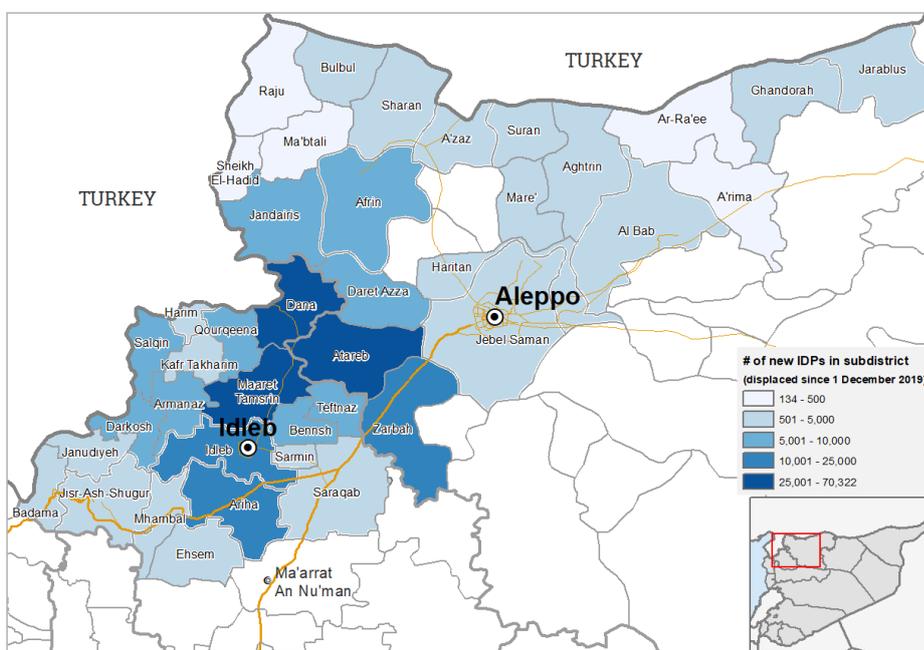


### HIGHLIGHTS

- From 1 to 29 December, some 284,000 people fled from their homes, mainly from southern Idlib governorate, moving further north away from the hostilities. Ma'arrat An Nu'man and its countryside are reportedly almost empty, more and more people from Saraqab and its eastern countryside are fleeing in anticipation of hostilities extending to their area.
- A volatile security situation along the access routes north and the shortage of fuel in Idlib area are limiting the movement of civilians fleeing the hostilities. Most of the recently displaced people are going to urban centres such as Idlib city and Ariha, and to the IDP camps in northwestern Idlib. Others are reportedly moving to areas such as Afrin and A'zaz in northern Aleppo governorate seeking safety and access to services.
- Displacement during winter is further exacerbating the vulnerability of those affected. Many who fled are in urgent need of humanitarian support, particularly shelter, food, health, non-food and winterization assistance.



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

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

Hostilities in Idlib continue to have devastating consequences for the three million people living in this area, of whom 76 percent are women and children. From May to August 2019, an estimated 400,000 were displaced from northern Hama, southern Idlib and western Aleppo governorates while more than 1000 people were reportedly killed due to hostilities according to OHCHR.

Since 16 December, aerial bombardment intensified in southern Idlib, affecting large population centres, such as Ma'arrat An-Nu'man and Saraqab as well as towns and villages in their countryside. Ground fighting between non-state armed groups and Government of Syria (GoS) forces resumed on 19 December along the frontlines in southern Idlib governorate. From 1 to 29 December, some 284,000 people fled their homes, mostly in southern parts of Idlib, to reach safer areas in the north. Of those recently displaced in December, 80 percent are estimated to be women and children. The newly displaced populations are predominantly moving north within Idlib governorate to urban centers such as Ariha, Saraqab and Idlib city and -to a lesser degree- to IDP camps in northwest Idlib governorate along the Turkish-Syrian border. Thousands of newly displaced people are also moving to Afrin, A'zaz, and Al Bab areas in northern Aleppo governorate. In addition, tens of families have reportedly fled to GoS-held areas in Aleppo due to the intensification of hostilities.

Immediate humanitarian assistance including food, shelter, winterization as well as health and psychosocial support is essential to support displaced individuals. In particular, ready-to-eat rations and cooked meals are a priority for people, given that many of the newly displaced have no means to cook. Of note, residents of Ma'arrat An Nu'man area, who make up a significant proportion of the newly displaced, are predominantly an urban population who are seeking shelter in other

urban areas, such as Ariha and Idleb city, rather than IDP camps. As a result, public buildings such as mosques, garages, wedding halls and schools are being used to host newly displaced families, however, the capacity to absorb people in need may surpass available places given the scale of displacement. A humanitarian response that is sensitive to the needs of this newly displaced population is necessary. For example, shelter options and accompanying WASH assistance would need to take into account the specific needs such as hygiene requirements in large temporary receiving areas.

The vulnerability of the newly displaced people as well as those previously displaced is further exacerbated by the winter weather. Heating, winter clothes and blankets are essential needs during this season, without which displaced people are more likely to resort to negative coping mechanisms. Moreover, for an urban population, coping with displacement is likely to be more complicated and challenging as they would be unused to living in a self-sustained manner.

## FUNDING

The escalation of violence had a serious impact on the humanitarian response in northwest Syria and humanitarian interventions funded in southern parts of Idleb. Some 284,000 people displaced in December due to violence, exacerbating the need for humanitarian assistance in northwest Syria. In order to respond to the emergency needs of displaced families, Syria Cross-Border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF) launched a reserve allocation for approximately USD 12 million. This emergency allocation aims to be quick and flexible to respond to the immediate and urgent needs on the ground for newly arrived IDPs and scale-up services in camps and overburdened host communities. This complements the second standard allocation for USD 27 million, which is currently being finalized.

While ongoing activities were interrupted for the most part in the south, they are being relocated as much as possible to support primarily the scale-up of emergency response activities in areas of arrival. This drastic change requires partners to reprogram their current activities and associated funding, within the given flexibility. Information sharing on reprogramming is critical to best organize the response. For SCHF funded projects, partners should contact [info-schf@un.org](mailto:info-schf@un.org) to report any issues related to project implementation due to the escalation of violence, with copy to the relevant cluster.

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: [fts@un.org](mailto:fts@un.org)

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Humanitarian partners in areas receiving newly displaced people are responding to the immediate needs of the displaced people as they arrive. Based on the operational humanitarian readiness planning, humanitarian responders activated their expanded activities. Humanitarian organizations on the ground activated coordination mechanisms to provide essential assistance such as distribution of ready-to-eat rations, water and blankets, as well as protection interventions. Humanitarian organizations continue to work around the clock to provide support to the people displacing, in addition to the existing population in need. The efforts of the local community in areas that receive newly displaced people also contribute to the humanitarian response. Host communities, many of those who were previously displaced, support the displaced people with what little resources they may have.

Many humanitarian workers are now among the affected population as they have been displaced with their communities. The staff care/ self-care network has been activated to support humanitarian workers who are responding to the emergency.

### Camp Coordination and Camp Management

#### Needs:

- Identifying more locations for camp extension/establishment in order to shelter the most vulnerable newly displaced families.
- Marat Al-Ekhwan Reception Center is full now, urgent need to expand the camp capacity to provide temporary accommodate for 500 families.

#### Response:

- CCCM cluster members provided tents for 1,869 families in 16 locations.
- 7 Locations have been identified by CCCM members that can be used for camp extensions/new establishment upon validating lands' ownership (HLP) documents.
- CCCM in coordination with HNAP have developed new tool (Snapshot) to monitor the number of displaced people based on their current locations, and where community-based needs have been identified.

- CCCM is monitoring tents contingency stocks prepositioned in Syria, or stocked in Turkey or in the pipelines.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- Conflict in information provided by many members across borders requires data cleaning, and verification before circulating and before the preparation of rapid response plan.
- Distribution of tents requires the provision of NFI materials in order to be habitable.
- Weather conditions and continuous rain is one of the big challenges.

## Education

#### Needs:

- As of 30 December, 48,500 school aged children, (out of which 405 of are children with disabilities) are in urgent need of education support. This is critical since by January 14, 2020, an estimated 35,000 learners (6-17 years) will need to sit for the mid-year examinations. To address the immediate needs, the education sector aims to:
- Support about 35,000 learners to sit for the mid-year examinations through provision of learning space, catch-up classes and recruitment of school staff for facilitation
  - Establish and furnish temporary learning spaces (tents or caravans) to decrease over crowdedness and enable access in affected areas namely in, Dana, Salqin, Maaret Tamsrin, Afrin, El Bab, Atareb, Jisr Ash Shugur, Harim, A'zaz, Qah, Atma and Hazano.
  - Provide Psychosocial support (PSS) and Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) activities in coordination with the Child Protection Sub Cluster.
  - Distribute teaching and learning materials, textbooks and students bags for children and teachers to enable education activities.
  - Recruit and train about 1955 Teachers and Education personnel in impacted areas.
  - Provide heating in schools for 1,778 classrooms to benefit about 44,000 children as part of winterization efforts.

# 4,238

School-aged children reached with education activities

#### Response:

- During the reporting period the Education sector reached a cumulative total of 4,238 school aged children, with diverse packages of education services including PSS, PFA, formal and non-formal education activities, home schooling and distribution of winter clothes to ensure minimum disruption to children's learning in the below districts:
  - 2607 children supported with Psychosocial support and Psychosocial First Aid in Idlib, Harim, Dana and Atareb.
  - 500 children supported with Home School Education in Ariha.
  - 1171 children supported with formal and non-formal education in Idlib, Harim, Dana and Atareb.
  - 500 children supported with winter clothes in Maaret Tamsrin.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- Despite significant efforts, the Education cluster members were able to reach only 12 % (cumulative) of the displaced school aged children in 6 districts. This may be attributed to the lack of funds received by the sector (only 16% funded), the unfolding situation where children are constantly on the move which makes it challenging to provide sustained education support in addition to the already overstretched education system that suffers from overcrowded classrooms (60- 80 students/class) in the displaced areas which limits absorption capacity for new comers. While the sector has been establishing learning spaces to address this, it continues to be a challenge.
- Out of 8,894.705 USD only 1,416, 700 USD (16%) is funded. Therefore, the current funding gap is 7,478.005 USD.

## Food Security

#### Needs:

- From 1 to 25 December, FSL cluster members reported that the total newly displaced people from Ma'arrat An Nu'man, Kafr Nobol, Heish, Ehsem, Saraqab, and Khan Shaykun to Atareb, Daret Azza, Dana, Ariha, Idleb, Saraqab reached to 46,184 HHs.
- All of the people displacing first need emergency food assistance, cooked meals, ready-to-eat rations (RTE) (canned food), cash support for the first two to four weeks for displaced households.
- After four weeks all these people shall be integration into the monthly food assistance once they settle down,
- After the initial displacement, the following options need to be considered to support the displaced individuals and host communities: provision of appropriate life-saving livelihoods, support to affected communities and households by

increasing agricultural production, support to small scale food production, protection of productive assets, and restoring or creating income generating activities to prevent negative or irreversible coping mechanisms.

- Provision of animal feed to limit unsustainable sales of livestock by displaced and impoverished households. Due to transport cost, feed distributions are expensive and hence extremely limited in scope. Voucher schemes for provision of animal feed involving local suppliers are cost-efficient and much more sustainable.

#### Response:

- The Food Security Cluster continues to coordinate the emergency response through an online group, an online emergency tracker tool, communication through phones and ad hoc SAG and cluster meetings.
- First line response is provided through the distribution of ready to eat rations (RTEs), dry rations of mainly canned food sufficient on average for one week for a family of 5, repeated as per needs, and the provision of cooked meals and distribution of emergency multi-purpose cash grants (MPCG) of 120 – 130 USD per household that includes coverage of food needs.
- The response from FSL partners between 1 and 30 December was the following:
  - 6 FSL members distributed 3,544 Emergency Food Basket (one-off) to reach 17,720 people;
  - 8 FSL members distributed 18,440 RTEs to assist 92,200 people;
  - 4 FSL members distributed 1,224,670 USD MPCGs to assist 55,000 people;
  - 4 FSL members distributed 3,185 Cooked Meals to assist 15,925 people; and
  - Provided RTEs to some 92,200 newly displaced people across northwestern Syria to date in December.
- By the end of this year, other FSL partners are have plan to response the 34,100 HHs of newly IDPs as following:
  - 4,500 families with cash,
  - 600 families with cash for food,
  - 12,100 families with cooked meals,
  - 4,400 families with emergency food baskets,
  - 12,500 families with ready to eat rations.
- Prepositioning of stocks: FSL cluster co-lead has 105,963 ready-to-eat rations prepositioned in NWS and Turkey. 91,163 RTEs are located in NWS to support 456,000 people for five days till the end of this year.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- According to the figures that FSL cluster received from the partners, the number of displaced reached 46,184 families. Their priority needs include cash, cooked meals, cash for food, food vouchers and ready to eat rations. On the other hand, FSL cluster members plan to support some 34,100 families to the end of this year. The current gap is for 12,084 families who immediately need cash, cooked meals, ready to eat rations as first line of response until the end of January 2020. All these figures will be updated in the coming days as there are expectations that the number of people displacing may increase.
- The main constraints; security, transportations, and access to safety locations where the fuel issues made the situation worse.



## Health

#### Needs:

- The continuous movement of displaced people towards the northern part of Idleb and lately toward Afrin, added to the vulnerability of those people in winter time to be affected and infected with winter season diseases, EWARNS reported 7,658 new cases of influenza like illness and 4287 new cases of diarrhea since 15 Dec in Idleb Governorate. This is a big burden for health care facilities, especially that the new arrivals are suffering from higher rates of communicable diseases due to winter season;
- As per EWARNS, access to safe water has become a major challenge and the lack of proper sanitation has increased the risk of communicable diseases. Essential respiratory illnesses drugs are always needed especially for primary healthcare clinics receiving large number of IDPs in Atmeh camps;
- Overcrowded collective shelters pose health risks for vulnerable caseloads such as women and children especially during winter time. Some women were reported by one health cluster member as suffering from reproductive and urinary tract infections and that the majority of pregnant women are under the age of 20.

#### Response:

- The cluster lead distributed supplies to the health facilities in northwest Syria providing 145,660 treatments in order to respond emergency and the influx of displaced people in Idleb following the escalation of military operation in southern Idleb. The cluster lead arranged an urgent meeting with health partners and collected requests for urgent

needs of medical supplies. It resulted a development of a distribution plan to cover the gaps of supplies in trauma and surgical care, and primary care. Supplies were provided 18 primary care facilities, 7 mobile units, 13 hospitals and ambulatory system of Idleb.

- Specialized emergency kits to support primary care, secondary care, trauma and surgical care were provided to facilitates in Al Ma'ra, Ariha, Harim, Idleb, Jisr-Ash-Shugur districts in addition to the ambulatory system in Idleb including:
  - 44 IEHK Basic Kits providing needs of 44,000 populations for 3 months,
  - 76 Burn Dressing kits providing 760 treatments
  - 10 IEHK Supplementary Medicines Modules providing needs of 100,000 population for 3 months
  - 6 Surgical Supplies Kits providing 600 surgical interventions
  - 4 Trauma Kits providing 400 treatments
- As a mitigation measure, EWARN stocked 12 complete cholera kits to be used in case of any outbreak following water borne disease/ diarrheal diseases. Tamiflu is available to serve 4,500 patients with indication for treatment.
- Health cluster members continues responding the current situation running mobile clinics in Ariha Maaret Misreen and Idleb. A new mobile clinic's services commenced in Afrin and the A'zaz to Jerabulus area where newly displaced people arrived. The cluster member operates another 5 mobile clinics (Maaret Misreen, Ariha, Sharan in Afrin & Shbiran in Albab) to respond to people's health needs and in 8 days served 2,442 people with health needs: 834 general diseases - 418 pediatric diseases, 53 maternity, 1,137 awareness and malnutrition cases;
- Mobile clinics in Maaret Tamsrin, Afrin center, Atareb, served 523 people with health needs, in addition to an active CHWs' team serving both health and nutrition services in the community.
- Primary health care services through three PHC in Azzaz, Afrin and Atareb provided general medicine, nutrition, Community Health, and Psychosocial Services.
- In Afrin, a health cluster member provided health assistance with a doctor consulting new IDPs, in places where they arrived and providing appropriate medicine and referral for people as needed. Referral of malnourished patients to specialized centers is ongoing. The health cluster member reported some patients suffering from chronic diseases and in need for appropriate health care and medication such as asthma, diabetes and high blood pressure;
- The health cluster member has at the zero reception point an ambulance and psychological support team providing Psychological First Aid (PFA), psychosocial support (PSS), information sharing about other services, dissemination of basic messages on GBV/CP prevention, referral to specialized services (community centers, WGSS), referral basic services (health, NFI, food, shelter etc) and distributed dignity kits. A health cluster member is supporting an ambulance network in Idleb, Armanaz, Azaz, Maaret Al al-Numan and transported 444 medical cases an referred them to the exiting health facilities
- Another health cluster member erected a tent in Azaz to act as medical point to provide quick and necessary medical services and served 345 new cases from the displacing families;
- A rapid assessment was conducted last week by in villages, towns, and informal camps in which large number of new IDPs (Dana, Daret Azza, Atareb, Maaret Tamsrin, Afrin, Harim, districts-suband Qourqeena) arrived from the Al Ma'ra district and surroundings in order to assess the urgent needs of the newly displaced, be it in the areas of health, protection, nutrition, food, shelter, and NFIs.
- Members are coordinating with other clusters in different locations for a better integrated response;

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- The main challenge is related to the continued security situation which is affecting negatively the delivery of services and its continuity.
- EWARN reflected the need for personnel protection equipment for the main hospitals that received large number of acute respiratory tract infections cases in Dana and Idleb sub-districts'
- A cluster member reported there is limited number of qualified health personnel, particularly specialized staff for trauma, surgery (surgeons, nurses and anesthetists) to escalate the response of current facilities when more patients are visiting it.
- One Epi centers, operated by a cluster member, in Kafer Omem was suspended due to it is location which is very closed to the front lines. The center was evacuated and to be re-activated from a different location soon.

## Nutrition

### Needs:

- Urgent need is to replenish the lipid-based nutrients supplementations (LNS) and High Energy Biscuits (HEB) pipelines for preventing acute malnutrition;
- Need to scale up nutrition response to reach all displaced mothers and children within the accessible geographic areas;
- Nutrition cluster remains underfunded with more than 60% of its annual financial requirements.

### Response:

- Overall life-saving nutrition services reached 15,911 children and mothers in 43 communities in 19 sub-districts in Idlib through 51 Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) and mobile teams by 14 cluster members;
- 5,934 children and mothers received high energy biscuits for preventing acute malnutrition among displaced mothers and children. 9,676 pregnant and lactating mothers received micro-nutrient supplementation while additional 6,679 children 6-36 months of age received high calories lipid-based nutrition supplements for prevention of acute malnutrition;
- Out of the reached mothers and children 97 cases of severe acute malnutrition and 360 cases of moderate acute malnutrition were identified and referred to the appropriate treatment sites, 381 mothers were also found to be acutely malnourished and received the appropriate treatment. Some 7,458 mothers and care givers were reached with infant feeding and caring practices messages and counselling;
- Nutrition cluster members noted an increase in the cases of acute malnutrition among displaced mothers and children. Malnutrition cases doubled among children under the age of 5 years and the proxy acute malnutrition rates among mothers increased by 2% in just one week as indicated by community nutrition surveillance data. These findings may indicate the potential of increased morbidities among mothers and children. Rapid response teams reported that among the children reached, 1% were separated from their families. The response teams enabled these children to be referred to the appropriate protection services. An additional finding indicates that 0.5% of children were associated with disabilities.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- Nutrition cluster reach is only to 32% of the accessible total displaced mothers and children due to security and need to increase the numbers of rapid response teams.
- The cluster lead is working to expedite its front-line life-saving nutrition stocks which will take at least two weeks, hence there might be a break in HEB and LNS pipeline if both commodities are not received within the next week.

## Protection

### Needs:

- The protection situation of IDPs and civilian population remains critical given the evolving conditions and increasing displacement from Ma'arrat An Nu'man towards the north of Idlib.
- The continued shelling and airstrikes in the south of Idlib, particularly in civilian populated areas, puts the lives of women, men, girls and boys at risk and has resulted in significant numbers of deaths and injuries, including of children, and significantly impacting children's and caregivers' psychosocial well-being.
- Safety and security concerns severely restrict civilians' freedom of movement, meanwhile, displaced people remain particularly vulnerable, and access for displaced people from Idlib to North of Aleppo for physical safety and shelter remains restricted.
- GBV sub-cluster members are reporting that basic need especially shelter, ready to eat meals and clean drinking water are still the most urgent needs for displaced people. Other needs as heating, dignity kits and need for privacy are high among displaced people.
- Multiple displacements and the lack of access to basic services further exacerbate individual and community needs, increasing risks for death, injuries, disabilities, GBV and trauma, particularly among children.
- Due to the latest escalation of violence in northwest Syria especially in Ma'arrat An-Nu'man and Saraqab, over 95,000 children pay the highest toll of this emergency.
- Violations against children rights continue to be reported. Child protection concerns particularly for unaccompanied and separated children are increasing due to displacement, death of caregivers and disrupted transportation are reported. The impact of these situations results in the psychological distress of children and their caregivers.
- Multi-sectoral coordination between child protection teams, education and basic needs distribution teams is highly needed to respond to the children protection concerns.

**Response:**

- Members of the GBV sub-cluster continue to provide emergency humanitarian services including PFA, distribution of dignity kits, group PSS activities, dissemination of awareness raising messages and referrals for high risk cases. Main gaps are still related to privacy as families are living in places with no toilets or in tents with their relatives.
- 45 unaccompanied and separated children were identified since the 15th of December 2019. All of these children were separated temporarily when moving from Ma'arrat Nu'man to the North of Idleb. All cases of separated children identified under these circumstances were reunified with their caregivers.
- Child protection sub-cluster members distributed 2,005 winterization kits for children, 1,149 blankets, 108,650 bracelets for children and adults to prevent children separation and 66 recreational kits to conduct activities to 5,940 children through child protection mobile teams and static centers.
- From 26 December until 30 December, 14 Protection cluster members provided emergency response services for civilians recently displaced from Southern Idleb due to the ongoing hostilities. Cluster members provided 17,997 protection services to IDPs and affected host community members in 59 communities within 21 sub-districts in Idleb and Aleppo reaching 8,455 individuals (2,009 girls, 1,730 boys, 2,845 women, and 1,871 men). The main services protection actors provided are as follows:
  - Psychological First Aid and Psychosocial Support;
  - Information about other services;
  - Dignity kits distribution;
  - Risk education.
- Cluster members referred individuals to other basic services, notably to health and shelters, provided child protection case management and, individual protection assistance.
- The Protection Cluster analyzed some of the comments that were reported to the emergency response tool and the top comments were the following:
  - Many people lack shelters and they are staying in streets;
  - More than one family staying in one tent;
  - A need for basics services including winter kits/clothes and blankets in addition to food baskets and ready to eat meals.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- A cluster member in Jisr-Ash-Shugur reported the closure of protection static and mobile service points, with services suspended due to active conflict. These suspensions include partners implementing specialized and non-specialized protection services.
- Pregnant women were identified as most at-risk groups because of their needs for medical support that is not always available.
- Lack of information about next steps or available services is not allowing families to take informed decisions and movement limitations because of the weather conditions is a challenge for displaced people and humanitarian actors
- The basic needs of displaced children and their caregivers not covered and child protection case management emergency funds targeting children is insufficient. In such a situation, the children are at risk of many protection concerns such as child recruitment, child marriage and worst forms of child labor. This is likely to be predominant in most displaced people crowded locations such as in Dana sub-district of Harim district, Atareb sub-district of Jebel Saman district and Idlib district.
- The basic needs of many displaced children and their caregivers are not covered and child protection case management emergency funds targeting children is insufficient. In such a situation, the children are at risk of many protection concerns such as child recruitment, child marriage and worst forms of child labor. This is likely to be predominant in most displaced people crowded locations such as in Dana sub-district of Harim district, Atareb sub-district of Jebel Saman district and Idlib district.
- Donor flexibility is urgently needed to redirect the funds for the new emergency in order to avoid long-term consequences to children and their caregivers.
- Include child protection specialized field staff with the rapid response teams, while assessing or distributing supplies to displaced population to avoid the incomplete response to the needs of children and to make sure that these teams can identify and refer child protection cases correctly.

## Shelter

### Needs:

- Shelter / Non-Food Items (SNFI) Cluster members have identified 46,000 people in need of NFI and/or shelter assistance. The subdistricts with the largest number of people in need are: Dana, Maaret Tamsrin, Atareb, Ariha and Idleb.
- Seventeen SNFI clusters members requested NFI, plastic sheeting and tents from the contingency stock, indicating that many partners have depleted their stock, and require the contingency stock to respond. To date, 4335 NFI kits and 3,900 plastic sheeting were released to the partners. Eleven requests are being reviewed for a total of 10,250 NFI kits and 2281 tents.
- Thousands of families are seeking shelter solutions across a wide geographic area. The cold winter weather and consecutive days of rain are exacerbating the situation for the affected population.

### Response:

- Needs assessments collected and shared with Cluster members that have the capacity to respond.
- Cluster members have already assisted 39,000 people with NFI, 12,000 with shelter and 5000 with Cash. The response is ongoing.
- The Cluster members have planned to assist 73,000 additional people with NFI and 14,000 with shelters.
- At the same time, SNFI members are targeting 405,000 people with winter assistance in December only.
- CCCM and SNFI Cluster is working with their members to identify lands suitable to extend camps.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- Housing, land and property rights will remain a critical issue for legal access to land for people to settle.
- SNFI Cluster has requested funding to replenish the stock with 6000 NFI kits and 30,000 plastic sheeting.
- With the large number of newly displaced people, the SNFI Cluster has increased its winterization target, from 853,000 people in need to 1 million. USD 5.2 million is needed to reach that targeted.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

### Needs:

- WASH cluster members reported high needs with regards to life-saving WASH supplies and services for about 250,000 displaced people to Jebel Saman, Afrin, A'zaz and Jarablus districts of Aleppo governorate and Ariha, Harim, Idleb, Jisr Ash Shugur and Harim districts of Idleb governorate. People need WASH services including domestic water, solid waste management, community latrines and wastewater management. The need for increased desludging of septic tanks, water purification, supply of hygiene kits and jerry cans has proportionately increased.
- In both formal and informal camps there is a huge need to increase the water supply and manage drinking water safety to ensure the displaced people stay away from potential diarrheal diseases. Similarly, there is an increasing need for desludging, as the septic tanks and pit latrines are flooding causing contamination to nearby water sources.
- Since the displacement is ongoing and displaced population are prioritizing communities to settle in, 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.

### Response:

- During last week, ongoing WASH response has outreached to 69,000 recently displaced people in 155 locations through 19 Cluster members (57% of the locations responded to are camps, 34% in communities and 9% in collective centers).
- The water supply arrangements through existing pipe water systems and water trucking were able to respond to the increased number of displaced people. However, the water supply per capita has reduced in the locations that received new wave of displaced population, especially where the member organization don't have the flexible funding. This is also constrained by the unequipped private sector that find difficulty in increasing the supply overnight in sporadic locations.
- Cluster members are preparing to increase the response to meet at least the need of 350,000 newly displaced people in their areas of operation in anticipation of availability of additional funding and supplies. The available supplies and services such as: water distribution via water trucking, provision of hygiene kits, construction and maintenance of latrines, provision of Jerry cans is currently limited.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Inadequate space in existing shelters complicates the response, as recently displaced people keep moving from one location to another. The recently displaced people are looking for potential shelters with existing services or where it is promising to receive services from the humanitarian agencies
- Challenges in access to many locations especially camps due to muddy roads because of rains and security risks because of ongoing military operations, which is preventing the service providers from entering the camps and targeted locations. Activities such as water trucking, desludging, provision of hygiene items and Solid waste collection are either delayed or stopped. Some WASH cluster members reported that they had to use motor cycles to deliver some WASH items into camps.
- Fuel prices remain a constraint for many organizations as the prices of service delivery is constantly increasing. It has been reported by WASH cluster members that several vendors stopped service provision, until the contractual arrangements around the prices are revisited and increased.
- To ensure a timely and effective WASH response to the increasing needs and to mitigate against the potential outbreak of communicable diseases, additional financial resources are urgently required for the aforementioned activities.
- While the funding gap in HRP 2019 remained about US\$25M for NW Syria, this recent wave of IDPs in formal/ informal camps and settlements adds to further constraints, as these displaced people are fully dependent on humanitarian assistance. WASH cluster estimates an additional need for US\$12.5M to support this wave of displacement that is expected to rise to 350,000.

**GENERAL COORDINATION**

Coordination of response efforts on the ground are ongoing by humanitarian actors and local initiatives guided by the cluster coordination mechanism. Local initiatives in areas close to the frontlines have emerged to support the movement of civilians out of areas heavily affected by hostilities. Participants of these initiatives are cluster members.

On 23 December, an ad hoc meeting of the Inter-Cluster Coordination was convened to discuss the needs and gaps in the emergency response to the evolving situation. Cluster members are working in alignment with their internal emergency coordination mechanisms. The clusters are coordinating their response leveraging a variety of modalities to support the people in need.

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