

# North-west Syria

March 2019

**14,120**

Households assisted through UNHCR with core relief items and shelter material in 2019

**70,720**

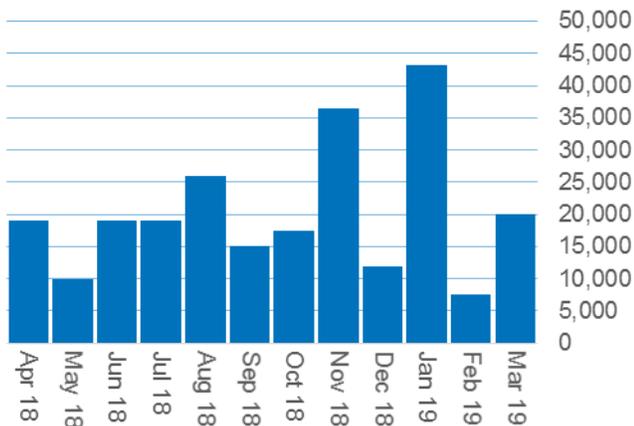
Individuals reached through UNHCR with core relief items and shelter material in 2019

**77**

Trucks with UNHCR humanitarian supplies sent across the border in 2019

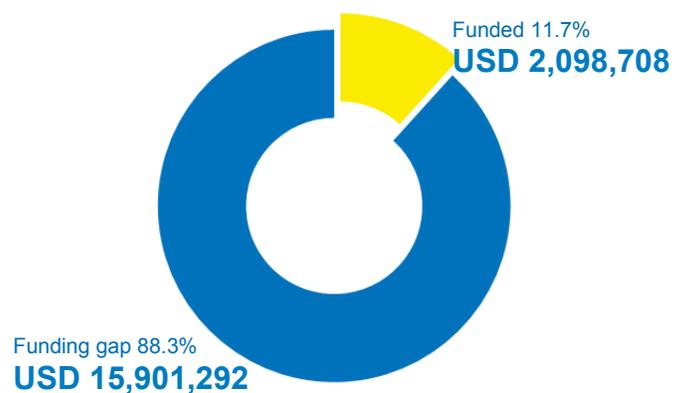
**44,422**

Individuals reached with protection services by UNHCR and partners in 2019



Number of **individuals reached** per month by UNHCR programme partners with core relief items and shelter material

## FUNDING AS OF 31 MARCH 2019



## 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 2018, major developments took place in north-west Syria in regard to inter-factional conflicts and shifting frontlines, military and political control and local agreements on formerly opposition-held enclaves (e.g. eastern Ghouta, northern Homs). As a result, more than 688,000 people were newly displaced within non-state armed group controlled areas in north-west Syria in 2018. People continued to be displaced in early 2019.

In 2019, intense hostilities between the Government of Syria and non-state armed groups, and among the latter have affected thousands of people, including IDPs, in Idleb and Hama. The situation was further aggravated by heavy rains and floods in northern Syria at the end of December and beginning of January. More floods affected the area at the end of March, causing further displacements.

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 Cocuk Dernegi (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 March, 17,910 conflict and flood-affected people were assisted with 3,582 emergency non-food item (NFI) kits in Idleb and Aleppo Governorates. On 15, 19 and 21 March, a total of 19 trucks delivered 4,500 emergency NFI kits through the Reyhanli-Bab Al Hawa and Kilis-Bab Al Salam border crossings to assist 22,500 newly displaced people in Idleb and Aleppo Governorates.

In addition, UNHCR's partners conducted awareness raising and psychosocial support (PSS) sessions, identified cases and referred them to the basic services in Idleb and Aleppo Governorates. In north-west Syria, 6,802 people were reached with community-based protection interventions by UNHCR's protection partners. Displaced and vulnerable people continued to receive protection services such as awareness raising on civil status documentation (CSD) and housing, land and properties (HLP), legal counselling and advice, case management and referrals: 6,128 people were assisted with information sessions and legal counselling on HLP and CSD. The displacement and protection monitoring initiatives continued and the latest reports are published on the websites of the CCCM and Protection Clusters once they are finalized.



Distribution of emergency CRI kits in north-west Syria  
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## Protection Cluster

The Protection Cluster (co-led by UNHCR and IRC) brings together **56 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 (HLP TWG) (co-led by UNHCR and NRC) on a regular basis, with the HLP TWG having had its second meeting of 2019 in March. The Protection 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 (DNH) efforts.

### **Protection response services**

In March, Cluster and Sub-Cluster members provided **296,194 interventions** to IDPs and affected host community members, in **296 communities** in **nine governorates** (Idleb, Aleppo, Hama, Ar-Raqqa, Deir Ez-Zor, Quneitra, As-Sweida, Homs, and Al-Hasakeh), reaching 106,530 girls, 79,190 boys, 90,851 women and 19,623 men. The main services provided are as follows: psychological first aid for 1,981 girls, 1,859 boys, 1,332 women and 79 men; legal information sessions focusing on HLP and/or CSD for 31 girls, 26 boys, 116 women and 2,196 men; integrated/comprehensive case management services for 19 girls, 34 boy, 153 women, and 2 men; and referrals to other services for 221 girls, 201 boys, 475 women and 108 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.

The **Protection Monitoring Task Force** members conducted 616 interviews with key informants (374 male and 242 female) in 130 communities.



### Shelter/NFI Cluster

The SNFI Cluster is led by UNHCR, coordinating the efforts of **50 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.

In March, **182,737 individuals** (NFI: 175,411; Shelter: 7,326) were assisted in three Governorates (12 districts and 39 sub-districts). As of the end of March, the Winterization 2018/2019 implementation phase is considered completed for the SNFI Cluster. The Cluster worked on the winterization planning since July 2018, advocating for more funding and access. The winterization planning included 38 organizations and secured a funding of USD 25,732,685 with a target of 644,660 individuals. From November 2018 to March 2019, the Cluster assisted **689,209 individuals** within 51 sub-districts (409 communities) through 49 Cluster members (11 additional organizations received additional funding after the planning phase), reaching this way 107 per cent of the target.



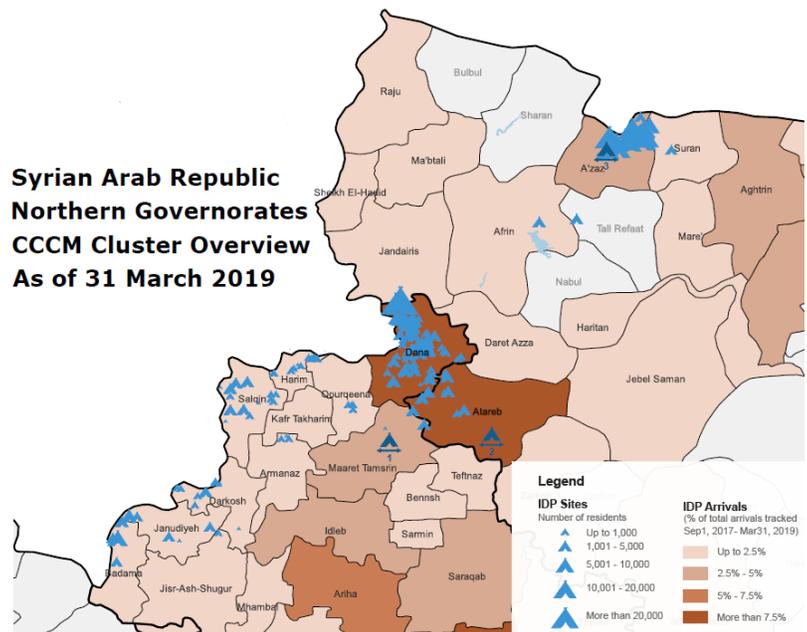
### CCCM Cluster

The CCCM Cluster coordinates the efforts of **38 active member organizations** providing cross-border assistance in north-west Syria. Activities focus on informing humanitarian partners on the needs in the settlements, tracking IDP movements and coordinating the provision of multi-sectorial assistance in IDP settlements.

In March, the Cluster tracked **73,206 displacements** from Idleb (64 per cent), Hama (24 per cent) and Aleppo (12 per cent) Governorates, making a 31 per cent increase from the previous month due to intensified clashes between Government of Syria-allied forces and non-state armed groups, as well as inter-non-state armed groups violence in northern Hama and southern Idleb.

The Cluster finalized and shared the **IDP Sites Integrated Monitoring Matrix (ISIMM)** for the month of March 2019: the number of IDPs in sites was **471,977 individuals** or **89,161 households**. The Cluster coordinated multi-sectorial life-saving assistance for **461,448 IDPs** residing in 325 IDP sites across northern Syria; per sector, coverage was: water (91 per cent covered), waste removal (90 per cent), sanitation (88 per cent), NFI (66 per cent), shelter (63 per cent) and food (53 per cent).

**Syrian Arab Republic  
Northern Governorates  
CCCM Cluster Overview  
As of 31 March 2019**



### External and Donor Relations

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

Turkey Humanitarian Fund | United States of America