



GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER

4.3M people in need of food security and livelihoods support in northwest Syria

The Global Food Security Cluster (gFSC) urges sustained access and scaled-up lifesaving assistance to thousands of internally displaced people and smallholder farmers.

Displaced families make up two-thirds of the population of northwest Syria (NWS). They rely on food assistance to survive as conflict persists, the economy is in crisis, and agricultural production – the only income-generating sector left — is being further limited by COVID-19 measures.

The threat of a COVID-19 outbreak is aggravating the economic downturn and constraining humanitarian response further – a situation that could have severe impacts in NWS as well as across the whole region.

Food insecurity in NWS has become even more critical over the last months, due to the large-scale displacement of about 1M people who left villages affected by the conflict. Furthermore, local economies are in downturn as food prices skyrocket while the purchasing power of the most vulnerable households is being sharply eroded.

The increased number of people in need in NWS is compounded by the reduced number of border crossings for humanitarian assistance, which have been reduced to a single point in Idlib Governorate.

Relying on a single-entry point for all partners is expected to lead to delayed shipments – the majority of which are food – as well as higher costs and more complex logistics. Agricultural production inputs supply to NWS is less affected as it does not require frequent repeated shipments.

Poor road conditions to northern Aleppo and Afrin will be deteriorate more due to the extra trucks now using them, hampering operations further.

As such, it is **vital to sustain funding** and use every means available to ensure the timely and planned delivery of lifesaving assistance, especially given the added COVID-19 restrictions.

With some 60 active implementing partners, the gFSC supports food & livelihoods response in NWS through the FSL Cluster South Turkey hub by:



COORDINATION

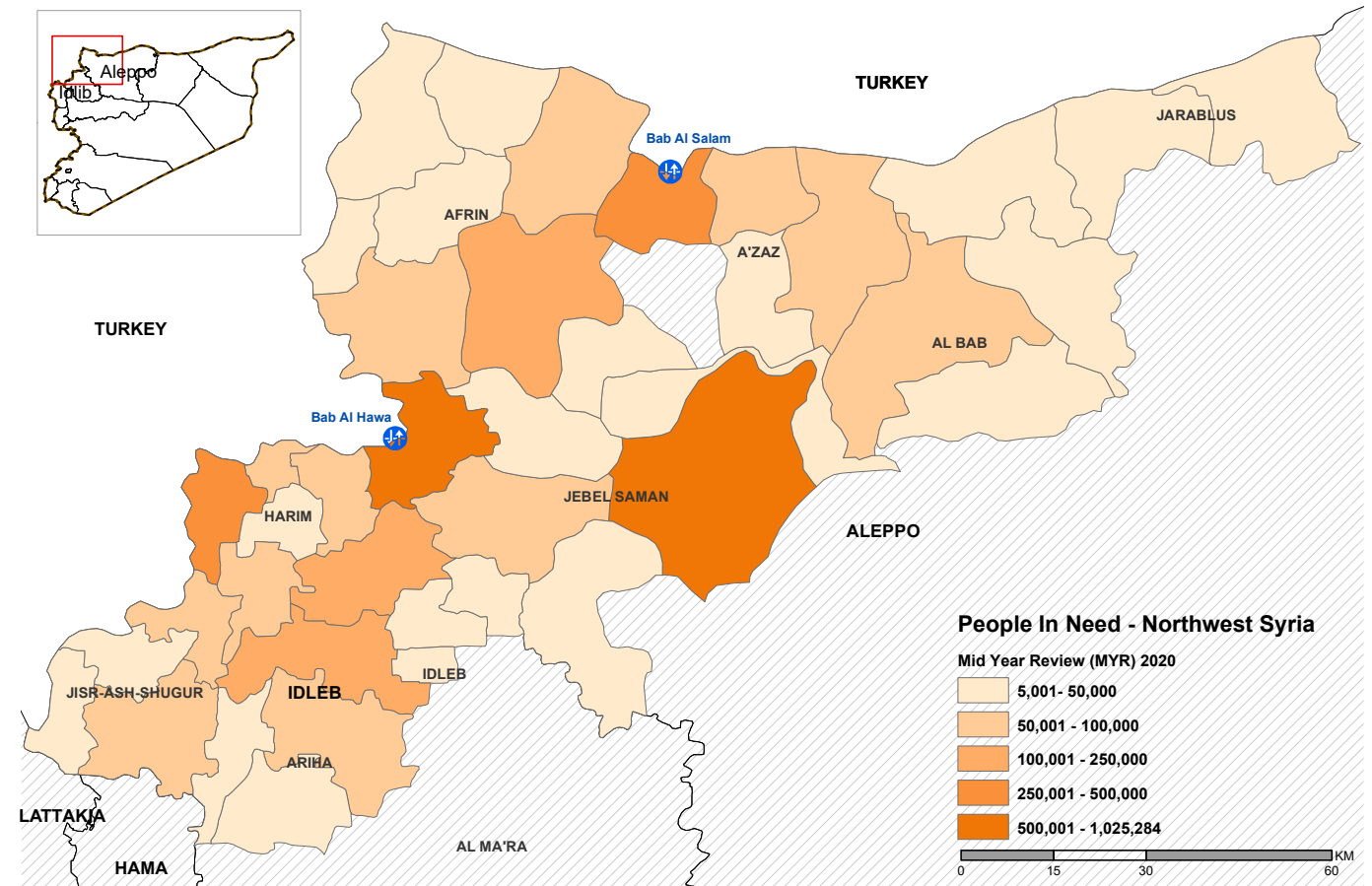


**PROVIDING KEY
INFORMATION**



ADVOCACY

PEOPLE IN NEED – NORTHWEST SYRIA



Source: Humanitarian Needs Overview 2020 Mid-Year Review (FSL Cluster Whole of Syria)

SITUATION OVERVIEW IN NWS



Of **4.3 million people in need** (1 million more than in 2019), **3.7 million are** food insecure and 615,000 are at risk of food insecurity and in need of livelihoods support.



Almost **3 in 10 children** under the age of five suffer from stunting and acute malnutrition is rising.



2.7 million internally displaced. Since December 2019 almost 1.4 million were forced to flee their homes, with many assisted in the camps and hosted by local communities.



22% increase in bread prices from April to May 2020. More than 30% of bakeries no longer operational.



COVID-19: +3000 cases and **178 deaths** in the Syrian Arab Republic. More than **600 cases** and **6 deaths** now recorded in NWS.

Low testing rates, a weak health system and **crowded camps** threaten an already alarming situation.

FOOD SECURITY THROUGH UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2504:

- Some **1.5 million people** were **reached** with cross-border food assistance in June 2020.
- In 2020, **FSL partners** have assisted **700,000 people** with **livelihood support**, of which **200,000 people** also received **rehabilitation & other services**.

DRIVERS OF FOOD INSECURITY

Syria: a country in its tenth year of conflict facing the threat of a pandemic

With the economic crisis, mass displacement and high unemployment, COVID-19 is also rolling back development and putting unbearable pressure on host communities.

Economic crisis: twin-tracks of sharp currency depreciation and high inflation

Prices of food, medicine, and fuel have reached unprecedented levels, with the Syrian Pound (SYP) **depreciating by at least 325 percent** over the past one year. The national average reference food basket price has recorded a **261 percent increase** year-on-year as of July 2020 with the highest spike recorded in Idlib at 464 percent.

Low agricultural production eroding incomes and assets

Military escalation led to loss of farming and cropping land, which limited crop production, and further increased input prices. Only **58 percent of the population's minimum bread needs are being met**. While animal production in NWS still provides dairy products, eggs, and meat, it is under constant threat from uncontrolled livestock epidemics (such as the Lumpy Skin Disease outbreak in 2019 and 2020).

COVID-19 and its health, economic and food security impacts

As a result of COVID-19, access to markets is being reduced, driving up food prices and hitting people's incomes. **40 cases have been reported in over-crowded areas of NWS**, with the risk of a rapid further spread.

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Photo: Mohammad Mirejawi

gFSC calls urgently for:



Scaled up emergency food assistance:

Safeguard food access, availability and utilization. Ensure stability of food supply chains.



Strengthened livelihood support:

Provide returnees, smallholder farmers and host communities with agricultural inputs, livestock assistance and vaccination, support to infrastructure rehabilitation, flour mills, bakeries.

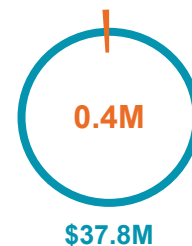


FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

HRP FUNDING FOR FOOD SECURITY SECTOR



FSS FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE



Requested

Funded