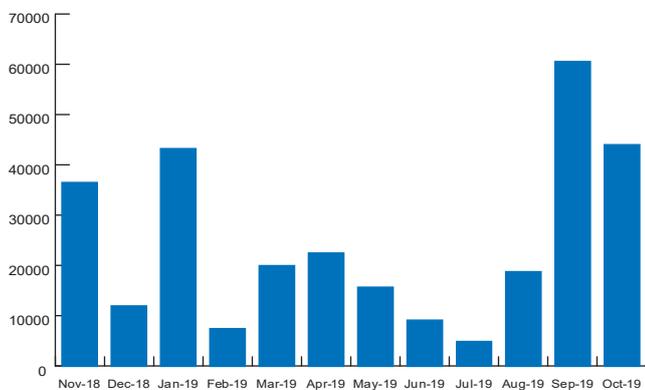
October 2019

Through its partners, in 2019, UNHCR has assisted **46,040 households (241,281 individuals)** with core relief items and shelter material.

UNHCR has sent **245 trucks** across the border in 2019, carrying humanitarian supplies like blankets, hygiene kits, mattresses and tents.

In 2019, through its partners, UNHCR has reached **128,939 individuals** with protection services, such as information dissemination and referrals.

CRI AND EMERGENCY SHELTER ASSISTANCE

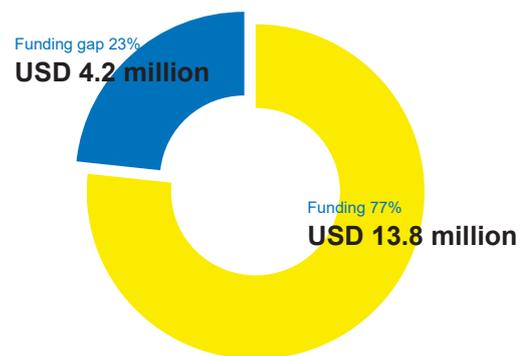


Number of **individuals reached** per month by UNHCR programme partners with core relief items and emergency shelter assistance in the last 12 months

FUNDING LEVEL AS OF OCTOBER 2019

USD 18 million

requested for the UNHCR cross-border humanitarian response



MAIN OBJECTIVES

1. Support the coordination of the cross-border humanitarian response through the Cluster system
2. Identify protection risks and assistance needs and inform the overall response
3. Provide protection services and emergency assistance with core relief items and shelter material
4. Build capacity of (local) humanitarian organizations
5. Fill critical gaps in the basic needs of IDPs where required and feasible

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

In 2019, escalating hostilities between the Government of Syria and non-state armed groups are affecting hundreds of thousands of people in north-west Syria. Intense violence that started in the last days of April and is continuing unabated has caused high numbers of casualties, destruction of civilian infrastructure and disruption in the provision of basic services in Idlib. As a result of this most recent offensive, the humanitarian situation is deteriorating. Between May and October, more than 790,000 displacements were tracked: people are being displaced, some multiple times, from southern Idlib and northern Hama and the majority of the displaced are concentrating in northern Idlib, close to the Turkish border, in areas that are now densely populated.

In the beginning of the year, the situation was aggravated by heavy rains and floods in northern Syria at the end of December and beginning of January, and again in March. Major developments had taken place in north-west Syria already in 2018 and more than 688,000 people were newly displaced within non-state armed group controlled areas.

A Readiness and Response Plan for north-west Syria is still in play and outlines the planned response to the cross-border team in Turkey.

BACKGROUND

Following the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2165, UNHCR established its cross-border activities from southern Turkey in July 2014. In 2019, through its own programme, UNHCR has partnerships with six organizations - IRC, ACTED-REACH, WATAN, Bir Dunya Çocuk Derneği (Children of One World), SHAFAK and NRC - to assist displaced people by providing core relief items (CRIs), shelter support, and protection services. In addition, UNHCR is leading the Protection, Shelter/NFI (SNFI) and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Clusters. All Clusters closely follow the humanitarian developments in the conflict areas in north-west Syria and contribute to emergency preparedness plans accordingly.

UNHCR Programme

UNHCR and its partners continued to provide basic assistance and protection services to IDPs and conflict-affected vulnerable host community members in north-west Syria under the cross-border operation from Gaziantep, Turkey. In October, **32,795 displaced** people were assisted with **4,871 emergency and winter NFI kits**, **1,261 tents** and **149 house rehabilitations** in Idlib and Aleppo Governorates. This brings the total number of people assisted by UNHCR's partners to **119,461** since the start of the most recent offensive in northern Hama and southern Idlib (1 May-31 October). Throughout the month, **five transshipments** took place through Reyhanli-Bab Al Hawa border crossing, carrying 7,000 NFI kits and 1,500 tents to assist 44,000 newly displaced people.

Moreover, UNHCR's protection partners conducted awareness raising and psychosocial support sessions, identified cases and referred them to basic services in Idlib and Aleppo Governorates; such community-based protection interventions reached **8,259 people**. In addition, **6,197 displaced and vulnerable people** received protection services such as awareness raising on civil status documentation and housing, land and properties, legal counselling and assistance, case management and referrals. As a part of the emergency response, sessions on integrated protection awareness, protection risk awareness, information and psychosocial first aid are conducted by UNHCR's partners and people are referred to the needed internal and external services.

The displacement and protection monitoring initiatives proved to be essential during the large-scale displacements, providing ad hoc updates and conducting rapid needs assessment. The latest reports are published on the websites of the CCCM and Protection Clusters.



CCCM Cluster

The CCCM Cluster coordinates the efforts of **15 active member organizations** providing cross-border assistance in north-west Syria. Activities focus on coordinating the joint efforts of the Cluster members to cover the multi-sectoral needs in **426 IDP sites** hosting **739,462 IDPs/137,943 families** in north-west Syria (as of October 2019) and, on behalf of the humanitarian community, track IDP movements and coordinating the provision of multi-sectoral assistance in IDP settlements.

In October, the Cluster tracked **30,594 individual displacements** in north-west Syria: 66 per cent of these were from Idlib Governorate and 32 per cent from Aleppo Governorate; movements were mainly to Jarabulus, Ariha, Dana and Azaz sub-districts. Out of this total, 6,026 displacements were to IDP sites, while 24,568 displacements were to out of IDP sites. In total, **797,288 individual displacements** were recorded between **1 May and 31 October 2019**.

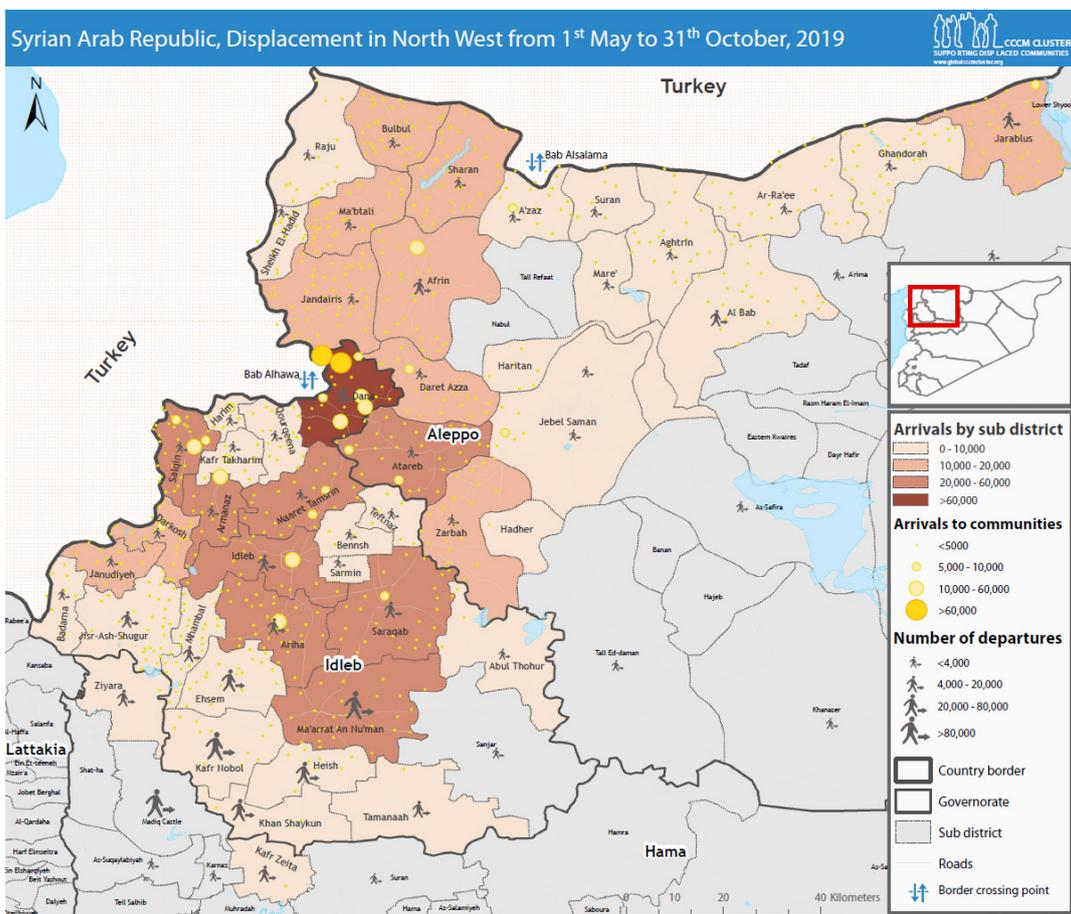


Shelter/NFI Cluster

The SNFI Cluster is led by UNHCR, coordinating the efforts of **41 active member organizations** in the cross-border operation. The Cluster addresses emergency shelter and NFI needs by providing in-kind assistance as well as cash or voucher assistance. It promotes household and community resilience. The Cluster also raises awareness and provides technical guidance on housing, land and property rights relevant for humanitarian shelter activities.

Although the shelter and NFI situation remained difficult in October, Cluster members increased their reach and the Cluster delivered **shelter assistance to more than 47,000 people**; in particular, in Maaret Tamsrin and Dana sub-districts, two of the areas with the largest number of arrivals, 12,752 and 10,413 people respectively received shelter assistance. The Cluster also increased its NFI response, **assisting with NFIs more than 73,000 people**; in Dana only, 22,000 individuals received NFIs.

The Cluster continued with the winterization plan; Cluster members secured funding to target more than 746,000 individuals (with the 2018-2019 winter response, the Cluster had reached 689,209 people), while advocacy for additional funding continues with the objective to reach 900,000 people, both new IDPs and protracted IDPs.



Protection Cluster

The Protection Cluster (co-led by UNHCR and IRC) brings together **68 active members**, which include actors of the three Sub-Clusters: Child Protection (co-led by UNICEF and World Vision), Gender Based Violence (co-led by UNFPA and Global Communities) and Humanitarian Mine Action (led by UNMAS). The Cluster also convenes the Protection Monitoring Task Force (co-led by UNHCR and IRC) and a Housing, Land and Property Technical Working Group (co-led by UNHCR and NRC) on a regular basis. The Cluster continues to prioritize the provision of lifesaving emergency response services to newly displaced populations and to expand specialized protection services through a wider geographic coverage and outreach capacity, including through mobile teams. In addition, the Cluster seeks to inform the overall response through protection monitoring, while also supporting capacity building with humanitarian actors to strengthen information and advocacy on protection concerns, and Do No Harm efforts.

In October, Cluster and Sub-Cluster members provided **224,768 interventions to IDPs and affected host community members** in 250 communities in six governorates (Idleb, Aleppo, Hama, Deir Ez-Zor, Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa). The main services were: psychological first aid for 231 girls, 174 boys, 395 women and 128 men; legal awareness raising sessions focusing on housing, land and properties and/or civil status documentation for 725 girls, 374 boys, 3,378 women and 2,872 men; integrated/comprehensive case management services for 4,768 girls, 3,888 boys, 949 women and 183 men; and referrals to other services for 723 girls, 572 boys, 1,212 women and 639 men. Sub-Cluster members also provided a range of specialized child protection and GBV services, as well as risk education to communities in northern Syria.

External and Donor Relations

Thanks to UNHCR's donors for supporting the humanitarian response in north-west Syria:

United States of America | Turkey Humanitarian Fund