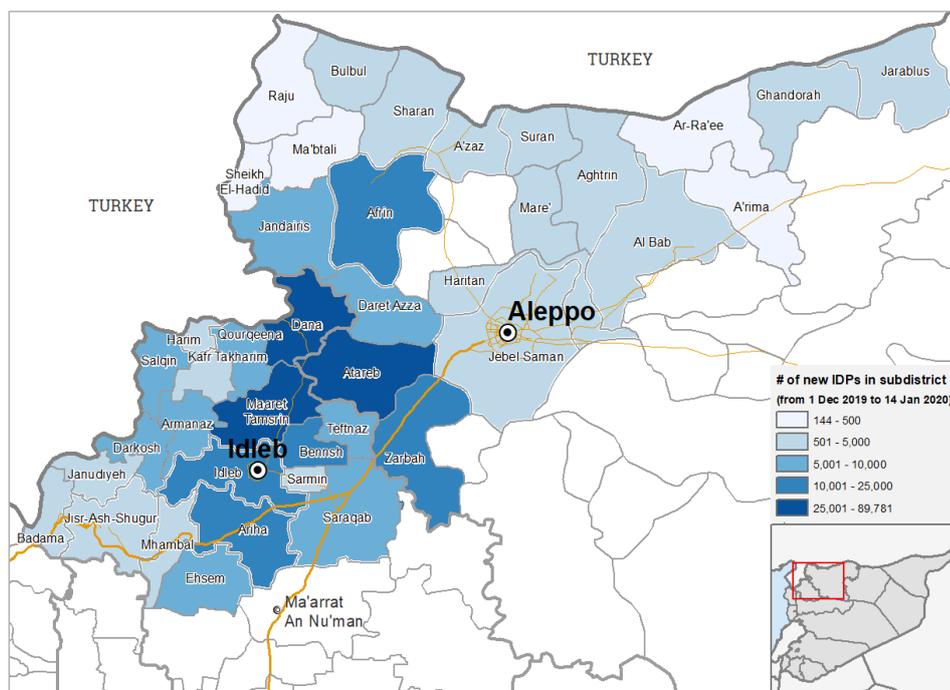


HIGHLIGHTS

- Since 1 December 2019, almost 350,000 people fled from their homes, mainly from southern Idleb governorate, moving further north away from the hostilities.
- Most of the recently displaced people moved to urban centres and IDP camps in northwestern Idleb. 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

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

The hostilities in northwest Syria continue to impact heavily on civilians who have endured nine years of crisis, violence, multiple displacements and economic downturn. The humanitarian situation, particularly in the Idleb de-escalation area, continues to deteriorate as a result of the hostilities that escalated in late 2019. From 1 December 2019 to 14 January 2020, almost 350,000 people were displaced in northwest Syria, mostly from southern parts of Idleb area, 80 percent of whom are women and children. Many fled their homes within the space of hours without any belongings while others managed take with them what they needed to survive, believing that they would not be coming back. The majority of those newly displaced have stayed within the Idleb area, moving to either urban centres such as Idleb city or Ariha or to areas that already have significant IDP populations such as Dana, Maaret Tamsrin and Atareb. Some 45,000 of newly displaced individuals chose to move to areas in northern Aleppo governorate to seek safety and to reach services. In 2019, 910 incidents of indirect artillery fire hit different residential areas in Aleppo city killing 64 civilians and injuring 273 people. A further three projectiles were recorded in January 2020.

Yet, those who fled their homes in southern Idleb due to hostilities continue to be deeply affected by the violence. On 15 January, local sources reported airstrikes hit Idleb city, Ariha, Ma'arrat An Nu'man, Kafr Nobol and Khan Elsobol, with initial reports of civilian casualties coming in. On 11 January, intensive airstrikes once again hit areas such as Idleb city, Bennsh, Sarmin and Nayreb, reportedly killing 21 civilians -including 8 children and 5 women- and injuring some 75 people. Moreover, local and media sources reported that shelling hit areas close to the frontlines in GoS-held areas, including in Aleppo city, resulted in the death of several civilians and injuring many others. Between 29 April, 2019 and 5 January, 2020, OHCHR recorded the deaths of 1,460 civilians, including 417 children, as a result of the military escalation in Idleb, Hama and Aleppo.

As the fluidity of the security situation persists across Idleb area, civilians are faced with difficult decisions about staying where they are, moving to areas that they believe are safer or back to their home communities. Given the unpredictability surrounding the hostilities, many civilians, particularly those who live in areas close to the frontlines in western Aleppo countryside in Idleb area, are worried that ground fighting may affect their communities next and are ready to move on a short notice. Following the announcement of a ceasefire over the weekend of 11-12 January, local sources reported that some civilians began returning to their communities in southern parts of Idleb area. Then with the announcement of the opening of three crossing points between NSAG-controlled Idleb area and GoS-controlled areas, local sources reported that at least 70 civilians crossed into GoS-controlled areas.

Following the displacement, the humanitarian response for the affected population focuses on life-saving assistance such as food support and shelter, people's needs across sectors are growing exponentially at arrival locations. This evolving complexity and vulnerability adds strain on the provision of humanitarian assistance. The dynamic situation brings additional challenges to the response to people's needs, as the displacement patterns can rapidly change.

Commensurate with the needs of both the newly displaced and host populations, the humanitarian actors are scaling up their response, particularly in areas that have recently received IDPs. Humanitarian organizations that had suspended their operations in southern Idleb due to hostilities are now relocating their services to northern parts of Idleb to the extent possible. Moreover, those humanitarian actors who were already operating in these areas are expanding their programming to reach newly displaced people.

However, the rapid displacement as well as the previously existing needs on the ground mean more resources are needed to support all those in need in northern Syria. The current crisis compounds an already dire humanitarian situation in northwest Syria where an estimated 400,000 people have been displaced between May and August 2019. Four million people live in northwest Syria, of which 2.8 are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance. Women and children are estimated to make up for the 76 percent of this population. The main needs of the most recently displaced individuals, as reported by the CCCM, are non-food items, shelter, food and cash assistance. Currently, almost half of those newly displaced are living with host families and rented houses while 32 percent are living in camps or individual tents. In particular, the winter weather is adding another layer of urgency to the situation with flooding frequently affecting camps and informal settlements and many families seeking shelter in unfinished buildings.

With the displacement movement slowing, the needs of newly displaced and host communities across all sectors will emerge more on clearly beyond the emergency assistance, such as health services for chronic illnesses and maternal care. Additional education assistance for tens of thousands of newly displaced children who could not attend school for the most part of the semester, if not for several years, will be needed to support these children.

FUNDING

The emergency reserve allocation for the Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF) has been completed and US\$12.5 Million have been disbursed to support the emergency response for a 3 to 6 months period. Further allocations will be based on ongoing discussions around operational readiness plan. Partners are encouraged to closely coordinate with the clusters and fill in the 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.

Given the scale of the current displacement and the existing vulnerabilities of both the displaced and host communities, the humanitarian needs in northwest Syria are immense. Therefore, funding beyond the SCHF reserve allocation will be needed to support all the people in need beyond the initial emergency phase. Information sharing on reprogramming is also critical to best organize the response. Partners are strongly encouraged to share with their clusters on their ongoing programming, new funding secured and possibility to scale-up 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

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

Needs:

- CCCM is discussing the ways to fund the 14 proposals submitted by 6 members in 14 different locations for camp extension/establishment purposes, in order to shelter some 3,827 families among the most vulnerable newly displaced.
- Marat Al-Ekhwan Reception Center now has a population (2,088 people) that exceeds the camp's capacity (1,800 people). There is an urgent need to expand the camp to provide a temporary accommodation for additional 500 families. Most of the families have been in the center and there is need for resettlement, which is not possible due to the lack of shelter options.
- There is a need to establish a new reception center.

348,713

People displaced in northwest Syria since 1 December 2019

Response:

- CCCM is waiting to receive more proposals from active partners for camp establishment/expansions.
- CCCM in cooperation with partners keep sharing (Snapshot) to monitor the number of the IDPs based on their current locations, and where community-based needs have been identified.
- CCCM is providing technical support for the active members to speed up camp establishment/expansion process according to the international standards.
- CCCM is monitoring tents contingency stocks prepositioned in Syria or stocked in Turkey or in the pipelines.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There are 2,088 people in Marat Al-Ekhwan RC. The reception centres maximum capacity is 1,800 people. As such there is no remaining space for other displaced people.
- 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.
- Physical accessibility is limited due to bad weather.

Education

Needs:

- As of 15 January 2020, due to the unfolding situation in Maaret An Nu'man and Saraqab education activities remain suspended, impacting the learning of 33,817 school age children. Out of the 135 schools, there are 110 schools that are closed, impacting over 2,000 education personnel. The ongoing winter season continues to impact regular attendance of children, especially in the camps where it has been reported that there has been a 30% decrease in attendance. Additionally, availability of space for children to continue learning and the lack of education materials impacts the learning of children in affected areas.
- 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.

33,817

school-aged children's learning affected due to hostilities

- Provide school-based hygiene materials (including medicine for head lice) for 1415 children in 13 schools, located in Aleppo and Idlib governorates in coordination with the Health cluster

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 10,007 school aged children, which is a 21% increase from the total target of 48,500 in need of children. Children are reached 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:
 - 5831 children supported with PSS and PFA in Idlib, Maaret Tamsrin, Harim, Dana and Atareb, Qourqeena, Daret Azza and Bensch
 - 500 children supported with Home School Education in Ariha.
 - 6104 children supported with formal and non-formal education in Idlib, Harim, Dana and Atareb, Salqin, Maaret Tamsrin, Qourqeena
 - 825 children supported with winter clothes in Maaret Tamsrin and Atareb.
 - 641 children supported with students' bags, student kit and textbooks in Ariha, Idlib, Harim, Dana, Kafr Lusin and Anadoul Camp.
 - 20 children with disabilities supported with formal, non-formal education, students' bags, student kit and textbooks in Ariha.
 - Only 173 children out of a targeted 1415 provided with medicine for lice in coordination with Health cluster

Gaps & Constraints:

- The Education cluster is scaling up its response and as of January 15, 2020 21% percent (cumulative) of the displaced school aged children. 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.
- Despite ongoing winterization efforts, there is still a key funding gap for winterization interventions to ensure that schools are appropriately heated to allow children to continue their education.
- 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 with a current funding gap of 7,250.125 USD.

Food Security

Needs:

- The number of newly displaced people from Ma'arrat An Nu'man, Kafr Nobol, Heish, Ehsem, Saraqab, and Khan Shaykun to Atareb, Daret Azza, Dana, Ariha, Idlib, Saraqab has increased to 367,000 people at end December 2019.
- The recently displaced people need emergency food assistance, through cooked meals, ready-to-Eat rations (RTEs), during the first 2-4 weeks of displacement. After the frontline emergency response, the displaced people should be integrated in the monthly regular food assistance.
- After the initial displacement waves, lifesaving livelihood initiatives are also needed to support the affected communities and households in increasing agricultural production, sustain 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 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. To enable improved planning and targeting of activities, there is a need to obtain updated estimates of livestock numbers owned by IDPs.

Response:

- The Food Security Cluster supports the frontline emergency response through the coordination with partners by online group, the emergency tracker tool (database), communication by phones and the organization of ad hoc Strategy Advisory Group and cluster meetings.
- The frontline response is provided to the displaced people with the distribution of ready to eat (RTE) rations, which are tailored to standard household of 5 members, the provision of cooked meals and emergency multi-purpose cash grants (MPCG) with an amount of 120 – 130 USD for each household to cover the immediate food needs.
- The Food Security Cluster members have scaled up the emergency response from 1 December 2019 to 31 January 2020, with different transfer modalities to enable food access to the newly displaced people:
 - 10 FSL members distributed 7,500 Emergency Food Basket (one-off) to 38,436 beneficiaries;

- 12 FSL members distributed 36,445 RTEs to assist 208,600 beneficiaries;
- 4 FSL members distributed 1,235,470 USD MPCGs to assist 55,680 beneficiaries;
- 6 FSL members distributed 8,810 Cooked Meals to assist 43,850 beneficiaries.
- From 1 December 2019 to 14 January 2020, Food Security Cluster members provided further assistance to the new IDPs according to the following plan:
 - 10 FSL members distributed 9,700 Emergency Food Basket (one-off) to reach 50,600 beneficiaries;
 - 12 FSL members distributed 42,466 RTE rations to assist 216,213 beneficiaries;
 - 5 FSL members distributed 1,623,565 USD MPCGs to assist 78,175 beneficiaries;
 - 7 FSL members distributed 19,155 Cooked Meals to assist 78,885 beneficiaries.
- The food security cluster co-lead agency has prepositioned 116,000 RTEs for emergency response in NWS to meet the food needs of 580,000 people, in addition to the stock of food rations for regular assistance.
- Under SCHF (third reserve allocation), 4 million \$ will cover the following new IDPS by the end of March 2020:
 - 9,035 HHs will be targeted by MPCGs for two rounds (USD 120 per households per month);
 - 4,335 HHs will be targeted by RTE rations for two rounds (each round cover one household for five days);
 - 11,335 HHs will be targeted by cooked meals for 30 days;

Gaps & Constraints:

- Despite the huge efforts from the Food Security Cluster members, the number of newly displaced people continues to increase, with implications on food assistance. The latest estimation points out a gap in food assistance for 94,000 individuals that are not yet assisted by partners. The Food Security Cluster calls for additional support to meet the food needs of 94,000 newly displaced people by delivering frontline response (cash, cooked meals, ready to eat rations) for the next weeks till the situation on the ground will calm down.
- The main identified constraints regard security, transportation, access to safe locations, and harsh winter season that sharpen the urgent needs of the newly displaced people.

Nutrition

Needs:

- There is a need to scale up nutrition response to reach all displaced mothers and children within the accessible geographic areas.
- The nutrition cluster remains underfunded with more than 60% of its annual financial requirements.

25,611

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

Response:

- Overall life-saving nutrition services reached **25,611** children and mothers in 87 communities in 25 sub-districts in Idlib through **58** RRTs and mobile teams by **17** partners
- **11,310** displaced children under the age of 5 years, pregnant and lactating mothers received high energy biscuits for preventing acute malnutrition. It is also reported that **23,638** pregnant and lactating mothers received micro-nutrient supplementation while additional **16,063** children 6-59 months of age received high calories lipid-based nutrition supplements for prevention of acute malnutrition.
- Of the mothers and children reached, **141** cases of severe acute malnutrition and **526** cases of moderate acute malnutrition were identified and referred to the appropriate treatment sites. **1,144** mothers were also found to be acutely malnourished and received the appropriate treatment. Around **11,980** mothers and care givers were reached with infant feeding and caring practices messages and counselling
- The nutrition cluster information shows continued increase in the cases of acute malnutrition among displaced mothers and children Malnutrition cases are doubled among children under the age of 5 years and the proxy acute malnutrition rates among mothers increased by 3.6% only in 16 days as indicated by community nutrition surveillance data, which might highlight increased morbidities among mothers and children.
- The Cluster Lead Agency has shipped micronutrient supplementations into Syria with the plan to transship additional therapeutic nutrition supplies in the coming week. Syria Cross border humanitarian fund as part of its emergency reserve allocation has financed boosting supplies stocks for prevention of acute malnutrition which should be enough for nearly **36,000** mothers and children
- The Cluster Lead Agencies for Food security and Nutrition have been scaling up their nutrition response through supporting additional partners to be able to respond in NWS. Total of **9** agencies were supported

Gaps & Constraints:

- Nutrition sector reach still around **56 %** of the accessible total displaced mothers and children due to security and need to increase the numbers of rapid response teams.

Protection

Needs:

- 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 latest escalation of violence continues to affect particularly Ma'arrat An-Nu'man and Saraqab in North West Syria. Over 150,000 affected children continue to pay the highest toll of this emergency, and grave child rights violations continue to be recorded in northwest Syria.
- Humanitarian organizations and donors are reminded to use alternative identification methods like community validation to ensure that people are not excluded from assistance due to lack of documentation, a condition exacerbated by the high levels of displacement.
- With the ongoing displacement, concomitant lack of shelter options, and the sub-standard living conditions in areas of displacement, protection risks have increased, specifically related to gender-based violence (GBV), child protection (CP), and exposure to explosive hazards. 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.
- Main needs amongst new displaced people from Ma'arrat An Nu'man are heating; food items, especially canned items due to lack of cooking items such as gas; baby winter clothes; kitchen utensils; sanitary pads for females; and tents or cash for rent.
- IDP reception centers lack sufficient information desks to provide information and protection services to newly arriving displaced people.
- Parents' and caregivers' protection capacities are overstretched, leading families to resort to negative coping mechanisms including child labour (including worst forms), child marriage, and school dropouts.
- Death of caregivers and unreliable means of transportation are resulting in cases of unaccompanied and separated children as well as child-headed and female-headed households.
- Lack and/or disruption of basic services due to displacement is resulting in increasing numbers of children unable to access education.
- CP concerns are compounding and rarely take place in isolation. Multi-sectoral coordination response prioritizing child vulnerability criteria is needed.

Response:

- From 8 to 14 January 2020, 15 Protection Cluster members provided emergency response services for civilians recently displaced from southern Idlib, mainly from Ma'arrat An Nu'man due to the ongoing hostilities. Cluster members provided 17,345 protection interventions to displaced people and affected host community members in 71 communities within 20 sub-districts in Idlib and Aleppo reaching 6,799 individuals (1,606 girls, 1,402 boys, 2,234 women, and 1,557 men). The main services protection actors provided are as follows:
 - Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Psychosocial Support (PSS)
 - Information about other services
 - Dignity kits distribution
 - Risk education
- Cluster members also referred individuals to other basic services / sectors, notably to health. They also provided Individual Protection Assistance and Child Protection Case management.
- GBV actors continued to distribute dignity kits, reaching 6,430 women and girls of reproductive age (through 11 GBV sub-cluster members) since the beginning of December.
- The provision of dignity kit distribution was accompanied with referral to urgent services (medical and legal), PFA, individual protection assistance and information about available services with emphasis on how these services should be free of charge to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Identification and response to unaccompanied and separated children has been intensified since 15 December 2019. In most cases separation has been found to be due to disrupted transportation means. 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. New cases coming up are observed to follow similar patterns and child protection partners respond accordingly.
- Displacement and harsh weather conditions are severely affecting development of youngest children. Child protection actors have continued to distribute winterization kits that include clothes, blankets prioritizing newly displaced families. Additionally, child protection mobile teams and child friend spaces have delivered supplies including prevention-separation wrist bands for children and adults as well as recreational and adolescent kits to support activities.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The winter rains and resulting muddy terrain of camps impedes staff's movement to deliver assistance.
- GBV actors continue to report a number of GBV-related risks prompted by the lack of WASH facilities, overcrowding leading to lack of privacy, lack of lights, and lack of sex-segregated latrines and WASH facilities, mostly in unofficial sites established by IDPs.
- Pregnant women continue to be identified as most at risk and in need of medical support.
- Basic needs continue not to be met, under which condition families cannot meaningfully engage in parenting programmes and awareness sessions.
- Child protection emergency case management funds continue to be insufficient to match the urgency and priorities on the ground. This is particularly affecting serious child protection cases (including child recruitment, child marriage and child labour) which require additional emergency funds for an effective response and follow-up. Areas of concern and occurrence include overcrowded IDP locations such as Dana, Atareb and Jebel Saman.
- Donor flexibility is urgently needed to redirect funds to the new emergency in order to avoid long-term consequences to children and their caregivers.
- Humanitarian actors are reminded to prioritise child protection vulnerability criteria in delivery of NFIs and services to include field staff specialized in child protection with the rapid response teams.


Shelter / Non-Food Item (NFI) Cluster
Needs:

- Shelter / Non-Food Items (SNFI) Cluster members have identified 47,000 people in need of NFI and/or shelter assistance. The subdistricts with the largest number of people in need remain: Dana, Maaret Tamsrin, Atareb, Ariha, Salqin and Idleb.
- 25 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 8 January, requests have been approved to release 12,033 NFI kits, 1,459 tents and 3,900 plastic sheeting to 16 partners.
- 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:

- In December, most of the SNFI Cluster members were very active having to respond to the ongoing emergency in addition to providing winter assistance for those who were displaced previously. SNFI Cluster members assisted 455,755 people (96,555 with shelter and 359,220 with NFI assistance). This is a sharp increase in the number of people reached with shelter and/or NFI assistance compared to November. On average, 178,000 people per month received shelter and/or NFI assistance in 2019, marking a 39% increase from the previous year.
- Cluster members continue to respond to the ongoing emergency. The Cluster members plan to assist 72,000 additional people with NFI and 14,000 with shelters in the coming weeks.
- Syria Cross-Border Humanitarian Funds (SCHF) has approved 5 new projects in order to support 100,000 new vulnerable displaced people with USD120 cash to respond to their immediate needs.
- The Contingency stock is being replenished with SNFI with 6000 NFI kits and 30,000 plastic sheeting (SCHF funding)
- Five other partners are starting new SCHF funded projects to rehabilitate damaged/unfinished buildings for 96,000 individuals.
- 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.
- 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 target.
- Shelter remains the main gap. USD 7 million are needed to continue upgrading damaged/unfinished shelters where new IDPs are seeking refuge.


Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
Needs:

- WASH cluster members reported continued high needs with regards to life-saving WASH supplies and services for 348,000 displaced people to Raju, Matabli, Sharan, Jandairis, Daret Ezza, Zarbah, Souran, Mare, Akhtarín, Jebel Saman, Afrin, Atareb, A'zaz and Jarablus districts of Aleppo governorate and Dana, Qourqeena, Badama, Bennsh,

Tamsrin, Armanaz, Kafr Takharim, Janudiyeh, Ariha, Idleb, Jisr Ash Shugur and Harim districts of Idleb governorate. Displaced people need WASH services including domestic water, solid waste management, community latrines and wastewater management. The need for 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 water supply and manage drinking water safety, to mitigate against diarrheal and other communicable diseases. In most of these locations, number of IDPs have increased, who are sharing same level of services and supplies. Inadequate desludging and solid waste management with the ongoing rain has increased the chances of contamination of water sources.
- The need for desludging of septic tanks and pit latrines is increased with rain and subsequent flooding in several locations. With increasing displaced people the need for solid waste management has also increased.
- 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 unlikely that new IDPs will return to their areas of origin near future. Therefore, there is a need to include them in the ongoing sustained emergency programs to ensure their continued access to all WASH services.

Response:

- The ongoing WASH response has reached to 160,000 recently displaced people in 262 locations through 22 Cluster members (64% of the locations responded to are camps, 23% in communities, 7% in collective centers and 6% other locations).
- 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. In communities of Dana and Sarmada, the restored water systems are benefiting both host communities and recently arrived displaced people..
- Cluster members are preparing to scale up the response to meet at least the need of 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, because of poor funding.
- SCHF has launched an emergency response allocation of USD2.4M 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 over 100,000 displaced people for 3-6 months.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Inadequate space in existing shelters complicates the response, as recently displaced people repeatedly have to move 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 to people in 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.
- This is also constrained by the unequipped private sector that find it difficult to increase the supplies and services overnight in sporadic locations.
- 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 with an additional 250,000 people.

GENERAL COORDINATION

On 15 January, an extended ICCG membership undertook a humanitarian operational readiness workshop to outline the necessary inter-cluster humanitarian readiness planning to support any further large-scale displacement. On 9 and 13

January, Humanitarian Liaison Group, responsible for the strategic aspects of humanitarian cross-border response, had two meetings during which the discussions focused on the renewal of the UN Security Council Resolution and on the response to the current emergency in northwest Syria, including on the needs, gaps and challenges. On 7 January, a meeting of the Inter-Cluster Coordination was convened to discuss the response, gaps and needs to scale up the response in northwest Syria. Common advocacy messages have been elaborated. 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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