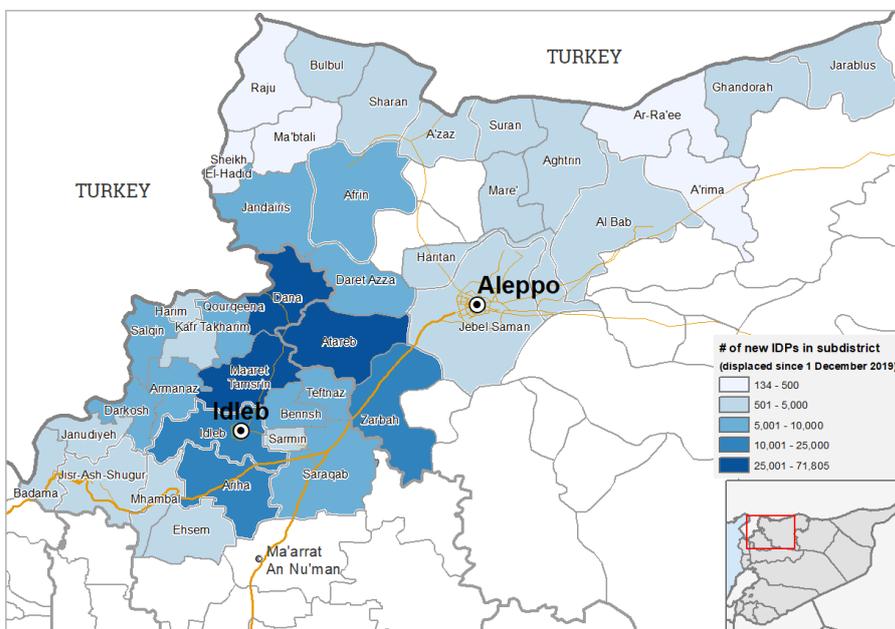


HIGHLIGHTS

- From 1 December 2019 to 1 January 2020, almost 300,000 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 depopulated, while thousands of people from Saraqab and its eastern countryside fled in anticipation of hostilities extending to their area.
- Most of the recently displaced people moved to urban centres and IDP camps in northwestern Idlib. Tens of thousands have reportedly moved to areas such as Afrin and A'zaz in northern Aleppo governorate seeking safety and access to services.
- An unstable security situation prevails with daily reports of bombardments, affecting civilian infrastructure, such as schools and IDP camps.
- 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

With the latest escalation of violence in northwest Syria, civilians in Idlib governorate are again suffering from the devastating consequences of hostilities. In December 2019, aerial bombardment again 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, which further accelerated displacement from the area that began in November. Ground fighting between NSAGs and GoS forces resumed on 19 December along the frontlines in southern Idlib governorate, with over 30 residential areas shifting to GoS control. While ground fighting subsided in late December, the unpredictability of the security situation left civilians with few options but to flee. As a result, tens of thousands of families fled ahead of the advance by the GoS forces while many others left their homes in anticipating of fighting directly affecting their communities next.

The lives of those who fled further north to find safety continue to be at risk due to the hostilities. On 1 January 2020, shelling hit a street in front of a school in Sarmin in Idlib governorate, reportedly killing ten civilians among whom were five children and a pregnant teacher. Local sources reported that the school building was partially being used to shelter newly displaced families from southern Idlib governorate.

In December 2019, almost 300,000 people were displaced -mostly in southern parts of Idlib- to reach safer areas in the north. Of those 298,354 people displaced in December, 80 percent are estimated to be women and children. The newly displaced populations have predominantly moved 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. No further displacement has been recorded into GoS-controlled areas since 20 families arrived in Jibreen in late December.

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. Moreover, reports of long queues at bakeries, particularly in camp areas in northwest Idlib are being reported due to the increase in the demand.

A significant proportion of the newly displaced people come from urban areas, and are seeking shelter in towns and cities, such as Ariha and Idlib city, rather than IDP camps. About 20 percent of the newly displaced people have sought shelter in camps whereas 30 percent are living with host families, 18 percent in rented houses and another 13 percent are living in unfinished buildings. As a result of this pattern of displacement, public buildings such as mosques, wedding halls and schools, as well as numerous garages and other substandard structures, 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 including in the provision of food assistance or shelter support.

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 challenging as they would be unused to living in non-urban environments in a self-sustained manner.

The current emergency compounds an already dire humanitarian situation in Idlib area, may that be in camps or in urban areas. Between late-April and late-August 2019, an estimated 400,000 people had been displaced from northern Hama and southern Idlib mostly to areas in northern Idlib. This latest wave of displacement exacerbates the vulnerabilities as more and more people are forced to live in increasingly crowded camps or towns in northern parts of Idlib, adding to the various protection concerns.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Humanitarian partners in areas receiving newly displaced people are responding to the immediate needs of the IDPs 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 organisations continue to work around the clock to provide support to the people displacing, in addition to the existing population in need.

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.

FUNDING

The US\$12 million emergency reserve allocation for the Syria Cross-border Fund is moving forward. A total of 19 projects have been submitted in the following clusters: Food Security and Livelihoods, Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter/Non-Food items and Water Sanitation and Hygiene. Review and finalization of projects is ongoing, and the process should be completed by no later than 9 January and allow for immediate implementation and scale-up of critical activities. More details on the allocation strategy are available [here](#).

Noting that further efforts are needed to support the response, partners are strongly encouraged to fill in the cluster response tools to clearly identifying the ongoing response and the critical gaps. This information is essential for resource mobilization efforts in support of the emergency response.

Information sharing on reprogramming is also critical to best organize the response. Partners are strongly encouraged to share with their clusters how the escalation of violence has impacted their programme or if current programs have been redirected towards emergency activities. For SCHF funded projects, partners should contact info-schf@un.org to report any issues related to project implementation, with copy to the relevant cluster.

The CERF underfunded allocation strategy is being developed in conjunction and will be finalized by 22 January.

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

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

Needs:

- Identifying more locations for camp extension/establishment purposes, preferably nearby towns and cities, in order to shelter the most vulnerable newly displaced families.
- Marat Al-Ekhwan Reception Center now has a population that exceeds the camp's capacity, urgent need to expand the camp to provide a temporary accommodation for additional 500 families.

Response:

- CCCM in coordination with Shelter/Non-Food Items (SNFI) Cluster provided technical support in studying and reviewing two proposals submitted by 2 NGOs to extend/establish IDPs sites in NW Syria.
- CCCM coordination continues sharing a snapshot document to monitor the number of the IDPs based on their current locations, and where community-based needs have been identified.
- CCCM Cluster members are assisting most vulnerable newly displaced families in order to provide shelter as part of the life-saving activities.
- CCCM is providing technical support for the NGOs to speed up site selection process according to the international standards.
- CCCM is monitoring tents contingency stocks prepositioned in Syria, stocked in Turkey or in the pipelines.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There are 2,195 individuals (470 families) in Marat Al-Ekhwan Reception Center surpassing the maximum capacity of 1,800 people. There is no space to host additional IDPs.
- Delay and/or conflict in information provided by many members across borders requires data cleaning, and verification before circulating and before the preparation of rapid response plan.
- Accessibility due to bad weather.

Education

Needs:

- As of 2 January, there are 48,500 school aged children -405 of which are children with disabilities- urgently require education assistance that supports the psychosocial development of children in an enabling learning environment. The ongoing winter season has an impact on the regular attendance of children in schools, which poses a concern for the upcoming mid-year examination by mid-January. 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 additional learning spaces, catch-up classes and supporting the recruitment of school staff for facilitation.
 - Establish and furnish temporary learning spaces (tents or caravans) to decrease over crowdedness and enable access in all affected areas.
 - 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.

7,651

school-aged children are reached with education services

Response:

- During the reporting period, the Education sector continued to strengthen its inter-sectoral linkages with the child protection sub cluster to reach a cumulative total of 7,651 school aged children. The coverage of the education response increased from 12 percent to 15 percent of total number of children with diverse packages of education services including PSS, PFA, formal and non-formal education activities, home schooling, student bags, textbooks and distribution of winter clothes to ensure minimum disruption to children's learning in the below districts:
 - 4929 children supported with PSS and PFA in Idlib, Harim, Dana and Atareb.
 - 500 children supported with Home School Education in Ariha.

- 4584 children supported with formal and non-formal education in Idlib, Harim, Dana and Atareb, Salqin.
- 500 children supported with winter clothes in Maaret Tamsrin.
- 500 children supported with students' bags, student kit and textbooks in Ariha.
- 20 children with disabilities supported with formal, non-formal education, students' bags, student kit and textbooks in Ariha.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Despite significant efforts, as of 2 January 2020, the Education sector has reached only 15 percent (cumulative) of the displaced school aged children in 6 districts. The lack of funds received by the sector (only 18% funded), coupled with the unfolding security situation where children are constantly on the move makes it challenging to provide quality education support.
- Additionally, the already overstretched education system that suffers from overcrowded classrooms (60- 80 students per class) in the displaced areas continues to limit 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 1,644, 580 USD (18%) is funded. Therefore, the current funding gap is 7,250.125 USD.

Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL)

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 integrated 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.
- 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 as of 30 December. Their priority needs include cash, cooked meals, cash for food, food vouchers and ready to eat rations. The gap was 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 Idlib and lately toward Afrin, added to the vulnerability of those people in winter time to be affected and infected with winter season diseases, EWARN reported 7,658 new cases of influenza like illness and 4287 new cases of diarrhea between 15 and 30 December in Idlib 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 EWARN, 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 displaced people in Atma 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 to respond emergency and the influx of displaced people in Idlib following the escalation of military operation in southern Idlib.
- Specialized emergency kits to support primary care, secondary care, trauma and surgical care were provided to facilitates in Al Ma'ra, Ariha, Harim, Idlib, Jisr-Ash-Shugur districts in addition to the ambulatory system in Idlib 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 continue responding the current situation running mobile clinics in Ariha, Maaret Tamsrin and Idlib. A new mobile clinic's services commenced in Afrin and the A'zaz to Jarabulus area where newly displaced people arrived. The cluster member operates another 5 mobile clinics (Maaret Tamsrin, Ariha, Sharan in Afrin & Shbiran in Al Bab) to respond to people's health needs;
- 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 A'zaz, Afrin and Atareb provided general medicine, nutrition, Community Health, and Psychosocial Services.
- In Afrin, a health cluster member is responding 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 Idlib, Armanaz, A'zaz, Maaret An Nu'man and transported 444 medical cases an referred them to the exiting health facilities
- Another health cluster member erected a tent in A'zaz 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 and 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 center operated by a cluster member in Kafer Omem was suspended due to its location which is very closed to the front lines. The center was evacuated and will be re-activated from a different location soon.

Nutrition

Needs:

- Urgent need is to replenish the Lipid-based Nutrients Supplements (LNS) and High Energy Biscuits (HEB) pipelines for preventing acute malnutrition among mothers and children.
- Need to continue scaling 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.
- There should be a clarity on continuity of the principled nutrition humanitarian response beyond 10 January.

18,662

Children under the age of 5 years, pregnant and lactating mothers

Response:

- Overall life-saving nutrition services coverage among displaced children and mothers increased to reach 18,662 children and mothers in 77 communities in 24 sub-districts in Idlib through 58 rapid response teams and mobile teams by 17 partners. This represents an increase of 3,000 beneficiaries, doubling of the number of accessible communities and additional three partners responding in additional five sub-districts in Idlib and Western Aleppo.
- Cluster lead agency has replenished its pipeline of micronutrient supplementation and lifesaving curative nutrition supplies, which will be transshipped inside Syria this week.
- **6,442** children and mothers received high energy biscuits for preventing acute malnutrition among IDP mothers and children. **12,539** pregnant and lactating mothers received micro-nutrient supplementation while additional **11,579** children 6-36 months of age received high calorie lipid-based nutrition supplements for prevention of acute malnutrition.
- **107** cases of severe acute malnutrition and **428** cases of moderate acute malnutrition were identified among mothers and children and referred to the appropriate treatment sites. **457** mothers were also found to be acutely malnourished and received the appropriate treatment. Around **8,331** mothers and care givers were reached with infant feeding and caring practices messages and counselling.
- Nutrition cluster data shows continued 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 3% only in 10 days as indicated by community nutrition surveillance data, which might highlight increased morbidities among mothers and children. This represents a continuation of the observed trend of increasing acute malnutrition among mothers and children
- Rapid response teams reported that among the children they reached, 1 percent were separated from their families and referred to the appropriate protection services. Findings indicate that 1 percent of children assessed had disabilities.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Although there is a 12 percent increase within a week, nutrition sector can still only reach 45 percent of the accessible total displaced mothers and children. This is due to the security situation and the need to increase the numbers of rapid response teams.
- SCHF funding was secured to address the potential break in the high energy biscuits and LNS stocks.

Protection

Needs:

- The protection situation of IDPs and civilian population remains critical given the evolving conditions and increasing displacement towards the north of Idlib.
- The protection environment in northwest Syria continues to be characterized by ongoing conflict and civilians' direct exposure to hostilities, which exacerbate physical safety risks and high levels of trauma and distress and contribute to forced displacement and restrictions to freedom of movement.

- The current nature of hostilities in northwest Syria creates a significant sense of dread and anxiety amongst civilians. Community members fear for their future and lack of options in terms of areas to flee, in the event of a large-scale offensive continue into 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.
- With ongoing displacement, the lack of shelter options and the sub-standard living conditions in areas of displacement, protection risks, specifically related to GBV, child protection, and exposure to explosive hazards have increased. Overcrowding in the IDP sites and makeshift shelters, in addition to a lack of WASH facilities will put women and girls at particular risk for GBV
- Safety and security concerns severely restrict civilians' freedom of movement, meanwhile, displaced people remain particularly vulnerable, and access for IDPs from Idlib to North of Aleppo for physical safety and shelter remains restricted.
- According the latest escalation of violence, especially in northwest Syria especially in Ma'arrat An-Nu'man and Saraqab, over 141,392 children continue to pay the highest toll of this emergency.
- Violations against children rights continues, child protection concerns particularly for unaccompanied and separated children are increasing due to displacement, death of caregivers and disrupted transportation. This is also forcing the children and their caregivers in psychological distress.
- Multi-sectoral coordination between child protection teams, education and basic needs distribution teams is highly needed to respond to the children protection concerns.

Response:

- From 31 December 2019 until 2 January 2020, 7 Protection Cluster members provided emergency response services for civilians recently displaced from Southern Idlib due to the ongoing hostilities. Cluster members provided 5,145 protection services to IDPs and affected host community members in 25 communities within 13 sub-districts in Idlib and Aleppo reaching 8,455 individuals (652 girls, 420 boys, 1,383 women, and 516 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 also referred individuals to other basic services, notably to health and shelter and provided CP Case management. In addition to, Individual Protection Assistance for at risk people.
- 47 Unaccompanied and separated children identified since the 15th of December 2019. All these separation cases happened when moving from Ma'arrat An Nu'man to the North of Idlib. It has been a temporary separation of children from their parents/ caregivers. To date all cases identified under these circumstances have been 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.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There also continues to be concern for segments of the population who experience barriers in accessing existing humanitarian assistance and who generally lack specialized and focused response services, such as, elderly people, people with disabilities, adolescent boys and girls, unaccompanied and separated children, female-headed households, and other individuals with specific legal and/or protection needs are among those groups who experience barriers in accessing existing humanitarian assistance and who generally lack specialized and focused response services.
- These barriers are often exacerbated during displacement, as emergency response focuses on rapid distributions, which often exclude individuals and households who are either not as visible, or not perceived as in need.
- 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 IDPs 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 / Non-Food Items (NFI)

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. As of 30 December, 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 planned to reach 405,000 people with winter assistance in December only.
- CCCM and SNFI Clusters are 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 280,000 displaced people to Matabli, Sharan, Jebel Saman, Afrin, Atareb, A'zaz and Jarablus districts of Aleppo governorate and Dana, Maaret Tamsrin, Armanaz, Kafr Takharim, Janudiyeh, Ariha, 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. In addition, there is a need to increase solid waste management support to support an increase in IDPs numbers.
- 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.
- It is highly likely that new IDPs will not return to their areas of origin near future. Therefore, there is a need to include them in the ongoing sustained programs to ensure their continued access to all WASH services on a longer term.

Response:

- During last week, ongoing WASH response has outreached to 80,000 recently displaced people in 171 locations through 22 Cluster members (53% of the locations responded to are camps, 35% in communities and 12% 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 IDPs, especially where the member organization do not have the flexible funding. This is also constrained by the unequipped private sector that find it difficult to increase 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.
- SCHF has launched an emergency response allocation of USD2.5M to respond to urgent WASH needs and the cluster lead agency has separately secured USD1.52M from its own internal funds to support WASH supplies and services to newly displaced people.

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 due to 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 motorcycles 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\$25 M 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\$8.5 M 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.

For further information, please contact:

Markus Werne, Head of Office a.i., 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>