

HIGHLIGHTS

2.7 M

displaced people living in northwest Syria

1,302

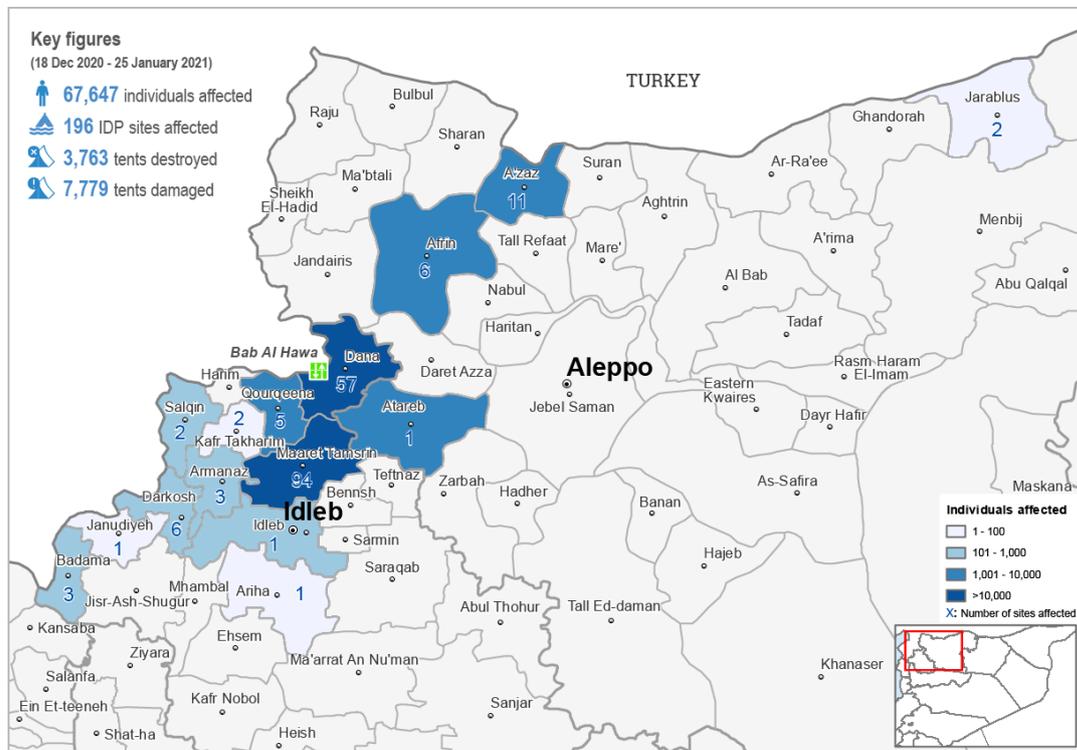
active IDP sites in northwest Syria

1.6 M

displaced people living in IDP sites

67,647

IDPs affected by flood incidents



Source: CCCM Cluster, January 2021

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

HIGHLIGHTS

- Heavy rainfall across the Idlib area and northern Aleppo governorate has reportedly caused damage to at least 196 IDP sites, with at least 67,647 people affected by the floods.
- 20,939 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in northwest Syria. Despite a reduction in new cases, the number of deaths associated with COVID-19 increased by some 46 percent to 380. Funding is needed to meet the COVID-19 response plan and crucial to ensure that essential health services are available and accessible by all people in northwest Syria, especially as some COVID-19-related programs are running out of funding.
- A funding shortfall leading to significant gaps in water and sanitation services has resulted in people in need of these services increasing to over 2.6 million people in the last 3 months. Further gaps are expected to compound with the existing gaps in the next two months.
- Several protection programmes have been temporarily suspended, with funding shortages likely to worsen the impact of flooding, COVID-19, and economic hardship among the vulnerable population.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Ongoing hostilities: Artillery shelling and similar bombardments continued to impact communities across the northwest, especially around the M4 and M5 highways in the southern and eastern Idlib area. Civilian casualties continued to be reported, killed and injured by shelling or improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and explosive remnants of war (ERW). Some IED incidents occurred in residential areas or at local markets, with particular risk to civilians. The UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) reports that since 18 December, shelling in northwest Syria killed at least seven civilians and injured two others, including one woman. During the same period, at least five IED incidents and two ERW incidents were reported, killing at

least three civilians including one child and injuring 22 others, including eight children and three women. Many of these casualties were reportedly from just two vehicle-borne IED (VBIED) explosions in northern Aleppo governorate – in Jandairis on 2 January and in the A'zaz countryside on 17 January.

Flooding and winterisation: Winter conditions are exacerbating the existing humanitarian needs of communities, with flooding across northwest Syria, particularly at IDP sites. Between 14 and 20 January, heavy rainfall across the Idlib area and northern Aleppo governorate reportedly caused damage to at least 196 IDP sites, with many roads leading to camps reportedly cut off or damaged. According to the CCCM Cluster, at least 67,644 people were affected by the floods, with over 3,762 tents reportedly destroyed, and more than 7,728 tents damaged. Many people also had food and household items damaged or destroyed during the floods. Thousands of people temporarily relocated, many requiring shelter, food, and non-food item support immediately and in the long term.

The rain and low temperatures highlight the continued need for fuel and heating, winter clothes, blankets, food, livelihoods, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Without adequate winterisation, people in need resort to negative coping mechanisms, such as reliance on burning unsafe materials for heat, which have led to outbreaks of fires or harmed people through the emission of toxic fumes. The likelihood of accidental fires is increased by challenges in accessing safe fuels, due to fuel prices and availability as well as the general economic deterioration in northwest Syria. In the past month, the CCCM Cluster reported 17 fire incidents, that affected 28 households, destroyed 28 tents, and resulted in one death and seven injuries.

COVID-19: Confirmed COVID-19 cases in northwest Syria are rising at lower rates than before. 82,751 tests have been conducted to date, with 20,939 cases confirmed as of 25 January – 11,489 cases in the Idlib area and 9,450 in northern Aleppo governorate. Some 10.5 percent of all COVID-19 cases are in IDP camps. In the last month, case numbers in the northwest increased by over seven percent, compared to a 47 percent increase in the previous reporting period. However, anecdotal information suggests that COVID-19 remains widespread despite the reduced rate of confirmed cases and that people are wary of seeking testing and treatment due to reasons including stigma and concerns about the loss of livelihoods. Over the same period, and despite the reduction in new cases, the number of deaths associated with COVID-19 increased by some 46 percent, to 380 COVID-19 associated deaths – 50 percent of which were in just two districts: Harim and Idlib. The percentage of current cases among medical healthcare workers decreased to 7.4 percent, encompassing nurses, doctors and midwives, while a further 5.4 percent were auxiliary workers in the health sector.

Since the last situation report, three more hospitals were operationalised to treat COVID-19, bringing the total number of referral hospitals in northwest Syria to 12 (with 232 intensive care unit (ICU) beds and 908 regular beds). ICUs have increased occupancy rates compared to regular ward admissions; averaged across October to December 2020, isolation ICUs requiring supportive oxygen therapy saw a 68 percent occupancy rate compared to 33 percent in regular wards. There is renewed focus on securing adequate oxygen supply for hospitals and COVID-19 Community-based Treatment Centres (CCTCs). The referral hospital in Dana was recently upgraded to 30 ICU beds and is currently in the process of installing an oxygen generator. IPC programmes continue to be supported through the provision of field visit technical supervision and on-job coaching and training. Since the last situation report on 21 December, IPC training was provided to 226 staff working at CCTCs.

Concerningly, funding gaps are an urgently growing problem for the health sector. Eight CCTCs have been deactivated since the last situation report, due to a lack of funding, and further imminent gaps risk disrupting services, including for surveillance, laboratories, hospitals and primary health centres in the coming months.

Planning is also underway for COVID-19 vaccinations, with preliminary discussions focused on vaccinating some 20 percent of the northwest Syria population through the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access Facility (COVAX). This equates to some 850,000 people, and will prioritise frontline healthcare workers and humanitarian workers, people aged above 60, and people aged 20-59 with comorbidities.

Population movements: More than 2.7 million people remain displaced in northwest Syria. According to the CCCM Cluster, there were more than 32,000 displacements in northwest Syria in the month of December, with departures principally occurring from Afrin, Idlib and Ariha. The main locations where displaced people had arrived to included the Afrin, Sharan and Raju sub-districts. Some people may have been exposed to multiple displacements, and reasons for moving vary. According to the CCCM Cluster, approximately 3,500 IDP returnees were recorded to have returned to their homes or to previous places of displacement, mainly arriving to the Mhambal, Afrin and Raju sub-districts during the same period. The top three needs reported for newly displaced persons were winterisation (23%), NFIs (20%), and shelter (18%).

FUNDING

The Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF) ended the year with the completion of its second standard allocation, including top-up funding to support winterisation activities, owing to donor contributions at the end of the year. The SCHF had the highest amount of contributions received (US\$ 155 million) and allocations made (US\$ 183 million) since the Fund's inception, by funding 200 projects.

Since the beginning of 2021, the Fund has only received US\$ 12 million in a single pledge from one donor, and no firm contributions have been received yet. While this amount is currently limited to trigger a new standard allocation, discussions are ongoing on the planning of the next allocation. As the current funding outlook may see a decrease in donors' contributions, this will likely call for a robust prioritisation process.

Significant funding gaps have been noted by the WASH, Health, and Protection Clusters, with several programs closing down or at imminent risk of doing so. In particular, millions of people may go without adequate water and sanitation services, several COVID-19 treatment centres and facilities that treat gender-based violence are at risk of closing. Urgent funding is needed to maintain existing programming.

Further funding is needed to meet the increasingly complex and diverse needs in northwest Syria. As of 21 January, the 2020 Syria Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) was 55.5 percent funded out of a US\$3.82 billion total requirement. Resource mobilisation is continuing into the new year and in the lead-up to the Senior Officials' Meeting in February, with donors encouraged to pledge and disburse their regular contributions as early in the year as possible. The funding required to respond to the needs is not expected to decrease in 2021, with a current ask for the 2021 HRP estimated at \$4.2 billion.

Further information on the SCHF activities and contributing donors can be found here: <https://pfbf.unocha.org/>

KEY PRIORITIES & RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

Camp Coordination and Camp Management:

From 18 December 2020 to 20 January 2021, **67,647 IDPs were affected by flood incidents and 17 IDPS sites were affected by fire incidents**. The CCCM cluster continues to closely cooperate with other clusters on the prevention and response to the floods. The CCCM Cluster agreed to conduct a **prioritization exercise** during the current winter, noting the importance of advocating and planning the activities earlier in the year (such as during the spring) in order to capitalize on the impact of the response efforts and improve living conditions. The Cluster has also shared a **list of flood prone areas**, such as the Maaret Tamsrin area which is highlighted as particularly flood prone. This list demonstrates that while small scale activities can be carried out year-round, **infrastructure interventions need to be timed in advance of winter**.

67,647

IDPs affected by flood incidents since December

Due to the context of largely self-settled sites and the subsequent lack of camp management systems, monitoring and information collection as part of the coordination response are essential aspects of the CCCM Cluster's priorities. The Cluster closely monitors **1,302 active IDP sites hosting 1.6 million people**. Of these, 80 percent are women and children, and some 22,000 people are reported to be persons with specific needs. **Coordinating and disseminating operational information** on IDP sites, as well as tracking IDP movements, are key priorities for the CCCM Cluster to analyse trends and quickly identify IDPs in need of assistance. The Cluster tracked **32,539 recent displacements in December**, with departures principally occurring from Afrin, Idleb, Ariha and Dana. The main locations where displaced people arrived to included Afrin, Sharan and Raju sub-districts. Some people may have been exposed to multiple displacements and reasons for moving vary. The main shelter types for new arrivals in December were reported as being solid/finished houses (64 percent), self-settled IDP sites (17 percent), unfinished/damaged houses (14 percent), planned camps (4 percent) and collective centres (1 percent).

The CCCM and Education Clusters have collaborated to provide information on access to education services in IDP sites using the ISIMM plus tool. The dashboard provides detailed information on the number of schools, obstacles in accessing education, remote learning, etc. Details can be found on the dashboard via [this link](#).

 **Early Recovery and Livelihoods (ERL):** To reduce the negative impact of COVID-19 and the ongoing economic crisis on the affected population and on markets, ERL Cluster partners are prioritising **increasing access to livelihoods opportunities with a focus on cash-for-work schemes (CFW) / multi-purpose cash**. This includes the CFW linked to rehabilitation works improving access to services, CFW linked to local manufacturing of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as fabric masks, support to urban/rural new businesses and existing entrepreneurial activities, restoration/rehabilitation of access ways and roads critical for the transportation of humanitarian supplies across northwest Syria, and roads and drainage emergency repair works near camps. From January to December 2020, **13,935 persons were employed through the creation of short-term work opportunities** in agricultural harvesting, light rehabilitation works of social infrastructure, basic infrastructure and roads, and CFW activities. These activities were mainly concentrated in the A'zaz, Al Bab, and Jarablus sub-districts of Aleppo governorate and the Dana, Armanaz and Harim sub-districts of Idlib governorate. **Entrepreneurial activities supported 2,029 entrepreneurs**, mostly supporting women and youth to start a business service in the Atareb, Suran and Jarablus sub-districts of Aleppo governorate and the Armanaz, Harim and Idlib sub-districts of the Idlib governorate. Since May 2020, some 11,264 individuals benefited from mask production activities, 255 individuals benefited from PPE production activities as entrepreneurship support, and 5,330 individuals benefited from other COVID-19 related CFW activities (such as prevention and awareness raising campaigns, distribution of protective equipment and cleaning works). Approximately 573,000 masks were produced and distributed through CFW schemes from May to October. In November, four ERL Cluster partners completed the **restoration of approximately 30 kilometres of roads/drainage systems in camps and in the proximity of camps** in the Idlib, Dana, Maaret Tamsrin, Afrin and Atareb sub-districts. In December, the reparation of 14 kilometres of roads to the Ariha city centre was completed by an ERL partner, while the reparation work of 12 kilometres of agricultural roads in the Qabasin area was still ongoing.

13,935
*employed through
CFW activities*

 **Education: Provision of continued learning in a safe environment** within in northwest Syria remains the key priority for the education sector, especially due to the impacts of the security situations and COVID-19. Where most schools are operating either fully or partially, the Education Cluster partners are continuously prioritising **COVID-19 mitigation measures** such as providing additional learning spaces, sterilisation and awareness raising, as well as rehabilitation efforts such as repairing windows and installing ventilation to classrooms. Between 18 December and 18 January, **9,139 children benefited from the establishment of temporary learning spaces or the construction and rehabilitation of classrooms**. Despite the low learning outcomes due to the lack of capacities and available tools, distance learning is still taking place in most schools. This is due to there not being enough space to accommodate all the children to fully shift to physical learning only. Provision of **support to education personnel and teacher incentives, internet provision and training** for teaching and learning continue to be a top priority as this trend continues. **Winterisation** of learning spaces, including the provision of fuel for heating, insulation of windows and cementing of floors, has also been added as a key priority during the winter with the potential risk of flooding.

9,139
*children benefited from the
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and rehabilitation of classrooms*

 **Food Security and Livelihoods:** Delivery of food assistance, bread distribution, and the restocking of warehouses in northwest Syria continued over the reporting period. **Livelihoods programmes** were prioritised to scale up support to local communities on agricultural production (wheat planting season had begun in November) along with technical assistance on small-scale food production and assets, while boosting food processing as part of the target population's income generating activities. In December 2020, FSL Cluster partners completed **the Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) vaccinations of cattle and the mass treatment of sheep against mange combined with annual enterotoxaemia vaccinations**. In total, the project has vaccinated, counted and earmarked 23,331 cattle against LSD - benefiting 11,113 smallholder dairy farmer households. In line with the 2020/2021 Awassi sheep lambing season in Syria, the project also carried out enterotoxaemia vaccinations for 577,469 sheep and goats and treated 531,504 sheep against mange benefiting 12,108 traditional shepherd households. In preparation for the revaccinations in the first quarter of 2021, Newcastle Disease vaccine for chickens and PPR vaccine for sheep & goats were shipped to northwest Syria on 14th January 2021. **Ensuring optimum protection for cattle, sheep, goats and chickens against livestock epidemics** will secure stable levels of milk, egg and meat production for human consumption. One of the main priorities for the livestock is to **prevent a second bovine ephemeral fever (BEF) outbreak in 2021**, by vaccinating the entire northwest Syria cattle population before biting insects become active again.

52,8 K
*new IDPs received food
assistance as emergency*

From 1 December to 19 January, the FSL Cluster partners provided **food assistance** to 52,800 newly displaced people and returnees in northwest Syria, which included 2,201 emergency food baskets, 3,329 ready-to-eat (RTE) rations, 2,000 cooked meals and \$685,440 worth of multi-purpose cash grants (MPCG). Additionally, 1.62 million beneficiaries received bread bundles and more than 1.3 million beneficiaries received 30 percent of their bread needs through the food baskets

provided by FSL Cluster partners in October 2020. In January, February, and March 2.3 million, 0.9 million and 0.8 million people are targeted for bread distribution respectively. The Cluster lead agency has 177,381 RTEs available with its partners and warehouses in northwest Syria, which is enough to provide food assistance to 886,905 IDPs. On **winterisation support**, the Cluster lead agency and its partners have planned to provide a double ration of RTEs in January 2021 to some 10,000 households assessed as being most vulnerable.



Health: The **COVID-19 response** continues to be a Health Cluster priority, as increasing case detection, while the virus continues to spread, is very challenging within the context. In northwest Syria, 20,939 confirmed positive cases had been identified as of 25 January, as the testing capacity had increased since the last reporting period. To support the ongoing response, 15,400 swabs and universal transport medias (UTM) were procured in late December with 50,000 swabs and UTMs in the pipeline at the time of reporting. The Laboratory Quality Assurance program for COVID-19 was in progress and has included the addition of two laboratories within the reporting period. As of 25 January, the number of health care workers (HCWs) and health facilities staff (physicians, dentists, nurses, midwives and various medical technicians) who contracted COVID-19 disease reached 1,545 (7.4 percent) and another 1129 (5.4 percent) were other staff working in healthcare facilities or community health workers. Despite the prevalence of COVID-19 infection amongst health care workers and health facility staff, the rates have remained tolerable with no major increases in the last months due to a major focus on Infection Prevention Control (IPC) training and equipment. IPC trainings were provided to 226 staff working at CCTCs, while roll-out trainings, online trainings, field supervision activities, face-to-face psychosocial support (PSS) counselling, follow-up and Psychological First Aid sessions were also provided by relevant teams. Between 15 December and 18 January, the MHPSS helplines for COVID-19 patients and frontline workers at CCTCs, isolation hospitals and communities, provided a total of **265 PSS counselling sessions**.

20,939

confirmed COVID-19 cases

The COVID-19 Task Force continues to work on securing adequate oxygen supplies, while the Cluster lead agency has distributed 84 oxygen concentrators for 27 CCTCs. Meanwhile, 480 pulse oximeters were delivered to support triage stations at approximately 240 health facilities. Daily updates by the COVID-19 Task Force can be found on the [Health Cluster COVID-19 monitoring dashboard](#).

Additionally, 418,290 treatment courses were distributed to primary and secondary health care, NCD care, and trauma and surgical care to 142 health facilities (63 PHCs, 32 Mobile Clinics, 42 SHC facilities and five other types of facilities) operated by 27 NGO partners.

Beyond COVID-19, the 93 EPI centres in northwest Syria are fully functional and had conducted 628 sessions in early January. In December, 97 percent of the planned sessions had been conducted (2,403) via mobile teams and fixed sites.



Nutrition: According to data from monthly nutrition surveillance and admission into programmes for treatment of acute malnutrition, **the nutrition situation in northwest Syria was far worse in 2020 than in 2019**. Cases of severe and moderate acute malnutrition among children aged 6-59 months increased by over 70 percent and 38 percent, respectively, in 2020 compared to the year prior. Similarly, the proxy prevalence of **chronic malnutrition** (stunting) in December 2020 increased by 2 percent compared to the same period in the year prior, affecting one-third of children aged 6-59 months. Since the start of 2020, some 2.2 million children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) have been reached by 31 partners with nutrition services in 588 communities and 42 sub-districts of northwest Syria. This represents nearly 95 percent of the population in need, a **9 percent increase in coverage** compared to the last situation update.

2.2 M

Women and children reached in 2020



Protection: Regular protection programming covering child protection and GBV-specialized interventions, as well as community-based activities delivered by cluster members to IDPs and the affected host community in Idleb, reached 205 individuals in December. In response to anticipated new displacement due to potential military escalations along the frontlines of the Idleb and northern Aleppo governorates and based on the assumption of a **potential displacement of 275,000 people** in these areas, an **additional budget of around \$12 million** will be required to respond.

205

individuals reached through regular protection programming

The response continues to integrate COVID-19 recommendations on the criticality of protection activities aimed at reducing immediate threats to safety and wellbeing, including mental health, and to mitigate potential future risks, including those related to coping with displacement, COVID-19, and the impact of the economic downturn. The Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Technical Working Group (TWG) finalized **guidelines on mitigating harm and suffering during forced evictions**,

available in Arabic and English, which was endorsed by the cluster members. A set of **Guiding Principles and Minimum Standards for non-emergency IDP relocations in northwest Syria** was being developed, as part of efforts to ensure that the non-emergency IDP relocation process is conducted by humanitarians in a way that improves the unstable living situations of IDPs (overcrowded and unhygienic conditions, exposure to flooding, and risk of evictions), adheres to humanitarian and protection principles, are voluntary and uphold basic rights, and do-no-harm principles. The Inclusion Technical Working Group's (ITWG) **report on barriers to participation in daily activities**, including humanitarian services for IDPs with disabilities, was published and details on sector specific actions which can be taken to immediately improve the inclusivity of services in northwest Syria are included. To enhance the **protective environment and access to comprehensive GBV support and empowerment for women and girls** in so called "widow camps", where the widows of deceased combatants sometimes live, the GBV sub-cluster and its members are developing a comprehensive response project to intervene in 46 of these sites across northwest Syria. The **Gender Based Violence Information Management System** was officially launched in northwest Syria in 2021 with 5 member organizations granted access to the system. The Protection Monitoring Task Force (PMTF) organized **data analysis trainings and lessons learned workshops** for 36-member organization staff based in Turkey and northwest Syria in aim to review tools and build on lessons learned throughout the 2020 protection monitoring processes.

In support of gender-based violence (GBV) case management, the Cash and GBV taskforce is engaged in developing standard operating procedures (SOP) for a cash and voucher assistance (CVA) referral system. The work of the taskforce in northwest Syria was featured in a global case study on cash and gender.

 **Shelter and Non-Food Items:** The Shelter/NFI (SNFI) Cluster members continue to actively respond to the needs of the newly displaced population as well as protracted IDPs in northwest Syria. In December, **more than 582,000 individuals** received NFI/winter assistance in the form of NFI kits, kitchen sets, mattresses, jerry cans, carpets, solar lamps, tarpaulins and blankets, as well as fuel, stoves and winter clothing. The **shelter needs of over 135,000 people were addressed** in the same month. SNFI Cluster partners reached 2.6 million people with NFI assistance in 2020, including potential overlap with the winter response due to the same vulnerable households being targeted. SNFI Cluster partners reached a total of **930,000 people with shelter assistance in 2020**, excluding infrastructure improvements in IDP sites and camps where beneficiaries were already reached with emergency shelter assistance in the form of tents and/or gravelling.

582,234
People reached with
winterisation assistance

The SNFI Cluster aims to contribute to the most urgent life-saving winterisation interventions, through the **provision of timely winterisation supplies as well as cash-based programming** where possible. The SNFI Cluster partners reached 897,766 people through their winterisation response from October to December 2020. As of early January 2021, the number of individuals targeted with secured funding (~42.8 million USD) was around 1.45 million.

In mid-January, heavy rainfall affected many IDP sites and camps. The SNFI Cluster is working closely with cluster members and the CCCM team in providing a comprehensive overview of the situation, damage, and required response. In some cases, **the distribution of NFI kits that was already planned was pushed to be distributed to affected sites faster**, in order to assist the people affected by the floods. The cluster is using its Rapid Response Mechanism in order to **utilize the emergency stock for assistance** as soon the sites have dried and tents can be re-installed. The Cluster recommended that where possible, implementing partners should not establish tents in the same locations where they have been affected but to consider other areas that are more elevated and less prone to flooding. The heavy rainfall may continue in the coming weeks and a severe increase in the actual needs may occur, which will become clearer after the reports and assessments from the cluster members are submitted to the CCCM cluster's incident reporting tool in the following reporting period.

 **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:** During the reporting period, **over 2.1 million people were reached with water trucking**, while **960,000 people were reached with desludging services** and **2.3 million people were reached with solid waste management**. Some 70 percent of displaced people in camps in northwest Syria continue to rely on WASH partners to provide daily water trucking, which is costly and short-term. The WASH Cluster continues to advocate for funding to support connecting camps to existing piped water systems, which would dramatically improve the quantity and quality of lifesaving water services while substantially reducing costs. Access to safe water through piped systems remains a challenge, with 126 out of 199 in Idleb and Aleppo currently functioning (63 percent) and 134 (86 percent) of these stations being chlorinated. Without electricity, partners continue to operate these water stations through diesel generators, with the **cost of fuel accounting for an estimated 30 per cent of the total WASH cluster expenditure**. Further support is need for the repair and rehabilitation of water stations and networks and to connect these stations to electricity grids to improve service delivery while at the same time reducing the cost.

2.1M
people reached
with water trucking

The Ar-Ra'ee, Jarabulus, Sarmin, Mhambal, and Badama sub-districts continue to be the most significant hotspots for waterborne diseases in northwest Syria, while the Dana and Al Bab sub-districts have the highest number of leishmaniasis cases. Prevention measures have been implemented in the last three to four months, however, the hosting period of the disease is usually between six to eight months and therefore a decrease in cases is expected around May to August 2020.

 **Logistics:** The Logistics Cluster is continuing to work with its partners to **identify supply chain-related solutions in the event of a future roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine** for northwest Syria. Logistics Capacity Assessments (LCA) on cold chain transportation and warehousing capacity in Turkey and northwest Syria are being undertaken for preparedness purposes. The Logistics Cluster continues to **collect, monitor and analyse physical access information** with inputs from partners operating on the ground. An **update to the road conditions map** was completed on 1 January, which can be found [here](#), along with an update to the map indicating ongoing, planned and completed rehabilitation works underway.

1,476
trucks of UN assistance
transhipped from
1 December to 15 January

In December, **930 trucks** of UN assistance, **carrying** 18,443 metric tonnes of FSL, Shelter, WASH, Protection, Health and Education sector items were transhipped via Bab Al-Hawa, while another **546 trucks** carrying 11,731 metric tonnes of FSL, Shelter, Health and WASH sector items were transhipped between 1 and 15 January.

The full overview of Logistics Cluster transshipment achievements in 2020 can be found [here](#).

OPERATIONAL GAPS & CHALLENGES

 **Camp Coordination and Camp Management:** Although IDP sites are usually a last resort option, there are currently 1,214 IDP sites listed in the CCCM database, the majority of which are self-settled (1,113 sites). The CCCM Cluster continues to monitor these sites to identify gaps and facilitate the coordination of multi-sectoral services. **The needs of people in IDP sites continue to be exacerbated by issues such as lack of proper infrastructure, site planning or camp management systems** (especially in self-settled IDP sites). From mid-December 2020 to mid-January 2021, the CCCM Cluster reported 17 fire incidents, that affected 28 households, destroyed 28 tents, and resulted in one death and seven injuries. From 18 December to 25 January, CCCM reported 196 flood incidents, impacting 67,647 individuals (13,136 households) and destroying 3,763 tents and partially damaging 7,779 tents. Urgent needs ranged from tents and NFI kits, to food parcels and fire extinguishers. The Cluster continues to focus on monitoring, reporting, and coordinating the response to the incidents, as well as advocating and planning to resolve some of the underlying challenges related to these incidents.

The CCCM Cluster worked with the Education Cluster to provide information on **access to education services in IDP sites** using the IDP Site Integrated Monitoring Matrix (ISIMM) plus tool. As of September 2020, there were approximately 318,000 school-aged children identified in 1,302 IDP sites monitored by the CCCM Cluster. In the context of COVID-19, only 4 percent of these sites were fully using remote learning, compared to 44 percent that were partially using remote learning, and 52 percent that were not using it. The main limitations for children learning from home in camps included caregivers being overburdened with other demands, inhibiting their ability to help their children learn at home, as well as caregivers lacking confidence to help their children learn and insufficient literacy/numeracy of caregivers. Furthermore, primary schools were unavailable in 70 percent of sites, while secondary schools were unavailable in 86 percent of sites.

 **Early Recovery:** The effects of the economic downturn and COVID-19 restrictions have further aggravated the already dire livelihood opportunities in northwest Syria. According to a December report by a UN partner, **livelihoods and basic services were reported to be the highest priority needs for every population group**. The risk of further reduction of purchasing power points to the urgent need for scaling up access to livelihood opportunities for people in need, particularly through creation of emergency short-term employment, cash assistance and support to businesses. Additionally, of approximately 70 kilometres of road requiring urgent restoration between Bab Al-Hawa and northern Aleppo governorate, a gap of some 36 kilometres remains to be covered. Some 50-70 kilometres of road also still needs to be rehabilitated to facilitate access to markets and to/from camps, to enhance access to livelihoods opportunities, mobility and flood prevention, though ERL partners have limited funding available to cover these needs.

 **Education:** **Lack of funds** continues to inhibit providing adequate education support. Due to the increased cases of COVID-19 and schools not being able to operate fully, the **demand for distance and blended learning** is higher than ever. The latest survey conducted by the Education Cluster in November 2020 revealed that as more schools open, the **needs for sterilisation items and for personal protective equipment (PPE) have increased** and is one of the most important

needs. The establishment and expansion of new learning centres and WASH facilities, to respond to consequences of the conflict and the current COVID-19 situation, continued to be a gap that need to be addressed. In addition, **winterisation of learning spaces** through the provision of fuel for heaters and protective measures against possible flooding were also identified as large priority gaps for the winter season. The above-mentioned survey also confirmed gaps in winterisation, with 65 percent of students in northwest Syria affected by the lack or only partial support of heating for the classrooms. The biggest funding gap remains in the support to **teacher incentives**, which enable teachers to continue teaching especially through distance learning modalities. Strengthening teachers' capacities and providing internet access both to teachers and students are also gaps that need to be addressed.

 **Food Security and Livelihoods:** Based on the monthly FSL cluster gap analysis, more than **25 percent of the 36 sub-districts** have been reached by FSL partners with food assistance **provided to less than 25 percent of people in need**. On livelihoods, farmers are highly constrained by the **lack of agricultural inputs, increased prices, and limited access to high quality of the seeds** - especially the Syrian wheat varieties that usually provide a high yield. The critical economic situation, the negative impacts of COVID-19 (especially for those households amongst host communities and IDPs with limited to no income) are the main drivers **compounding food insecurities** for most people in northwest Syria. On livestock, the **limited availability of pasture and high costs of animal feed** present a major challenge to all livestock owners. Given the scale of the problem, current funding levels do not permit significant upscaling of mitigation measures such as increased planting of fodder and on-farm animal feed production.

 **Health:** After a year of active COVID-19 response and efforts made by the Health Cluster partners, the greatest challenge for 2021 will be to **sustain an appropriate response and manage the spread of the virus in northwest Syria**. Funding is needed to meet the response plan set forth by the COVID-19 Task Force, with proper consideration for an exit plan, and **crucial to ensure that essential health services are available and accessible** by all people in northwest Syria. The security situation has proven many times how fragile it is, while winter conditions already place IDPs at risk of waterborne, skin and respiratory diseases.

 **Nutrition:** Several hotspots with high levels of acute malnutrition, particularly in IDP locations, have placed significant constraints on the supply chain. In 2020, **less than half (42 percent) of the PLW were reached** with services for treatment of moderate acute malnutrition, despite the high prevalence of acute malnutrition in this group. An estimated **2,000 people in need were inaccessible by partners** due to COVID-19 mobility restrictions. Similarly, the increasing COVID-19 cases among children aged 6-59 months and women of reproductive age **necessitates increased coordination** with partners managing CCTCs to provide them with nutrition support.

 **Protection:** Daily hostilities and artillery shelling along the M4 road in Idlib and surrounding areas have led to the **temporary suspension of several protection programs and the deepening of the dire situations** in already underserved areas. Due to the harsh winter weather and heavy rains in January, many camps and communities been affected by flooding that have destroyed tents and have added to the suffering of IDP families, with protection issues such as **family separation** also being reported. Increased vulnerabilities observed among displaced communities due to displacement, the economic downturn and COVID-19 restrictions are likely to be exacerbated in the case of a new mass displacement. Both the newly displaced populations and the people in protracted situations continue to have unmet humanitarian needs, with **funding shortages are likely to further deepen the impact of ongoing issues** amongst the vulnerable population. GBV-specialized services have remained unavailable in many communities in northwest Syria and additional resources are needed to support GBV prevention and response with a focus on vulnerable groups. Assessments indicate that **75 percent of those surveyed report a lack or loss of civil documentation** as an issue in northwest Syria, 16 percent higher than at the national level. **Lack of civil documentations has been indicated as a main barrier to access to humanitarian assistance.**

 **Shelter and Non-Food Items:** Gaps in infrastructure continue to be a real concern, **made worse by flooding incidents**. The SNFI Cluster continues to advocate for **improved infrastructure implementation in IDP sites and camps**. The CCCM and SNFI cluster have shared a priority list based on available information from 2020 and are working with other clusters including the ERL, WASH and Logistics clusters on an integrated approach for these required interventions. The recommended timeframe for the start of these activities would be early spring 2021 and then followed up later on in order to make sure that the sites received the suitable intervention prior to the start of winter. The planning for these interventions should consider that many self-settled IDP sites have Housing, Land, and Property issues, which might prevent or complicate the required infrastructure improvements.

 **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:** The WASH Cluster has been facing a **funding crisis** for the past three months, leading to unprecedented gaps in the continuity of services. The service gap at the time of reporting stands at **2.6 million people in need of WASH services** (2 million in host communities and 600,000 in camps/informal settlements) in 30 sub-districts (14 Aleppo, 16 Idlib), across 566 locations (128 communities and 429 camps/informal settlement). **Further gaps are expected** to compound with existing gaps in the next two months. These include **1.4 million people in need of water system rehabilitation/operational support, 407,038 IDPs in need of water trucking support, approximately 1 million people in need of sewerage rehabilitation or construction, 528,241 latrines and showers needing construction or maintenance, 1 million people in need of solid waste management support, and 1.4 million people in need of hygiene kits support.** Furthermore, a gap in the provision of water via piped networks in Idlib governorate for approximately 740,000 people is expected to occur in March due to a \$600,000 USD per month funding gap that will commence.

In addition to the above gaps, recent WASH Cluster household level surveys have shown that **78 percent of people stated that they did not have access to sufficient water** during the previous month, while only **49 percent of people living in camps have access to both soap and water and handwashing facilities, 22 percent have no soap at all and 18 percent have no handwashing facilities.** The current lack of WASH services are already exacerbating the capability of humanitarian actors and affected populations as cases of water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea are currently higher than in previous years (17,386 cases compared to 13,118 in 2017) and are expected to increase significantly with the reductions in WASH services being experienced. Women and children are estimated to make up 76 percent of the population, while 25 percent are estimated to be persons with disabilities. These groups are particularly vulnerable to any reduction in WASH services and are likely to face increased protection risks as a result.

In December, assessments across 205 IDP sites in Dana, Harim, Armanaz, Badama, Darkosh, Maaret Tamsrin, Qourqeen, Jisr-Ash-Shugur, and Salqin sub-districts found **21 percent of the assessed sites reported no chlorination of water; 65 percent did not have sufficient water storing capacity sufficient for one day; on average 54 people were found to be sharing one latrine while latrines were not disaggregated by sex in 8 percent of sites; 70 percent of the assessed sites did not receive hygiene kits in the past 3 months; 38 percent of the assessed sites did not have access to WASH feedback and complaints mechanisms; 9 percent of the assessed sites were not aware of which NGO was providing the WASH services; 15 percent of the assessed sites did not have an NGO focal point; and 13 percent of those assessed reported “not being consulted during the design and delivery of WASH services”.** The WASH cluster aims to improve the quality of its response and its accountability to the affected population, an endeavour that is complicated by the high turnover of NGOs working in camps due to short-term funding.

 **Logistics:** A major challenge remains in identifying partner capacity building needs for 2021, including finding effective ways to provide logistics technical trainings remotely for cross-border partners due to COVID-19 restrictions.

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