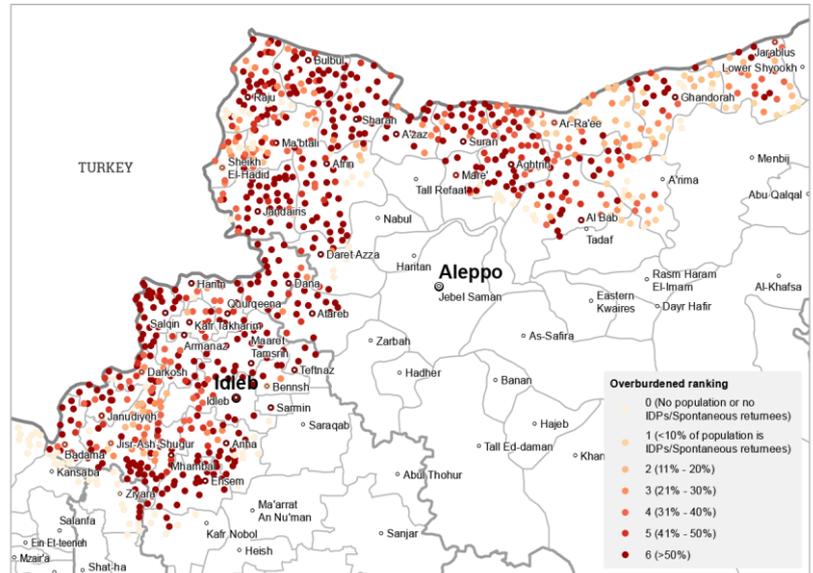


HIGHLIGHTS

- 23 people with COVID-19 have been identified in northwest Syria. Contact tracing has been activated and efforts continue to mitigate the spread of the virus and raise awareness about COVID-19 risks and precautions.
- Increased hostilities in the Idlib area and northern Aleppo were reported, including shelling, airstrikes, and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). At least 22 people were killed and 126 injured due to IEDs from 2-19 July, most of these in a single incident in Saju on 19 July.
- Major humanitarian needs persist across all sectors while the vulnerability of the people is exacerbated by the devaluation of the Syrian Pound and the impact of COVID-19. Increasing protection issues continue to be reported, including gender-based violence such as early marriages, short-term marriages, forced abortions and domestic violence.

Proportion of IDPs and Spontaneous returnees out of total population



Source: Population TF, April 2020
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

4.1 M

People in northwest Syria

2.8 M

People in need of humanitarian assistance

2.7 M

People are internally displaced

76%

Of the overall population are women and children

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The humanitarian situation for the 4.1 million people living in northwest Syria remains dire. The impacts of displacement, military operations, security hazards and nine years of conflict are increasingly exacerbated by the rapid devaluation of the Syrian Pound (SYP) and the COVID-19 pandemic. In an area where some 2.8 million people already rely on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs such as food, water, shelter, healthcare and education, the impact of these recent developments is entrenching the existing humanitarian needs and creating new ones.

As of 25 July, 23 people with COVID-19 have been identified in northwest Syria, with the first positive result recorded in Bab Al-Hawa on 9 July. Of these cases, some are in the Idlib area while the remaining are in northern Aleppo governorate. Since 9 July, five patients have recovered while other cases remain active. Contact tracing is ongoing for all positive cases and health partners are focusing on interrupting virus transmissions and reducing secondary infections. As of 24 July, almost 3,000 samples had been tested for COVID-19. Precautions against a potential spread of the virus have been scaled up in response to the identified cases, including restrictions on movements, gatherings, commercial activities, and in-person education services. These measures are crucial to contain transmissions of COVID-19, though they may intensify humanitarian need by complicating humanitarian response and through their impacts on local markets, income-generating

opportunities and vital services. A total of 159 hospitals and primary health centres (PHC) have been equipped with COVID-19 triage systems, and four community-based treatment centres (CCTC) have been operationalised to treat patients with mild-to-moderate cases of COVID-19. Humanitarian actors continue to adapt how they work in order to assist people in need while minimising transmission risks for themselves and local communities, suspending services only where no safe solution is available.

Another worrying trend affecting civilians is the increased levels of hostilities reported in northwest Syria in the last two weeks. On 14 July, airstrikes were reported in northwest Syria for the first time in more than three weeks, affecting several areas south of the M4 highway in Idlib governorate. On the following day, bombardment reportedly affected Al Bab town in northern Aleppo governorate. In addition, more frequent instances of shelling along the frontlines in southern Idlib, northern Hama, western Aleppo and Latakia governorates continue to be reported. From 2 July to 20 July 2020, the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) verified that five civilians were killed including 2 boys and 24 civilians were injured including 6 women and 7 boys as a result of hostilities. Moreover, on 14 July, a primary healthcare and a medical supplies warehouse in Ariha were reportedly damaged following bombardment in the Idlib area. The overall security situation remains concerning, including in areas away from the frontlines, as escalations in tensions and clashes between NSAGs continued to be reported in recent weeks, both in the Idlib area and northern Aleppo governorate.

The safety of civilians in northwest Syria is further undermined by the enduring prevalence of explosive hazards. In particular, improvised explosive device (IED) attacks continue to threaten the lives of both civilians and humanitarian workers. Between 2 and 19 July, OHCHR has verified at least 15 incidents including nine improvised explosive device (IED) and six explosive remnant of war incidents in northwest Syria and the Tell Abiad – Ras Al-Ain area. At least 22 civilians were killed including 2 women and 3 boys and 126 civilians were wounded including 14 women, 31 boys, and 4 girls. One IED incident in the vicinity of a bakery in Tell Abiad city on 7 July resulted in the death of six civilians, including two children and one woman, and injured at least 14 people. On 19 July, at least eight people including four civilian men were killed and 79 other people including four civilian women and nine boys were injured as a result of what was reported to be a vehicle-borne IED that detonated in the village of Saju near the city of A'zaz in northern rural Aleppo. Two people who have been killed by the explosion are reportedly humanitarian workers.

The Syrian Pound (SYP) in informal markets in northwest Syria is some 315 percent weaker than a year earlier. The SYP lost nearly half its value at the beginning of May 2020, when the exchange rate exceeded 1,300 SYP/USD for the first time ever. This rapid devaluation of the SYP and wide fluctuation range exacerbates the precarious situation as purchasing power rapidly erodes. According to market monitoring by an NGO partner, the cost of the survival minimum expenditure basket (SMEB) was 224,385 SYP in June 2020, some 68 percent higher than one month earlier. The SMEB in northwest Syria increased more than threefold in a little more than a year with the cost of the SMEB recorded at 67,599 SYP in May 2019. Across the Idlib and Afrin and A'zaz to Jarablus areas of northwest Syria, Turkish Lira and USD are being used as alternative currencies to mitigate against market volatility. People without adequate access to these currencies remain more exposed to market shocks and may face higher prices for the same goods and services due to exchange rate disparities – further marginalising the already poor and vulnerable members of society.

The impacts of the economic downturn compound those of displacements, which continue to be a key driver of humanitarian needs. Some 2.7 million people are displaced in northwest Syria. Most recently, of the 960,000 IDPs who were displaced between December 2019 and March 2020, some 756,000 people are estimated to remain displaced. According to a UN partner, some 204,000 spontaneous returns were recorded in northwest Syria since January 2020, including nearly 26,000 people who returned to their areas of origin in June. Most of these returns were to areas around the M4 and west of the M5 in the southern and eastern Idlib area. According to a recent assessment in communities where significant numbers of returns have been reported, families struggle more to access humanitarian assistance while enduring the impact of economic hardship, a volatile security situation, and heavily damaged infrastructure resulting from conflict. For instance, the prevalence of destroyed shelters in these communities of return is reported to be extremely high, at 72% of communities assessed compared to 27% across northwest Syria. While this leads to overcrowding in available shelters, repairs to damaged buildings are reportedly complicated by the high prices of materials and services as well as the volatile security environment. Families in 75% of the communities are reportedly unable to afford essential food items while half of the communities do not have sufficient access to water as a result of damage to public infrastructure or high prices of water trucking. Moreover, the assessment also concludes that there are limited differences between the communities of return along the frontlines and northwest Syria as a whole, reiterating that there are also extreme needs in other locations. As the weather gets hotter, needs related to coping with the heat and exposure to the sun are increasing, such as for weather-appropriate shelter, access to water, suitable food storage solutions, and protection from animals such as scorpions and snakes, which emerge during this season.

Protection issues are reportedly on the rise as the situation for people in northwest Syria grows more desperate, with increasing psychosocial stress, poverty and lack of employment opportunities compounded by the effects of COVID-19 related limitations. Significant increases in different types of gender-based violence (GBV) are being reported, particularly incidences of domestic violence such as marital rape, physical and emotional violence and denial of resources, with girls and women with disabilities and pregnant women especially vulnerable. As the economic downturn increasingly impedes the ability of households to meet their basic needs, financially motivated negative coping mechanisms are increasingly being adopted, including child labour, forced prostitution, forced abortions and early and forced marriages.

FUNDING

In total, since the beginning of the year, the SCHF has allocated US\$163 million to support the humanitarian response in northwest Syria, complementary to other bilateral and multilateral funding. Out of this amount, US\$ 19.2 million has been specifically allocated to support the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including US\$8 million for the procurement and shipment of personal protective equipment (PPE) to be distributed to frontline responders.

A record amount of US\$127 million dollars has been generously contributed by 15 donors since the beginning of the year. As of 23 July, the 2020 Syria HRP remains underfunded with 31 per cent of the total requirement funded halfway through the year, similar to the level reported earlier in July.

Further funding is needed to respond to the unabated needs of the population which continue to increase and are worsened with the expansion of the COVID-19 pandemic into northwest Syria. The funding allocated to date remains significantly insufficient to respond to the needs.

To support resource mobilization efforts, humanitarian partners are required to ensure information on funding secured is appropriately reflected on the **Financial Tracking Service (FTS)**. This will help provide an accurate overview of the funding situation for the humanitarian response in Syria.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Needs:

- The top three priority needs reported for new arrivals in June include shelter (27%), safety and security (24%) and cash/voucher assistance (14%), as indicated in the CCCM Cluster's monthly displacement updates.
- Over-populated sites and lack of camp management continue to be prevalent concerns, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic where the application of preventive, response and mitigation guidance is essential.
- Most of the displaced families hosted in 3 Reception Centres (RCs) have been there for some seven months already, with no resettlement possibilities due to lack of adequate shelter options. Facilitating the relocation of IDPs from overcrowded RCs to sites where physical distancing and hygiene practices are more feasible is therefore a main priority.

Response:

- Updated information from the IDP Sites Integrated Monitoring Matrix (ISIMM) database for June was shared with Cluster members. CCCM closely monitors 1,057 IDP sites hosting 1,468,500 displaced people. Of these, 80% are women and children, and 22,289 displaced people are reported to be persons with specific needs. In June, 84 new sites were added, and 20 sites were deactivated due to duplicated reporting of sites, as well as the depopulation and subsequent closure of some sites. More details about the IDP sites in north-west Syria are available via [the dashboard](#).
- The CCCM Cluster shared the June updates from its monthly displacement report. Over 46,574 recent displacements were tracked in June, noting that some individuals may have been exposed to multiple displacement and the reason for movement may vary. Some 28,504 IDP returnees were reported as having returned to the place of origin in northwest Syria in June. The top three IDP returnee destinations in June included Ariha, Ehsem, and Mhambal in Idlib governorate.
- As of 12 July, 3 functioning RCs have responded by hosting 3,598 displaced people, including the provision of food, shelter and WASH services.
- Land has been identified for potential use for displaced people and verified through the Land Identification Task Force, but in many cases cannot be used due to Housing, Land and Property (HLP) issues or not meeting the criteria.
- CCCM continues to monitor and report on multiple incidents in IDP sites as part of its coordination response.

- The CCCM Cluster Meeting was held on 14 July, attended by 70 participants. A presentation on PSEA in camps in north-west Syria was delivered by the PSEA network focused on understanding key concepts and principles, as well as various tools and response mechanisms.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Displaced people need to be relocated from schools to resume education activities, and some IDPs have been evacuated to RCs. Displaced people should not be forcibly evacuated and the appropriate procedures need to be followed, however some displaced people refuse to leave and local authorities plan to restart education processes.
- Continuous displacement has led to a decrease in areas available to accommodate the newly displaced population. Although IDP sites are usually a last resort option, there are currently 1,057 IDP sites listed in the CCCM Cluster's database hosting over 1.4 million displaced people. The vast majority of these are self-settled sites.
- Due to delays and/or contradictions in the information provided, a massive data cleaning process and verification is required.
- HLP and access continue to be some of the challenges that face organizations while establishing or expanding IDP sites.

Early Recovery and Livelihoods

Needs:

- According to the latest HNAP - Monthly Mobility and Needs Monitoring reports for June 2020, a deterioration in the economic situation was the most important reason for displacements during the month of June, while socio-cultural ties were the most important reason underlying arrival to current locations. 65 % of displaced people in Dana reported that they were primarily motivated by better access to livelihood opportunities. The majority of returnees had previously been displaced in Dana sub-district and the highest priority needs for returnees were reported to be livelihoods.
- According to the most recent Socio Economic Overview Report (HNAP, Spring 2020 Report Series, based on a nationwide demographic household survey conducted in January 2020), one in three households reported that their primary livelihood activity was private business, while daily labour (32%) was the most common livelihood activity in northwest Syria, followed by private sector employment - which does not include small businesses (31%) and public sector employment (12%).
- Household (HH) income is lowest in northwest Syria - where average income is 16% lower than national average. Female-headed households report an average income 33% lower than the national average, making them exceptionally susceptible to economic shocks.
- Households reported an average monthly income of 113,503 SYP. 61% of households reported that their income was insufficient to meet needs. Crucially, households who primarily depend on daily wage work (19% of total households and 32% of households in northwest Syria) on average report an income of 83,041 SYP, which is much lower than both the median and mean income.
- The most important household barrier to employment or diversifying income was a lack of employment opportunities, as reported by 66% of households, followed by a lack of financing (54%), lack of skills (40%), security situation (19%). From a regional perspective, the security situation and lack of employment opportunities are more frequently reported as an obstacle in northwest Syria. Lack of skills is an obstacle that is also more commonly reported by female-headed households (51%).
- 60% of households in northwest Syria reported that their income was insufficient to meet their needs, and subsequently asked about other forms of income upon which they relied for compensating for income gaps. 79% of households reported borrowing money or buying on credit and spending on savings (43%) which can negatively impact the ability to deal with future shocks due to the reduction of resources. 24% of households reported selling household goods/assets and 12% of households reported selling productive assets /means of transport which directly reduce the future productivity of households, including that of human capital formation. 3% of the households reported children in the household working also affecting future productivity and are more severe or extreme in nature for the household.
- 81% of males between the ages of 17 and 64 have worked over the final quarter of 2019 while only 9% of females have worked in the same period in northwest Syria, which is the lowest in work rates for both males and females nationwide.
- The most common reason for not working was due to disability (32%). However, for men, being a student was the most relevant reason, and for females, taking care of children or being pregnant. 17% of women who had not been working reported that they did not have the correct skills to match market demand, compared to 4% of men. One in ten women reported that they were not allowed to work (compared to just 1 in a 100 men).
- According to the most recent Market Network Analysis Report (REACH, February 2020 Report, conducted with 813 in-person interviews with Key Informants (KIs) on 12-13 February in order to gain an understanding of the interdependencies between markets and communities), 41% of KIs reported that members of their communities travel to access markets. Among these KIs, 48% reported their community members travel to purchase fuel, 43% for bulk

foods, 38% for hygiene items, and 33% for fresh foods. Among communities where travel was reported, members travelled the longest distances (on average) to access bulk foods. More variety, better quality, and cheaper prices were the most commonly reported reasons for which individuals travel outside of their own communities to purchase each item type. The most commonly reported unavailable market types within assessed communities were fuel markets.

- Following the worsening of the economic crisis, the Early Recovery and Livelihoods (ERL) Cluster consulted with its members to better understand the impact of the crisis on ERL operations, the mitigation and countermeasures adopted by ERL Cluster members to date and the emerging needs members are witnessing as a consequence of the economic situation. Some key feedback on impact and risks affecting the population and markets:
 - Sharp decrease in people's purchasing power. This has consequent negative impact on shops and businesses (compounding impacts of COVID-19-related restrictions), and the number of people in need of assistance is increasing, creating new gaps in the humanitarian response.
 - Individuals have become more reluctant to loan cash due to fears over volatility of the exchange rate and their potential inability to repay. More requests for livelihoods projects such as cash-for-work and other job creation interventions.
 - Rising tensions between individuals with regard to accessing livelihoods opportunities and jobs.
 - Possible rise in criminal activities due to further worsening of living conditions.
 - High volatility of the exchange rate means all market transactions entail high risk.
 - Higher production and service costs are negatively impacting the availability of materials on the market.
 - Traders' expectations about potential extra purchasing value of their goods in the immediate future are causing a slowdown of trade dynamics.

Response:

- 29 ERL members responded during June 2020. 20 ERL members operated in 13 Aleppo sub-districts reaching 116,721 direct beneficiaries (DBs), and 19 ERL members operated in 12 Idlib sub-districts reaching 307,628 direct beneficiaries.
- Rehabilitation of access to basic utilities (electricity, gas, water, sewage) interventions reached 82,318 households mostly in Dana, Armanaz, Idlib, Mhambal in Idlib governorate and Sharan in Aleppo governorate.
- 1,478 m3 of debris and waste was removed mostly Atareb and Afrin in Aleppo governorate and Ehsem and Dana in Idlib governorate.
- 1,804 persons were employed through the creation of short-term work opportunities, in light rehabilitation works of road, waste removal and drainage system rehabilitation, COVID-19 awareness raising campaigns, and personal protective equipment and mask manufacturing.
- 300 households were provided with basic housing repair support by construction of semi-permanent shelter structures or rehabilitation of damaged houses mostly in Akhtar in Aleppo governorate and Harim in Idlib governorate.
- Entrepreneurial activities supported 27 entrepreneurs to start a business or services with micro-loans, mostly in Al Bab in Aleppo governorate and Idlib.
- 1,674 people benefited from vocational and skill trainings, mostly supporting youth and women, entrepreneurial, computer, project management and industrial skills.
- 329 people with disabilities benefitted from cash-for-work/short term work opportunity activities such as PPE and anti-leishmania spray manufacturing.
- Rehabilitation work of 45 km of road and 6 drainage systems in Dana in Idlib governorate and A'zaz in Aleppo governorate was carried out. Rehabilitation of agricultural roads in Maaret Tamsrin and Mhambal in Idlib governorate is ongoing.
- Recommendations were provided to ERL members for mitigating the risk of COVID-19 transmissions while implementing activities.
- A specific Guidance Note, developed by a Cluster member, on the inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in COVID 19 Response in general and in ERL activities was provided to ERL members.

Gaps & Constraints:

- ERL members in northwest Syria are funded at approximately 4% of total requirement vis-à-vis 2020 HRP requirements (estimation based on June 2020, FTS data)
- In order to reduce the negative impact on affected population (IDPs, returnees, host communities) and on markets caused by the combination of pre-existing challenges, COVID-19 crisis and the ongoing economic crisis, increased funding is required on the following:
 - Support to businesses both in urban and rural environments
 - Start-up support through grants or micro-credit assistance
 - Support micro-businesses/businesses to contain the impact of COVID-19 and the ongoing economic crisis on their activities

- Creation of short-term work opportunities, particularly through scaling-up Cash for Work modality, possibly, but not exclusively, linked to rehabilitation works improving access to services.
- Rehabilitation/restoration of access to basic utilities, local economic infrastructure, and other social infrastructures, including:
 - Electricity (Provision of electricity through solar panel installation, etc.)
 - Access ways/roads to markets for farmers and other shop keepers/business owners, to cultivable lands, to and from IDPs camps.
 - Markets
 - Water systems (water pipes, pumping stations, ground water tanks to ease stress on overburdened services)
 - Rehabilitation of sewage channels and drainage systems to ease stress on overburdened services
- Restoration of essential services and basic infrastructure to prioritize activities that would support the preventive and curative health response to COVID-19, including rehabilitation of health centres/facilities, retrofitting of designated quarantine facilities, equipping of isolation centres, waste management, restoration of water and sanitation services and provision of energy to these facilities, etc., in close coordination with other sectors and local governance structure.
- Collecting daily solid waste in urban areas and inside camps, providing cleaning machines or garbage collection cars to the local councils, removal of demolitions from roads and sidewalks, cleaning of main and secondary roads and social infrastructures by removing rubble and garbage.
- Market-based modalities assistance to vulnerable households including assisting vulnerable households with transportation to/from markets and health facilities.
- ERL members in northwest Syria, acknowledging the need to face the extraordinary challenges caused by the devaluation of the SYP, continue to express the view/indicate the use of USD as the preferred way to reduce the risk/extent of losses due to exchange rate fluctuations and calls for such liquidity to be made available. According to ERL members, this would help them to continue supporting beneficiaries and affected population during this critical moment, while also trying to minimize additional negative effects that might further harm the people in need.

Education

Needs:

- An estimated 398,000 school-age children (5 to 17 years old) have been displaced in northwest Syria between December 2019 and February 2020.
- Due to the large influx of displaced families, many schools were converted to temporary shelters, preventing them from being used for educational purposes. 23,419 people reside in 277 schools in Afrin, Al Bab and A'zaz districts in northern Aleppo governorate and Ariha, Harim, Idleb and Jisr-Ash-Shugur districts in Idleb governorate.
- Education activities have been continuously suspended due to insecurity as well as schools being used as shelter. Only five schools remain functional in Ariha sub-district as a result, with overcrowded classrooms due to displacement from nearby locations.
- 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 neighbouring communities, impacting 48,649 children and 2,704 teachers.
 - 23 schools in the communities of Ariha, impacting 5,681 children and 384 teachers.
 - 41 schools in the communities of Saraqab, impacting 4,901 children and 615 teachers.
- Closures of schools due to COVID-19 compound the problem. Schools had been closed since 14 March in the Idleb area and since 16 March in northern Aleppo governorate and reopened temporarily.
- However, after the first confirmed case of COVID-19 being identified in northwest Syria on 9 July, schools have been closed again from 10 July. Learning has switched to the distance learning modality once more. Education authorities in Idleb are planning to assess the situation until 1 August and potentially reopen the schools after an assessment.
- Examinations for grades 9 to 12 began on 4 July and completed on 21 July in the Idleb area and northern Aleppo. Total number of children who received the exams is 24,404 students. 14,697 of these students in Grade 9 and 9,707 students in Grade 12.
- To address the needs, the objectives of the Education cluster are:
 - Providing education personnel and teacher incentives and training
 - Providing learning materials for children and teachers
 - Provision of non-formal education and summer school for out of school children (in classroom or remote/distance)

- Continuing to support for the safe reopening of schools (repair/expansion of classrooms and school furniture, WASH, hygiene promotion and supplies, school disinfection, etc.)
- Using a blended approach for students' learning process, combining face-to-face education with distance learning.
- COVID-19 prevention needs:
 - Cleaning of education facilities that are accessible to children and/or adults again.
 - Clean WASH facilities in schools (in coordination with WASH cluster).
 - Hygiene and basic health sensitisation at home, printed and/or through social media in coordination with Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) efforts.
 - Continued physical re-planning of school infrastructure, especially in camps, taking into consideration adequate physical distancing and to prevent large gatherings of children.
 - Maintain adjusted modalities for education services (classes etc.) to incorporate physical distancing and prevent large gatherings.
- Continuation of learning needs:
 - Childcare arrangements for children whose parents are healthcare workers (in coordination with the Child Protection sub-cluster).
 - Adaptation of existing curricula and implementation through printed materials and/or social media and self-learning programmes.
 - Assessment of students', parents' and teachers' access to affordable internet connectivity and internet-enabled devices. Consider paper-based individual home learning assignments based on current curricula as alternative.
 - Hold meetings virtually to consult with school governance bodies on the proposed approach.
 - Provision of education materials and supplies to children affected by COVID-19 to enable them to continue education through distance learning.
 - Provision of exercise sheets to all students, regardless of whether they have access to online platforms.

Response:

- The Education Cluster reached at least 358,079 school-age displaced children with education assistance. Children are being reached with diverse packages of education services including psychosocial support (PSS), psychological first aid (PFA), formal and non-formal education activities, home schooling, student bags and textbooks to minimise disruption to children's learning.
 - 11,682 children supported with PSS and PFA in Idleb, Maaret Tamsrin, Harim, Dana, Atareb, Qourqeena, Daret Azza and Bennsh.
 - 24,396 children supported with formal and non-formal education in Idleb, Harim, Dana, Atareb, Salqin, Maaret Tamsrin and Qourqeena including children with disabilities.
 - 74,802 children supported with recreational kits, school bags, student kits and textbooks in Idleb and Aleppo.
 - 4,150 children supported for their mid-year exams.
 - 173 children provided with medicine to treat 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 life skills, recreation and PSS education activities.
 - At least 147,108 children and teachers benefited from distance learning in Idleb and Aleppo governorates as an alternative way to continue education during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - In Idleb and Dana sub-districts, 171,494 students and teachers have been provided with awareness raising on COVID-19 and received information, education and communication (IEC) and sterilisation materials.
 - 25,529 students, teachers and parents sensitized on prevention of COVID-19.
 - Since February, 228,878 children from displaced and host community populations received textbooks in Idleb and Aleppo governorates.
 - 690 teachers and education personnel provided with teachers' incentives.
 - 185 teachers and education personnel were trained on literacy, numeracy and PSS and referral mechanisms.
 - 227 families have been provided with tents by Education Cluster members to support the relocation of displaced people sheltering in schools, in order to enable the resumption of learning activities in the affected areas.
 - At least 17,623 children in schools and temporary learning spaces benefited from sterilisation of education facilities as mitigation against the spread of COVID-19.
 - 25,000 masks provided for student exams in Idlib and Aleppo countryside.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Increased recent fighting is impacting on children's safety and security and the delivery of education services.

- Lack of funds inhibits the ability of Education Cluster members to provide quality education support, particularly in conjunction with the security situation in which children are constantly on the move.
- Education services need to be relocated to follow displaced populations and be established in locations where displaced people settle. Lost or destroyed educational materials need to be replaced.
- The education system in areas receiving newly displaced families was already overstretched prior to the latest displacement. The needs to receive the newly 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 have no basic safety equipment/systems in place despite ongoing safety and security concerns.
- Students and education personnel are not receiving the psychosocial support, knowledge and skills needed for a safe and productive learning environment.
- Suspension of schools due to COVID-19 impacted on the quality of education.
- Use of schools by IDPs as shelter impacted on the children's access to education services.

Food Security

Needs:

- Emergency food assistance is needed for recently displaced people during the first two to four weeks of displacement, through cooked meals and ready-to-eat (RTE) rations. After the first-line emergency response, displaced people need to be integrated into the monthly regular food assistance.
- After the initial wave of displacement, livelihood initiatives are key to support affected local communities and households to recover agricultural production, sustain small-scale food production, maintain productive assets and create income-generating activities to prevent negative coping mechanisms.

216,000

People in need of food assistance

Response:

- The FSL Cluster established three area coordination groups to enhance the coordination among its members in Idlib, in Afrin and A'zaz-Jarablus-AI Bab areas. These groups will be an addition to the Livestock Technical Working Group (LTWG), Agriculture Technical Working Group (ATWG), Bread and Bakery Coordination Group (BBCG), and the COVID-19 focal points group. The aim is to maximize coordination, avoid any potential overlapping, and exchange the knowledge, challenges, success stories, and lessons learned.
- 13 FSL Cluster members delivered emergency food assistance to 297,646 recently displaced people and returnees between 21 June and 21 July:
 - Seven FSL Cluster members distributed 32,388 Emergency Food Baskets to reach 173,252 people;
 - Seven FSL Cluster members distributed 23,790 ready-to-eat (RTE) rations to 119,254 people;
 - Three FSL Cluster members distributed 5,140 cooked meals to 5,140 people.
- The Cluster co-lead agency has prepositioned sufficient food to meet the needs of more than 1.3 million people for more than two months. The Cluster lead agency has more than 237,000 RTEs ready to respond to some 1.2 million people, with stocks strategically positioned in different warehouses managed by Cluster members in northwest Syria.
- The FSL Cluster released the bread and bakery dashboard, which includes actual figures for May 2020 and plans for July, August and September 2020, as well as the number of members currently working, or planning to work, in bread and bakery activities. In addition to the price per tonne of flour and per kilogramme of bread in northwest Syria, the three main points are:
 - In May, some 960,000 people benefited from bread assistance programmes by FSL members across 16 sub-districts in northwest Syria. Some 50 percent of beneficiaries were in Dana and Maaret Tamsrin sub-districts.
 - Although bread production is in most sub-districts, population needs in some areas remain unmet due to uneven production capacity across bakeries. More than one third of the surveyed bakeries are no longer operational.
 - The prices of flour and bread have fluctuated both in Idlib and northern Aleppo governorates: the subsidised price of one kilogramme of bread ranged between 212 SYP and 650 SYP in the Aleppo area, and between 225 SYP and 430 SYP in the Idlib area. The unsubsidised bread price ranged from 450 SYP to 650 SYP in the Idlib area and 350 SYP to 1,075 SYP in northern Aleppo.
- The FSL Cluster received an additional US\$ 2 million from the SCHF to support bread-related activities.
- Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) is globally the most dangerous infection of sheep and goats. The northwest Syria PPR vaccination campaign, implemented by three members since early May, covered 820,92 sheep and goats belonging to 20,155 households in 486 locations in all accessible parts of northwest Syria. This campaign is ongoing to vaccinate an additional 200,000 sheep & goats that arrived in northwest Syria from southern Idlib governorate and from northern Hama governorate in May and early June 2020.

- In June, a cluster member shipped 400 feed roller mills to Harim, Al Bab, Jarablus and A'zaz districts in northwest Syria. The equipment was distributed to 400 farmer groups (4,000 households) that are currently being trained and supported to use feed roller mills for producing animal feed on their farms. By producing their own animal feed, livestock owners no longer need to rely on purchasing expensive, low-quality commercial livestock feed.
- On 8 July, a cluster member transhipped Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) vaccine for cattle and Enterotoxaemia vaccine for sheep to northwest Syria. The LSD vaccination of cattle is urgent because an outbreak of LSD in Lattakia governorate is also affecting northwest Syria. Enterotoxaemia vaccination of sheep will be implemented according to the seasonal livestock vaccination calendar for Syria.
- Protection of livestock against endemic and epidemic diseases and improved local availability of quality animal feed increases the production of animal source foods for humans (dairy products, eggs, meat). The support provided to animal production is a significant contribution towards reducing human malnutrition, protecting human health and reducing the vulnerability of IDPs and host communities to COVID-19.

Gaps & Constraints:

- A gap of 216,000 people remains unreached by food assistance,
- There is a need to enhance the complementarity between food assistance and livelihood, in addition, to support the livelihood including the income generation activities.
- The harvesting season of wheat and barley started in the first week of June and will be completed by July.
- Several fire incidents were reported in northwest Syria in recent weeks. These had minor impact on arable lands in the northwest. As of mid-June 2020, nearly 48 hectares planted with wheat and barley were burnt, while fires were neutralised in more than 200 hectares of agricultural fields. 90 percent of these lands were harvested at the time of the fires. Preventive measures and firefighting points established and implemented by farmers, NGOs, civil defence teams and other stakeholders played an important role in preventing major damage.
- FSL Cluster members are applying mitigation measures related to COVID-19. The Cluster is planning to conduct a meeting with COVID-19 focal points to reiterate the messages about the mitigation measures and to make sure that Cluster members have the capacity to continue operating in case of a potential increase in confirmed COVID-19 cases.



Health

Needs:

- Due to the end of current funding and the absence of a sponsor for the supervision of dialysis centres, maintenance of dialysis machines and provision of basic medication are at risk of stopping. There is a need to ensure the continuation of services to support up-to 650 haemodialysis patients in northwest Syria whose lives depend on haemodialysis services.
- With the increase of leishmaniasis cases, there is need to provide more supplies and medication for prevention and treatment of leishmaniasis. Recent cases were reported in crowded camps and communities, which risk further spread of the disease in northwest Syria.
- For COVID-19:
 - There is an urgent need to increase the testing capacity by bringing more PCR kits, extraction kits and viral transport equipment. There will be more demand on testing in the next period as a result of people fearing being infected, for tracing contacts and for active screening to contain the virus.
 - There is a need to ensure that precautionary measures are rigorously implemented at community level such as appropriate use of masks, hand washing, physical distancing, avoiding mass gatherings and other measures as recommended by WHO and the COVID-19 taskforce.
 - There is a need to enhance the local procurement and production of masks aligned with the COVID-19 taskforce recommendations and WHO's global guidelines for mask use.

Response:

- To fill current gaps in leishmaniasis control, three leishmaniasis mobile treatment clinics will be operated in addition to the provision of support for leishmaniasis diagnostic and treatment services in 5 health facilities and the training of 250 community health workers.
- According to Health Cluster member reports, 75 to 80 % of all births in northwest Syria happen in emergency obstetrics and new-born care (EMONC) facilities. One maternal death was reported February 2020 by sexual and reproductive health partners.
- The sustainability of access to primary health care services including child health, reproductive health, management of communicable and non-communicable diseases is being supported by the Cluster lead agency. The services are provided by Health Cluster members in 27 primary health care facilities and mobile teams. 6 of these are in the Idleb area while 17 are in Afrin, and 4 in A'zaz and Al Bab in northern Aleppo. Technical support to the referral system

continues in Idleb and in Afrin while technical and financial support are provided for 147 health facilities affiliated with the referral system.

- A new laboratory (non-COVID-19) at the Kafr Janna primary health centre (PHC), and a new intensive care unit (ICU) in Akhtar hospital recently opened. A new mobile clinic started to work in Atareb and Daret Azza areas.
- Following the hibernation of Emergency Programme Immunization (EPI) activities at some centres, WHO guidelines were shared with implementing partners and health directorates in order to monitor rigorously the routine vaccination and to apply infection prevention and control (IPC) measures. Health Cluster members working in vaccination will continue providing services. While six to 22 teams out of 132 suspended their vaccination activities for three days as following the confirmation of the first positive COVID-19 case, all teams are now operational and apply full IPC measures. All EPI teams are trained on using preventive measures and social distancing and they are monitored by supervisors.
- The first multiple drug resistance tuberculosis (TB) case was reported in northwest Syria at the Idleb TB centre.
- Under the previous UN cross-border resolution, 48 truckloads of life-saving supplies were pre-positioned in order to ensure the continuity of the provision of 1,508,400 treatment courses in case the resolution was not renewed. These include:
 - 36,000 dialysis kits valued approximately at USD 1 million to cover the needs of 500 dialysis patients for a 7-month period.
 - Essential medicines for primary and secondary care services, specialized emergency health kits, insulin, psychiatric medications, anaesthesia, tuberculosis medications and antidotes in addition to medicines for chemical attack preparedness, including intensive care supplies.
 - 300 Infection Prevention and Control kits such as disinfectants, chlorine solution, liquid soap, etc. to cover 3-month supplies for 120 health facilities in northwest Syria.

COVID-19 Response:

- The first COVID-19 case in northwest Syria was identified on 9 July. As of 21 July, 22 cases have been identified from 2,954 tested samples. Of these, 15 cases are in northern Idleb governorate, with 7 cases in Sarmada sub-district, 2 cases in Dana sub-district, 3 cases in Atma sub-district, 2 cases in Bab Al Hawa and 2 cases in Idleb. The remaining 7 cases are in A'zaz (3) and Al Bab (4) sub-districts in northern Aleppo governorate. Five cases were reported to be recovered and no deaths were reported. Contact tracing is ongoing for all positive cases, and health partners are focusing on interrupting virus transmissions and reducing secondary infections.
- The cases are all coming from one cluster and located in Sarmada, Al Bab, Al Dana and Atma and 58 % are health workers while the others are their families. In total, 376 contacts were identified and has been traced for testing.
- The health authorities released public announcements to put on hold cold case surgeries (if no IPC or triage available in the facility), to respect the confidentiality of patient names, to follow public guidelines and recommendations and to recruit staff for community-based treatment centres (CCTC), COVID-19 hospitals and hotline numbers.
- Currently, six hospitals are designated to serve as COVID-19 referral hospitals: 4 active and 2 in plan with current capacity of 66 ventilators, 74 ICU beds and 355 ward beds. There is focus on improving capacity of ICU in terms of beds, HR and skills.
- One health partner provided two ventilators to Kafr Takharim hospital in addition to ICU beds and accessories.
- During the first 2 weeks of July, 350 suspected cases were referred to the referral hospitals and to the CCTCs, of which 120 from the points of entry (PoE) and 230 from the health facilities inside.
- The triage system is in assessment phase to verify triage functionality across all health facilities as the main challenges reported were in terms of securing space, recruitments and funding delays.
- Human resources, vehicles for referrals, equipment and supplies, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) were increased at 7 PoEs. In the first two weeks of July, about 152,000 travellers were screened by medical staff.
- New reinforcement messages were shared in the field targeting authorities and highlighting the seriousness of the outbreak. The community health workers (CHW) circulated the new messages to focal points in the community such as local councils in order to suspend the social gatherings, which resulted in the suspension of the local bazaar last week-end following the announcement of first confirmed COVID-19 case.
- A group of CHWs was trained by the Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN) on contact tracing in order to mitigate the shortage in health staff. They will be ready to support EWARN team in tracing COVID-19 cases.
- An online needs assessment tool was created for Health Cluster members to reflect current stock, pipeline and needs for PPEs and IPC kits followed by an orientation session on the tool.

Gaps & Constraints:

- At the Sexual Reproductive Health Technical Working Group, Health Cluster members are receiving increasing reports of families giving pre-pubescent girls hormonal medication to speed up puberty, so that they can marry and bear children. It is believed that this is a result of the desperate economic situation and the stresses/impact of COVID-19.

- The need for further funding is under discussion and will be coordinated in order to ensure that key facilities are supported as per prioritization based on sustainability, population and reported gaps/needs.
- In 2020, both cutaneous (CL) and visceral leishmaniasis (VL) are showing an increase compared to 2018 and 2019: 34 cases in 6 months in comparison to 22 cases in 2019 and 20 cases of VL in 2018. For the 34 cases of VL were diagnosed in northwest Syria in 2020, the average age is 2.5 years. In the past 6 months, 17,256 new cases of CL were diagnosed in northwest Syria, of which 8,689 are in Idlib governorate and 8,567 in Aleppo governorate.
- An alert of Meningitis cases was issued last week, mainly reported from Daret Azza.
- Influenza like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) in Idlib area are higher than same period last year with no cluster of cases.
- Households Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) vaccination was postponed from April 2020, following the recommendations from the Polio Oversight Board (POB), as a preventive measure to avoid the spread of COVID-19. Unfortunately, it is postponed again after the announcement of the first COVID-19 positive case in last week.
- The planned COVID-19 Community Treatment Centres (CCTCs) are still delayed due to local councils' agreement, donor agreements and the difficulty to recruit needed human resources.
- Due to the suspension of the cross-border movement through the point of entry, it is challenging for TB national focal points (2 doctors) to access northwest Syria and for the transportation of the sputum samples to Turkey for GeneXpert testing.
- As per restrictions related to COVID-19, global procurement shortages and shipment, some key laboratory supplies were delayed as well leishmaniasis supplies and medicines.

Nutrition

Needs:

- Based on June 2020 nutrition surveillance report, the proxy prevalence of acute malnutrition across northwest Syria based on community-based nutrition surveillance was 2 percent among children 6-59 months and 8 percent in pregnant and lactating women (PLW).
- The proxy prevalence of acute malnutrition was higher in Idlib compared to Aleppo among children 6-59 months (3 percent vs. 1 percent) and PLW (13 percent vs. 3 percent).
- The proxy prevalence of chronic malnutrition (stunting) among children 6-59 months across northwest Syria according to May 2020 surveillance report was 30 percent and it was higher among boys (32%) compared to girls (29%).
- In Idlib, the proxy prevalence of acute malnutrition was generally highest among those displaced compared to residents in both children 6-59 months (5 percent vs. 3 percent) and PLW (16 percent vs. 12 percent).
- The prevalence of acute malnutrition among children 6-59 months has increased from 1 percent in May 2019 to 2 percent in June 2020. Similarly, the prevalence of chronic malnutrition (stunting) has increased from 19 percent to 30 percent during the same period.
- Exclusive breastfeeding was found to be 37 percent, minimum dietary diversity at 57 percent, while minimum acceptable diet (MAD) was 41 percent.
- While the proxy prevalence of acute malnutrition in children 6-59 months remains relatively low, the high prevalence of stunting in children 6-59 months and acute malnutrition in PLW are of primary concern.
- The proxy prevalence of acute malnutrition among children 6-59 months in the following locations was found to be of primary concern (prevalence $\geq 5\%$): Qourqeena (10%), Armanaz (6%), Maaret Tamsrin (6%), Jisr-Ash-Shugur (5%), and Hazano (5%).
- The proxy prevalence of acute malnutrition among PLW in the following locations was found to be of primary concern (prevalence $\geq 10\%$): Aqrabat (30%), Qah (28%), Qourqeena (26%), Sarmada (25%), Janudiyeh (18%), and Maaret Tamsrin (17%).
- The poor nutrition situation is largely attributed to continued exposure of children and PLW to unsafe living conditions, diseases (including impacts of COVID-19), suboptimal infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices, high maternal malnutrition, economic downturn, low purchasing power, poverty, food insecurity, family separations and poor care practices, early marriages, and destruction of infrastructure causing limited access to health services, and inadequate sanitation and water supply.

1,010,606

Children below the age of 5 and pregnant and lactating mothers reached with life-saving nutrition services in 2020

Response:

- Since the start of the year, 1,010,606 children 6-59 months and PLW have been reached with life-saving nutrition services covering 513 communities and 40 sub-districts in Idlib and Aleppo.

- The number of children 6-59 months and PLW reached to date represents nearly 63 percent of the population in need with 23 percent increase in the coverage compared to the last situation update.
- The following numbers of children 6-59 months and PLW have been reached with specialized nutritious supplements – Ready-to-Use Foods (RUF), Lipid-based Nutrient Supplements (LNS), High Energy Biscuits (HEB) or micronutrient supplement:
 - 536,131 children 6-59 months reached which represents 58 percent of those in need.
 - 174,234 PLW reached which represents nearly 41 percent of those in need;
- Life-saving nutrition services are provided through 120 Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) and mobile teams, 10 Stabilization centers, 165 Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP), and 23 Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP) by 25 Nutrition Cluster members.
- Nutrition Cluster members provided the following services;
 - 146,066 displaced children 6-59 months and PLW received HEB for prevention of acute malnutrition;
 - 441,052 PLW and children 6-59 months received micronutrient supplementation;
 - 98,631 children 6-36 months received LNS for prevention of acute and chronic malnutrition;
 - 300,241 mothers and care givers were reached with infant feeding and caring practices messages and counselling.
- Out of the 1,010,606 PLW and children 6-59 months screened for acute malnutrition:
 - 3,367 cases of severe acute malnutrition and 9,938 cases of moderate acute malnutrition were identified among children 6-59 months and referred for appropriate treatment;
 - 11,311 acutely malnourished PLW identified and referred for appropriate treatment.
- Nutrition Cluster members provided the following COVID-19 related services;
 - 79,142 mothers and caregivers received information and prevention measures related to COVID-19;
 - 48,888 mothers and caregivers counselled on breastfeeding in context of COVID-19;
 - 20,969 beneficiaries received masks, IEC materials related to COVID-19 (posters, WhatsApp videos, etc.);
 - 723 staff of members trained on COVID-19 IPC measures;
 - 451 staff of members trained on nutrition programmatic adaptations in context of COVID-19 – Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM), IYCF-E, Surveillance, etc.;
 - 1,323 staff of members received personal protective equipment (PPE) tools (e.g. masks, gloves, hand sanitizers, etc.).
- Nutrition Cluster members are implementing the recommended adaptations in the context of COVID-19 which include: continuity of life-saving nutrition services, integration of IPC measures for mitigation of COVID-19 infection in all platforms, enhanced communication on IYCF-E in context of COVID-19, simplified protocol for treatment of acute malnutrition, surveillance, supply pre-positioning to avoid stockouts, etc.
- Nutrition Cluster COVID-19 taskforce meetings are conducted fortnightly to review emerging global evidence and recommendations and discuss experiences and questions raised by members in relation to the operational guidance. The Cluster also conducts coordination meetings fortnightly.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Members shared with the Nutrition Cluster some of the challenges being encountered in adjusting their operations in the context of COVID-19 according to the Nutrition Cluster guidance. The main challenges include lack of PPE, lack of infrared forehead digital thermometer to facilitate isolation at facilities, inadequate WASH services, and mobility restrictions.
- Some Nutrition Cluster members have procured light PPE for their non-health staff who are involved in routine Middle Upper Arm Circumference screening to ensure continuity of this activity as it informs the nutrition situation and impact of COVID-19 on children and PLW. However, the procured quantities are insufficient due to funding constraints.
- The proportion of those reached with services for treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), prevention of acute and chronic malnutrition, and micronutrient supplementation are 17 percent, 77 percent, and 49 percent respectively of those in need. The low achievements are indicative of limited funding, access constraints and supply shortages especially Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food (RUSF) for MAM prevention and treatment.
- The COVID-19 outbreak and economic downturn could potentially cause a further deterioration of the nutrition situation during the second half of 2020 attributed to dysfunctional markets, limited livelihoods opportunities, inflation, low purchasing power, increasing food insecurity, and disruption of access to health and WASH services.
- Limited implementation of an integrated approach which is crucial in addressing the underlying drivers of acute and chronic malnutrition.


Protection
Needs:

- The economic downturn and deterioration of the Syrian pound continues to exacerbate protection concerns. With regards to security of tenure, as a result of the deterioration of the Syrian Pound, landlords have increasingly asked for their rent to be paid in USD and have also raised monthly rental fees in order to support their own increased costs of living. The de facto authorities in Idlib issued a decision on 2 July 2020 establishing the Turkish Lira as the official currency for rental and real estate agents' fees. The full implications of this decision are yet to be seen.
- As of March 2020, the de-facto authorities have assumed control of property from people who are absent from the area. Most of these owners are currently displaced in Government of Syria-controlled areas. This is in addition to the seizure of the property of minorities that began in 2019.
- A circular was issued giving local councils authority to lease vacant houses for IDP accommodation. Some families and representatives of absent owners are appealing. However, property owners currently displaced in areas controlled by the Government of Syria often cannot travel to these areas for a variety of reasons, including the closure of official crossing points. Many absent property owners have been attempting to transfer their property to relatives who are living in the northwest to avoid the confiscation of their property but face high fees and security checks by the local authorities.
- Forced evictions from collective centres continue to occur, notably of multiple families from schools in several districts.
- It has been found that humanitarian organizations' payment of above-market rent prices contributes to insecurity of tenure for persons of concern, as in some cases landlords refuse to rent to IDPs or evict them in order to collect the higher price. According to the Do No Harm principle, humanitarian programmes should conduct due diligence before renting property to ensure that no one is evicted as a result and that they are not paying above-market prices.
- Following the announcement of confirmed COVID-19 cases, many health facilities in northwest Syria reinforced several restrictions on service provision as precautionary measures against COVID-19. This has reportedly curtailed women and girls' access to critical medical services, including deliveries in some incidences.
- Members of the GBV sub-cluster continue to report a significant increase in different types of gender-based violence (GBV), including domestic violence, forced marriages as well as sexual violence. This has reportedly led to a notable increase in unwanted pregnancies and women frequenting health facilities to ask for abortions and an increased request for virginity testing. As a result, GBV partners are warning against severe consequences already observed, such as suicide attempts, especially amongst girls who are being forcibly married off by their families and abused women, in addition to the spread of addictions amongst women and adolescent boys to narcotic pills. Such addiction further exposes women and adolescent boys to the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse. "When I take these pills, I become numb and don't feel the pain of my husband's battering. I feel like a 15-year-old full of energy," an adult female beneficiary from Idlib said.
- This reporting period has continued to be characterized by persistence of child protection concerns in northwest Syria, aggravated by COVID-19 pandemic and the devaluation of the Syrian Pound and its impact on the local economy. The impact of the devaluation exacerbates an already dire humanitarian situation for children in northwest Syria that is resulting in a steep increase in occurrence of child labour including worst forms of child labour. Reports from the field in this period confirm increase of child labour and child marriage including an increase on numbers of children in the street until very late at night begging or hoping for casual labour.
- Despite limitations in an increasingly restrictive operational environment and partial suspension of Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs) activities, child protection partners have strived to deliver, while incorporating where possible COVID-19 prevention messages and messages on childcare in times of isolation and unpredictability. With the confirmation of COVID-19 cases in northwest Syria in this reporting period, partners are preparing for implementing with even tighter measures on the ground. It is expected that results will come at a slower pace.

Response:

- From July 6th to the 21st, four Protection Cluster members provided emergency response services for civilians displaced from Idlib and Aleppo due to the ongoing hostilities. Moreover, cluster members provided 12,517 protection interventions to IDPs and affected host community members in 21 communities within 8 sub-districts in Idlib and Aleppo reaching 5,521 individuals (1,749 girls, 538 boys, 2,911 women, 323 men). Protection actors provided the main services below:
 - Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Psychosocial Support (PSS)
 - Information sharing about other services
 - Dignity kits distribution
 - Risk education
- Cluster members also referred individuals to other basic services, notably to health and shelter, and provided Individual Protection Assistance (cash grants for protection purposes). It should be noted that the above emergency response activities are in addition to activities included in the HRP and monthly reported through the 4Ws.

- Members of the GBV Sub-Cluster continue providing GBV services both through static facilities and online which is creating a number of different entry points for disclosure of GBV and receipt of services. Even with the restrictions in place, it is important to ensure that GBV services are available and funded as per [donor advocacy note brief on critical GBV services during COVID-19](#).
- In response to reported increased request for virginity testing, the GBV SC has re-disseminated the [Virginity Testing guidance note](#) developed by the GBV SC and RH Technical Working Group, which is a standard agenda item in Clinical Management of Rape trainings in northwest Syria.
- Since December 2019, GBV SC members distributed 152,537 dignity kits. Based on beneficiaries' feedback, those kits were critical in responding to their increased need for personal hygiene products in time of COVID-19.
- In response to the recently reported trend of forcing girls to take hormone medications to speed up puberty, GBV partners have increased awareness raising efforts to spread awareness on this trend and its consequences on girls. They have also continued to share information using all communication means on available GBV services including case management. Provision of case management designed according to the situation of the girl survivor, whether she is already married or at imminent risk, in collaboration with medical professionals has also continued. Coordination with the RH Working Group has also taken place to explore response actions that could be taken by health partners.
- During the reporting period, 3,204 individuals (1,418 girls, 1,306 boys, 226 women and 254 men) have been reached with child protection emergency interventions.
- 1,534 children (808 girls and 726 boys) received psychosocial support (structured and sustained) and Psychological First Aid (PFA). In addition, 343 children (188 girls and 155 boys) were reached through distribution of PSS kits. For all these activities, 52% of children reached were located in Armanaz, Harim district and 48% in Idleb, Idleb district, in Idleb governorate.
- 1,284 caregivers and children (399 girls, 405 boys, 226 women and 254 men) were reached through awareness raising on child protection issues including prevention. For this activity, 69% of the people reached were located in Armanaz, Harim district and 48% in Idleb, Idleb district, in Idleb governorate.
- 43 children were referred to specialized services (23 girls and 20 boys). Along these lines, case management including family tracing continues to be provided, while taking the necessary precautions due to COVID-19. In the month of June, a total of 2,195 new cases were registered (1,000 girls and 1,195 boys). 79% of all new cases were identified in Idleb governorate (57% in Harim, 35 in Idleb and 8% in Jisr-Ash-Shugur sub-districts). On the other hand, 21% were identified in Aleppo governorate (48% in A'zaz, 21% in Jabal Saman, 13% in Afrin and 9% in Jarablus sub-districts).

Gaps & Constraints:

- Access to services for people who moved back to areas in the vicinity of the M4 and M5 highway in northwest Syria remains limited due to several factors, including heavy damage to civilian infrastructure in arrival areas and suspension or relocation of humanitarian services due to the unstable security situation.
- The increase in basic needs across the population due to the currency devaluation and economic downturn worsens the risk of adoption of negative coping mechanisms. Acceptance of protection interventions may also decrease as the population prioritizes addressing basic material needs.
- Activities that continued with COVID-19 countermeasures included specialized services such as case management for high-risk and individual cases and referrals for child protection, GBV and mine action, individual protection assistance and physical rehabilitation. Where feasible, psychosocial support, legal awareness raising, and counselling on housing, land, and property rights and civil documentation have also continued (in centres, via outreach, and in camps).

Shelter

Needs:

- As of June 2020, over 2.6 million IDPs are living in northwest Syria. According to the Humanitarian Needs Assessment Programme's (HNAP) Mobility and Needs Monitoring Factsheet in June, 49% of IDPs are now living in adequate housing. However, shelter options remain limited with 45% of IDPs using emergency shelter, 5% living in sub-standard buildings and 1% have found public buildings to reside in.
- In the first of several planned assessments taking place in April 2020, a total of 87 collective shelters were assessed to determine the current living conditions and availability of services including water, sanitation, hygiene, cooking facilities, electricity, and security of tenure. To support Cluster members in conducting their own assessment prior to making an intervention, HNAP and the Shelter/NFI Cluster (SNFI) team also prepared individual profiles on each collective shelter. While this first assessment concentrated on A'zaz, Afrin, Al Bab, Dana, Mare', and Salqin sub-districts, a second-round assessment in June 2020 has focused on the living conditions in 43 collective centres in Akhtarín, Harim, Jandairis, Qourqeená, and Maaret Tamsrin sub-districts. Access to the report is available through this [link](#).

- As this assessment takes place three months after the announcement of a ceasefire that led to the displacement of 961,000 IDPs between December 2019 and March 2020, more and more IDPs are leaving collective centres and moving into informal settlements due to the lack of services and inadequate living conditions within these centres or due to evictions to return these buildings to their pre-displacement use. While HNAP's population baseline assessment estimated that 162,204 IDPs were living in collective centres in the assessed sub-districts as of March 2020, when the assessment was conducted in early June, only 7,085 IDPs were living in such centres.
- As in the first round of data collection, many of the living conditions in these collective centres were found to be inadequate. In this round of data collection, 9 collective centres were found to have minor inadequacies, 32 collective centres were found to have moderate inadequacies, and 2 were found to have severe inadequacies. The centres identified in the first round of data collection predominantly had issues with inadequate space, WASH conditions, and cold and damp conditions within the centre. The centres identified in the second round of data collection had predominant issues with damages in the building and sanitation issues. For example, 58% of the collective centres where 3,676 displaced people are living reported damage. 72% of the collective centres reported that there were no bathing facilities, forcing 4,472 displaced people to take showers in other locations such as in tents or caravans, in their living units, and designated places for showering. 72% of collective centres also had 20 or more people per toilet which falls below the post-emergency standards.
- In line with these key findings, as well as the underlying objective to support Cluster members in designing interventions to improve living conditions within collective shelters; Shelter Cluster members are advised to consider the following recommendations:
 - Liaise with the Shelter Cluster in order to review the individual profiles of each collective shelter and to receive guidance on possible interventions. The collective shelter profiles include useful information such as maps, pictures of the shelter, population data, conditions of the building, and adequacy issues.
 - Assess the collective centres and consider their own operational capacity to deliver interventions in line with the broad categories outlined by the Shelter/ NFI Cluster: Extreme, Severe, Moderate and Minor inadequacies.
 - Prioritize collective shelter interventions that aim to decongest overcrowding in existing collective shelters.
 - Aim to improve available sanitation services and the ability to store water for drinking, cooking, and bathing.
 - Liaise with the Education Cluster before any intervention in schools in order to provide solutions that address both needs for adequate shelter and access to education.

Response:

- SNFI Cluster members continue to actively respond to the needs of the newly displaced population as well as protracted IDPs. Around 396,918 individuals, both displaced people and host community members, were assisted with NFI and/or shelter in June.
- In June, 314,148 individuals received NFI assistance in the form of NFI kits, kitchen sets, mattresses and blankets. Some of these distributions were complimented with supplementary NFI items. Shelter needs of around 82,770 people were addressed with activities like provision of emergency shelter (76,158 people) or shelter rehabilitation and repair (6,612 people) during June.
- This makes a total of 662,820 people reached in 2020 with shelter assistance, including rehabilitation of infrastructure (197,665 people); provision of emergency shelter (358,785 people); shelter rehabilitation and transitional shelters (76,007 people); seasonal shelter assistance (30,363 people). Around 1,335,682 people were reached in 2020 with NFI assistance like seasonal and/or supplementary (335,593 people), and core NFI distributions (1,000,089 people). All figures are based on reporting by cluster members.
- SNFI continues building the members' capacity through a series of trainings on site planning that started on 13 July and will last until 4 August covering the main topics of:
 - Demonstration of "terrain analysis" based on the software "Global Mapper";
 - Children in IDP sites – design and protection;
 - Introduction to GIS using qGIS;
 - Site Planning strategies to mitigate GBV.
- Continuous support is being provided to Cluster members who are involved in establishing new sites/camps and expanding some existing sites by site planners in the cluster team members. This ensures supporting members with site-planning expertise in order to enhance shelter solutions. Cluster members are encouraged to present their best practices and share experiences during the cluster meetings.
- Fire incidents have been reported almost on a daily basis and many tents have been damaged according to poor electric networking that causes fire hazards. The cluster and its members are mapping the incidents and delivering tents and NFIs to the affected households.
- The cluster team has worked with the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) members and engaged with site planners to develop a guideline of Flood Classifications and Effects on IDP sites that will be shared with the cluster members to mitigate the risks, especially in self-settled sites and camps. The cluster coordination team is also updating the NFI technical guidelines before sharing with the SAG and publishing.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Difficulties to find a place to rent. While the availability of houses and apartments for rent has improved over the past month, IDPs reported that the spike in the market has meant that many cannot afford rent. The price of rent is often indexed to the dollar, therefore prices in SYP have significantly increased, putting people at risk of eviction.
- Improving infrastructure in camps and IDPs sites is essential to avoid future floods that happen regularly. These activities include drainage system upgrades and rehabilitating the infrastructure.
- In case of new emergencies resulting from deteriorated security situations, preparedness and response plans require additional funds as the cluster members only obtained secured fund for 24,150 tents (44% funded) and 69,000 NFI kits (15% funded). The cluster therefore advocates for additional funds to cover the remaining gaps in tents and NFIs.
- Shelter inadequacies require significant capacity and budget to address, specifically to respond to the inadequacies in collective shelters. As the situation in Syria is still volatile and more people have moved to a smaller area in northwest Syria, there are still thousands of families seeking safe and adequate shelters.
- The COVID-19 outbreak created additional burdens on cluster members to mitigate the risk of transmission. These specific procedures require additional time, staff, efforts and cost in order to ensure appropriate risk mitigations are applied.
- In response to fire incidents in IDPs sites and camps, there is a need to raise awareness on fire hazards, distribute fire extinguishers and train family female members on using them while men are away during the day.


Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
Needs:

- The increasing demand for soap in the local market is leading to an increase in the prices of the soap purchased by NGOs ordering large quantities, while the price for the local population buying at retail reportedly remains unchanged.
- Prices in the local markets in general are increasing as a consequence of the devaluation of the SYP against the USD. The diminishing value of the SYP is decreasing the purchase power of local communities, forcing households to reprioritise their needs. As a result, under the same conditions, reliance on humanitarian aid will increase across all sectors in the medium and long term. WASH Cluster member organisations are less susceptible to the fluctuating SYP value as grants are provided in USD.
- Comprehensive life-saving WASH services are still needed across all WASH services and supplies in northwest Syria, including hygiene kits, jerry cans and water storage capacity.
- There is a need to increase the operational support to existing piped water systems to handle additional population in communities and in surrounding informal/formal settlements and camps. Attention is needed for ensuring services to returnees.
- Access to safe water and sanitation services is required in areas to which people are returning after displacement.
- The possibility of renewed escalation in hostilities requires a contingency plan to support the WASH needs of the potentially displaced population.

Response:

- In its overall response, the WASH Cluster has provided safe water supply for over 2.2 million people (infrastructure and water trucking), solid waste management support for some 1 million people, and access to sanitation for 422,563 people (infrastructure and latrines). The Cluster has also reached more than 1.4 million people with hygiene kits.
- The ongoing emergency WASH response has reached 1.3 million recently displaced people in 1,176 locations through 29 Cluster members. 82 percent of the locations responded to are camps, 13 percent are communities, 2 percent are collective centres and 3 percent are other locations.
 - 529,453 people received and continue to receive water via water trucking;
 - 631,722 people received solid waste management services;
 - 250,158 people received new latrines (most of the existing public/community latrines are overcrowded due to an inadequate number of latrines);
 - 512,755 people benefited from hygiene kits (102,551 family hygiene kits intended for five people per kit);
 - 345,491 people benefited from water purifying agents (Aqua tablets);
 - 456,740 people benefited from the distribution of jerry cans (91,348 jerry cans distributed, two 10 litre jerry cans per household).
- Cluster members continue to scale up the response for people displaced between December 2019 and early March 2020, including with COVID-19 mitigation activities.
 - 83,784 people are expected to receive water trucking, based on Cluster members' plans for displaced people;

- 88,405 people are expected to receive solid waste management services, especially in locations with large populations of displaced people. This will benefit both displaced and host communities (50 percent host community, 50 percent IDPs);
- 54,568 people will benefit from new latrines currently under construction;
- 163,600 people will benefit from the available hygiene kits (32,720 actual family hygiene kits);
- 125,784 people will benefit from available jerry cans (25,156 jerry cans available, each household usually receives two 10 litre jerry cans).
- WASH projects were allocated some US\$ 10.2 million in the first SCHF standard allocation and are expected to commence in mid-July.
- For COVID-19:
 - According to updates from 24 WASH Cluster members in 110 locations to the WASH COVID-19 reporting matrix, 89 percent have changed their response due to COVID-19, 80 percent have increased the amount of water supplied, 83 percent have adapted hygiene promoted activities, 59 percent have increased the amount of soap distributed, and 15 percent have increased the amount of laundry detergent distributed.
 - Collaboration between the WASH and FSL Cluster lead agencies continues with actual/planned distribution of 720,000 food parcels in northwest Syria from April to June. This includes adding bar soap to 720,000 food parcels and pasting stickers with COVID-19 prevention measures on 420,000 of these.
 - The WASH Cluster lead agency will purchase 1,056,000 soap bars over the next six months, to be delivered to the COVID-19 Awareness Team (CAT) through a WASH Cluster member. Activities related to this batch of soap will be implemented on the ground by a group of 1,600 Community Health Workers (CHW).

Gaps & Constraints:

- 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 21 sub-districts for some 172,000 displaced people are:
 - 142,747 displaced people lack water trucking (many more displaced people share existing water supply of host communities and other displaced people);
 - 137,434 people need public latrines rehabilitation or construction;
 - 172,157 people need recurrent solid waste management;
 - 170,620 people need hygiene kits.
- No major challenges have been reported with regards to transshipments, and hygiene kit quotas are being met in the cross-border shipments.
- Volatility and devaluation of the SYP resulted in inflation at local markets and increase in prices of essential commodities such as water supply through venders and hygiene items. The additional impact that is relevant but not direct, is the additional challenge the increasing prices of food items, which could lead to prioritizing food over other essential lifesaving requirements such as water and proper sanitation.
- Few WASH Cluster members have been impacted by the volatility of the currency as contracts are either in USD or equivalent to USD exchange rate.
- WASH Cluster is continuing to monitor the situation and preparing to explore scaling up delivery of supplies and services to people in need depending on the emerging needs.

Logistics

Needs:

- 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.
- The transshipment hub at Bab al Hawa requires an increase in staffing, which in turn requires physical hub expansion to maintain COVID-19 preventive measures and observe physical distancing.
- Ensuring the safety and health of the staff working at the transshipment points by following WHO guidelines on mitigating COVID-19 risks at transshipment points.
- Assessing the capacity of main humanitarian supply routes inside the northwest of Syria and mapping physical road access.
- Monitoring the availability of warehousing space inside northwest Syria.
- Partners including local and international NGOs, donors and partners at the global level are expressing the need to establish a procurement working group.
- With the outbreak of COVID-19, coordination and timely information sharing with partners will be critical to assist the operational decision-making by partners and to ensure that bottlenecks or the duplication of efforts are avoided.

Response:

- In July to date, the Logistics Cluster has coordinated the transshipment of 391 Syrian trucks (294 through Bab al-Hawa and 97 through Bab al-Salam), facilitating the delivery of 4,531 metric tonnes of WASH, Shelter, Health, Education, Nutrition and Food Security sector items.
- The Logistics Cluster is working with the relevant stakeholders in the humanitarian community to develop a physical access constraints map of northwest Syria.
- The transshipment hub at Bab al Hawa is being expanded to improve physical distancing.
- The Cluster continues to implement COVID-19 counter-measures at the hubs, including regularly holding workshops on COVID-19 awareness.
- To promote physical distancing, the Logistics Cluster has developed procedures for coordination meetings to continue to be held online. In addition, regular communication of logistics information and updates through a dedicated mailing list continues to be provided.

Constraints:

- Increased lead time for in-transit goods and uncertainty over the availability of medical supplies at local and international markets.
- Road conditions inside certain areas of the northwest are a constraint to truck traffic movements, where road maintenance may be required.

For further information, please contact:

Markus Werne, Head of Office, UNOCHA Turkey, werne@un.org, Tel: (+90) 342 211 8601, Cell +90 535 413 8159

Annette Hearn, Deputy Head of Office, UNOCHA Turkey, hearns@un.org, Tel: (+90) 342 211 8604, Cell +90 535 021 9574

For more information, please visit www.unocha.org | www.reliefweb.int | <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/stima>