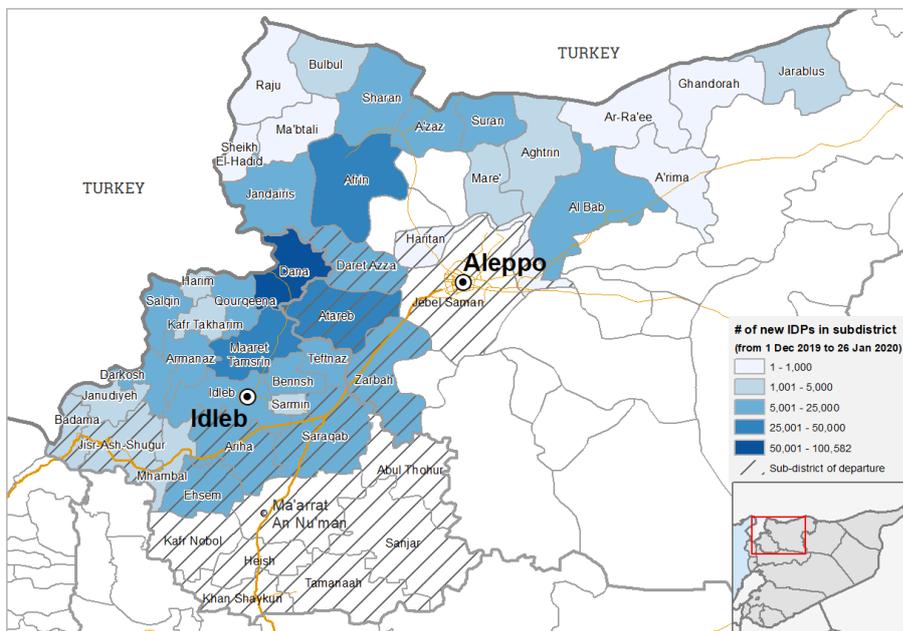


HIGHLIGHTS

- Since 1 December 2019, nearly 390,000 people have fled from their homes, mainly from southern Idlib and western Aleppo governorates, mostly escaping hostilities by moving to urban centers and IDP camps in northwest Idlib. Tens of thousands of others have reportedly moved to areas such as Afrin, A'zaz and Al-Bab in northern Aleppo governorate.
- Most of the people displaced in northwest Syria since 15 January have been displaced multiple times before, with each new displacement introducing new risks and intensifying existing vulnerabilities.
- Daily bombardments perpetuate the unstable security situation in northwest Syria, affecting civilian infrastructure including IDP camps, schools, health centers and hospitals.
- Winter conditions are compounding the vulnerability of displaced people. Many who fled are in urgent need of humanitarian support, particularly shelter, food, health, non-food and winterization assistance.
- Devaluation of the Syrian Pound is driving up prices and unaffordability of essential goods and services in northwestern Syria, exacerbating the dire situation and reliance on humanitarian 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

Civilians living in northwest Syria have been enduring a drastically worsening humanitarian situation as hostilities continue to intensify since November 2019. From 1 December 2019 to 27 January 2020, nearly 390,000 people – around 80% of whom are women and children – were displaced in northwest Syria, mostly from large population centers such as Saraqab and Ma'arrat An Nu'man, as well as smaller towns and villages in other parts of southern Idlib governorate. Many have been displaced multiple times, with each new displacement compounding experienced risks and vulnerabilities. With further mass displacement taking place since 27 January, this number is likely to continue increasing significantly.

Most people displaced since December 2019 have been moving towards northern Idlib as well as Afrin, A'zaz and Al-Bab areas of northern Aleppo governorate. With an estimated 400,000 people displaced in northwest Syria between May and August 2019 and nearly 390,000 people displaced in northern Syria since December 2019, increasingly large numbers of people are being squeezed into an increasingly small pocket of the northwest. The large numbers of displacements are severely exacerbating shelter and accommodation shortages across northwest Syria; thousands of families are reportedly temporarily accommodated in public buildings, schools and mosques, relying on local charities to provide immediate assistance including cooked meals; hundreds of other families are reportedly sheltering in unfinished houses, shops and other sub-standard buildings, as well as in open spaces including public parks, with no access to basic services.

Since 15 January, heavy aerial bombardment and artillery shelling has been affecting western Aleppo governorate, leading to 38,295 people moving from the area within the first four days, with some 10,700 IDP movements to Atareb and some 4,500 to Dana sub-districts near the border with Turkey. In total, 162,000 people were displaced in northwest Syria between 15 and 26 January due to hostilities mainly in western Aleppo and southern Idlib governorates. Of these, some 121,000

reportedly remained in areas of northwest Syria held by NSAGs, while some 41,000 moved to areas such as Afrin and A'zaz in northern Aleppo governorate, with many in Afrin reportedly unable to return due to restrictions on movement and risks of explosive hazards.

Impact on Civilians

The violence is taking a significant toll on civilian lives and infrastructure. OHCHR monitoring from 15 to 23 January documented confirmed incidents in which at least 81 civilians including 13 women, 14 girls and 20 boys were killed as a result of airstrikes and ground operations by parties to the conflict. Of these, eight civilians including four women and two boys were killed in Aleppo city and 44 civilians including seven women, 13 girls and 11 boys were killed in western rural Aleppo alone – more than 50% of the total. In 2020 thus far, 21 people have reportedly been killed and 48 people have been injured by projectiles hitting the city of Aleppo. On 15 January, approximately 100 air raids were reportedly carried out across Idlib and more than 28 barrel bombs dropped over areas such as Ma'arrat An Nu'man and Kafruma. 21 communities in Idlib were affected by airstrikes, of which six communities also came under artillery shelling. Reportedly, 19 civilians were killed and at least 68 wounded as a result of airstrikes on an industrial area and a market in Idlib city, which also caused extensive damage to infrastructure. Tens of people were injured from an airstrike on a market in Ariha city which also damaged a fence of a school. A barrel bomb damaged a Civil Defense center in Shnan village in Jabal Al-Zaweya area in south rural Idlib governorate and airstrikes on Banin partially destroyed the Omar Bin Al-Khattab mosque. Eight people including five children were killed in the airstrikes and 23 people including nine children were injured. Retaliatory attacks in New Aleppo and Az-Zahraa neighborhoods of Aleppo city between 21 and 25 January reportedly resulted in the deaths of five civilians including a child and injured six people.

Civilians are still unsafe in destination areas, as improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and other unexploded ordinances (UXOs) continue to place people's lives at risk. In A'zaz, an area which received hundreds of displaced people since 15 January, a large vehicle-borne IED reportedly exploded on 26 January in proximity of a gas station, which exacerbated the explosion. Reportedly, one child was killed and some 30 people were injured as a result. Furthermore, hostilities were reported to have affected several civilian facilities, including schools, hospitals, health centers and IDP camps, while two primary healthcare centers (PHC) in western Aleppo countryside – one in Abzemo near Atareb and one in Zarbah in Jebel Saman district – reportedly suspended operations as a result of the hostilities.

The rise in civilian casualties during this week raises serious concerns regarding civilian protection. Equally concerning is that civilians are likely to continue to be severely affected by hostilities as territorial gains of populated areas continue. Between 15 and 21 January, 35 residential communities came under the control of GoS in southeastern Idlib governorate, including Abu Jreif and Tal Abu Jreif villages in eastern Idlib governorate. Humanitarian partners have maintained their delivery of assistance to areas shifting control in northwest Syria despite difficulties in accessing some areas. As aerial and artillery bombardments continued to affect multiple locations in northwest Syria, including in western Aleppo, on 27 January GoS forces advanced to within 2 km of Ma'arrat An Nu'man city, instigating a renewed mass exodus of civilians from towns and cities in the area, including from Saraqab and Ariha, with thousands of vehicles reportedly jamming the main roads heading north and northwest towards the border with Turkey. With ground operations shifting the southeastern and eastern frontlines of the Idlib de-escalation area, civilians in proximity of these areas are confronted with having to choose between staying and fleeing either to escape the hostilities or for the longer term, a decision based on considerations about immediate safety and whether to remain in NSAG-controlled areas or cross into GoS-controlled areas.

Humanitarian Response

Some 2.8 million of the four million people living in northwest Syria are estimated to require humanitarian assistance, with women and children estimated to comprise 76% of this population. The main reported needs of the recently displaced people are shelter, food, non-food items, and cash assistance. Winter conditions are adding an additional layer of urgency to the situation, with cold weather and flooding exacerbating vulnerabilities. Humanitarian actors are scaling up their responses in destination areas for newly displaced, recently displaced, previously displaced and host populations, in order to reach as many people as possible with lifesaving humanitarian support such as food support and shelter. The rapid and frequent displacements, increased demand in destination areas, the volatile security situation and the heightened prices in local markets mean that more flexible resources are needed to support all those in need in northwest Syria, as the fluidity of the situation caused by rapidly changing displacement patterns complicates the efforts of humanitarian actors.

The humanitarian community from within Syria has prepared a contingency plan for northwest Syria, covering parts of Aleppo, Idlib, Hama and Latakia governorates. This includes food, health, nutrition and water, sanitation and health interventions for 100,000 people who may arrive in rural Aleppo or newly accessible areas in western rural Aleppo, as well as education services for 30,000 children, shelter support for 15,000 people, protection support for 60,000 and distribution of Non-Food Items (NFIs) benefitting 47,000. The readiness plan for Hama governorate covers Food, Health, Nutrition, WASH services, NFI distribution and protection interventions for 30,000 people, education initiatives for 15,000 children

and shelter support for 12,000 people. A preparedness plan covering 20,000 people moving to south-eastern Idlib and a further 5,000 to Latakia Governorate will provide Food, Health, Nutrition and WASH support, NFI distributions and protection services for 25,000 people, educational support for 12,000 children and shelter support for 500 people.

Deteriorating Economic Situation

The dire situation of civilians in northwest Syria is further compounded by unprecedented devaluation of the Syrian Pound, with the USD exchange rate ranging between 1,100 and 1,200 SYP per USD in January 2020, compared to around 640 SYP per USD in mid-October 2019. Consequently, prices of vital goods and services in northwest Syria have increased significantly, reducing access and affordability and contributing to increased reliance of civilians on humanitarian support. Reportedly in response to the declining SYP, in Idlib governorate the price of bread was pegged to the USD, with consumers subject to paying SYP equivalent according to the prevailing rate. Fuel has also become increasingly unaffordable, affecting transportation costs and exacerbating existing concerns about increased health and fire risks and potential interruptions to vital services including hospitals and emergency operations.

FUNDING

The development of the inter-cluster Northwest Syria Humanitarian Operational Readiness Plan for Major Population Movement Response will be critical for informing funding allocations in early 2020 in order to support the ongoing emergency response. The Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF) will use this plan to inform its allocation strategy. Partners are encouraged to closely coordinate with the clusters and fill in the response tools to clearly identify 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 about their ongoing programming, new funding secured and possibilities 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 UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) underfunded allocation strategy has been finalized and is under review for approval.

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:

- Urgent need to expand Marat Al-Ekhwan Reception Center, which has a maximum capacity of 1,800 people and a current population of 2,701 people.
- Resettlement solutions for families hosted in reception centers for the past two months.
- Establishment of new camps and reception centers in preparation of further large-scale arrivals of displaced people.

388,887

People displaced in northwest Syria since 1 December 2019

Response:

- CCCM Cluster finalized the evaluation of 18 proposals for camp expansion/establishment submitted by nine NGOs, including one incorporating Refugee Housing Units (RHUs). CCCM facilitated multi-cluster technical discussions on the 18 proposals with SNFI and WASH clusters. CCCM is waiting to receive more proposals for camp establishment/expansions from active partners.
- CCCM Cluster in coordination with SNFI Cluster endorsed the installation of 14 rub halls in Marat Al-Ekhwan Reception Center for expansion purposes.
- CCCM Cluster partners are monitoring and sharing through Snapshots the number of the IDPs based on their current locations and where community-based needs have been identified.
- CCCM Cluster is providing technical support to active members to accelerate the camp establishment/expansion process according to international standards.

- CCCM Cluster is monitoring in coordination with SNFI Cluster contingency stocks of tents prepositioned in Syria, stocked in Turkey or in the pipelines.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Mezanaz Reception Center has been put out of service by the escalation of violence western Aleppo.
- Insufficient capacity of existing reception centers to accommodate actual number of IDPs or to absorb new arrivals. 1,554 people are reportedly staying in open spaces or sheltering under trees.
- Time lost due to information delays and/or conflicting information that require data cleaning and verification.

Education

Needs:

- As of 28 January, due to the unfolding situation in Ma'arrat An Nu'man, Saraqab, Ehsem and Mahambl, education have been suspended, impacting the learning of 59,231 school-aged children and showing a 36% increase of displaced school-aged children in impacted areas. A total of 199 schools are out of operation, impacting 59,231 children and 3,703 teachers: 135 schools in Ma'arrat An Nu'man and neighboring communities, impacting 48,649 children and 2,704 teachers; 23 schools in the communities of Ariha, impacting 5,681 children and 384 teachers; and 41 schools in the communities of Saraqab, impacting 4,901 children and 615 teachers.
- To address the needs, the education sector objectives are:
 - Support some 28,350 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 overcrowding and enable access to education 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 student bags for children and teachers to enable education activities;
 - Recruit and train some 3,703 teachers and education personnel in impacted areas;
 - Provide heating for 2,189 classrooms to benefit some 54,744 children as part of winterization effort; and
 - Provide school-based hygiene materials (including medicine against headlice) for newly displaced children in Aleppo and Idlib governorates, in coordination with the Health and WASH clusters.

15,385

SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN
REACHED WITH
EDUCATION SERVICES

Response:

- During the reporting period, the Education Cluster reached a cumulative total of 15,385 school-aged children, 23% of the identified total of 59,231 children in need. Children are being 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:
 - 5,831 children supported with PSS and PFA in Idlib, Maaret Tamsrin, Harim, Dana and Atareb, Qourqeena, Daret Azza and Bennsh;
 - 500 children supported with Home School Education in Ariha;
 - 6,562 children supported with formal and non-formal education in Idlib, Harim, Dana, 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, Kafer Iosin and Anadoul camp;
 - 20 children with disabilities supported with formal and non-formal education, students' bags, student kit and textbooks in Ariha;
 - 458 children supported with recreational kits and bags in Maaret Tamsrin and Qourqeena,
 - 4,150 children supported for their mid-year exams; and
 - 173 provided with medicine against headlice in coordination with the Health Cluster.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The Education sector is scaling up its response; as of 28 January, only 23% (cumulative) of displaced school-aged children have been reached. Lack of funds received by the sector (only 25% 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 education system in displaced areas are already overstretched and suffers from overcrowded classrooms, with 60 to 80 students per class. This continues to limit absorption capacity for newcomers. While the sector has been establishing learning spaces to address this, it continues to be a challenge.
- Of a required US\$11,090,705 only US\$2,815,455 (25%) is funded, with a current funding gap of US\$8,275,250.

Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL)

Needs:

- Emergency food assistance for recently displaced people is needed during the first 2 to 4 weeks of displacement, through cooked meals and Ready-To-Eat rations (RTEs). Following the frontline emergency assistance, the people should be integrated in the monthly regular food assistance.
- After the initial displacement, lifesaving livelihood initiatives are also needed to support the affected communities and households in increasing agricultural production, sustaining small-scale food production, protecting 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.

130,916

PEOPLE IN NEED OF
EMERGENCY FOOD
ASSISTANCE

Response:

- FSL Cluster partners have scaled up frontline emergency response food assistance since 1 December 2019, with different transfer modalities to enable food access to the newly displaced people. As of 27 January:
 - 4 FSL members distributed 4,010 Emergency Food Baskets (one-off) to 21,130 beneficiaries;
 - 5 FSL members distributed 20,610 RTEs to assist 98,730 beneficiaries;
 - 3 FSL members distributed 391,120 USD MPCGs to assist 21,320 beneficiaries;
 - 6 FSL members distributed 26,510 Cooked Meals to assist 113,875 beneficiaries.
- The FSL Cluster co-lead agency has prepositioned 116,700 RTEs for emergency response in northwest Syria to meet the food needs of 583,500 people, in addition to the stock of food rations for regular assistance.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Despite immense effort from FSL Cluster partners to meet the need for food assistance, the need for rapid food assistance continues to grow with the increasing number of newly displaced people. The latest estimation identifies a gap in urgent food assistance for 130,916 newly displaced people, mainly in Salqin (36,784 people), in Jandairis (13,236 people) and in Afrin (12,775 people). The Food Security Cluster calls for additional support to meet the food needs of 130,000 newly displaced people by delivering frontline response (cash, cooked meals, RTEs) for the next weeks until the situation on the ground is more stable.
- The main identified constraints concern security, transport, access to safe locations, and harsh winter weather that intensifies the urgent needs of the newly displaced people.

Health

Needs:

- The burden on health services in destination areas is growing as people are increasingly concentrated in smaller areas, raising the need to increase capacity of existing health services (human resources, medical equipment, medication, etc.)
- Cluster members highlight a continued need to maintain epidemic-prone diseases surveillance networks and immunization activities, given persistent high levels of displacement and disrupted water networks and waste management systems.
- Urgent need for lifesaving medical support such as emergency obstetric and newborn care (EmONC) and specialized services such as dialysis, psychological first aid (PFA) and psychosocial (incl. trauma) support in destination areas.
- Revival of the mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) helpline, including support for suicide prevention.
- Widespread education of basic preventative healthcare measures.

- Strengthen capacity of community health workers to support screening for basic noncommunicable diseases (NCD) in newly arrived IDPs, to detect NCDs and refer patients to primary healthcare centers (PHC).

Response:

- Health partners are relocating their services and facilities from areas affected by recent and ongoing hostilities to serve displaced populations in arrival areas.
- The referral system task force coordinated relocating ambulances and non-emergency patient transportation vehicles to enable better geographic coverage for meeting newly displaced peoples' needs, resulting in increased referrals.
- The Health Cluster held an ad-hoc meeting with health partners to discuss prioritization of health facilities by catchment population vs. the services needed and available for the sake of better serving the people in need;
- Health Cluster lead held an "advocacy and communication" working group meeting in light of UNSCR 2504.
- The Health Cluster lead agency sponsored the provision of basic emergency training to 180 paramedics from the central referral system.
- Continuity of six mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) facilities was ensured through funding secured by the Health Cluster lead agency, which also provided 40 MHPSS facilities with psychotropic medication.
- Essential NCD medication was provided by the Health Cluster lead agency. The supply in northwest Syria remains short of the need, however.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Cluster members report a need for more medication to treat chronic illnesses such as diabetes and hypertension, as well as more medication for treating NCD.
- Community health workers network is overwhelmed trying to keep up with the movement of IDPs.
- Suspension of operations of health facilities in southern Idlib and western Aleppo governorates due to the escalation of violence and the risk to staff and patients at the facilities.
- Four dialysis centers in southern Idlib governorate reportedly put out of service by recent hostilities, in Ma'arrat An Nu'man, Babilla, Saraqab and Kafr Nobol. Some 50 dialysis patients were displaced.
- 26 Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) centers have suspended their activities. Three have relocated their activities to displacement areas, while 23 remain closed – 16 in Idlib governorate and seven in Aleppo governorate.
- Lack of funding for community engagement, which is needed to reduce stigma around MHPSS including for suicide prevention, and to provide IDPs arriving at new locations lack information on basic health services in these areas.
- Current MHPSS providers lack necessary skills for providing quality care during large-scale displacement.

Nutrition

Needs:

- Need to scale up nutrition response to reach all displaced mothers and children within the accessible geographic areas.
- Nutrition Cluster remains underfunded for over 60% of its annual financial requirements.

29,392

CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 5 YEARS, PREGNANT AND LACTATING MOTHERS

Response:

- Overall life-saving nutrition services reached 29,392 children and mothers in 96 communities in 26 Idlib sub-districts through 58 Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) and mobile teams from 18 partners.
- 12,224 displaced children under the age of 5 years, pregnant and lactating mothers received high-energy biscuits to prevent acute malnutrition. 9,561 pregnant and lactating mothers reportedly also received micro-nutrient supplements while an additional 19,929 children aged between 6 and 59 months received high-calorie lipid-based nutrition supplements for preventing acute malnutrition.
- Of the mothers and children reached, 153 cases of severe acute malnutrition and 579 cases of moderate acute malnutrition were identified and referred to the appropriate treatment sites. 1,191 mothers were also found to be acutely malnourished and were provided the appropriate treatment. Some 13,565 mothers and caregivers were provided infant feeding and caring practices messages and counselling.
- Nutrition Cluster data shows no increase in the cases of acute malnutrition among displaced mothers and children compared to the previous week. The Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) among children is 2.53%, and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) among pregnant and lactating women is 18.68 % according community surveillance results.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The reach of the Nutrition Cluster remains only around 29% of the accessible total displaced mothers and children, due to the security situation and a need to increase the number of RRTs.

 **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, high levels of trauma and distress, and contribute to forced displacement and restrictions on freedom of movement. The latest escalation of violence particularly affects western rural Aleppo and Atareb, Saraqab and Ariha, with scores of civilians, many of them women and children, paying the highest toll for this emergency and increasingly being squeezed into smaller areas. Grave child rights violations including killing and maiming of children continue to be recorded in northwest Syria, and pregnant women were identified as most at risk and in need of medical support.
- Protection risks have increased with the ongoing displacement, lack of shelter options and sub-standard living conditions in areas of displacement, specifically related to gender-based violence (GBV), child protection (CP), and exposure to explosive hazards. Overcrowding in IDP sites and makeshift shelters and a lack of WASH facilities places women and girls at particular risk of GBV.
- All parties to the conflict are reminded that they have obligations to protect civilians under international humanitarian law, human rights law, and criminal law. Syria Protection Cluster (Turkey) urges parties to the conflict to immediately cease hostilities, to allow civilians to move securely and voluntarily to safe places, and to allow civilians safe access to humanitarian assistance.
- Need for safe access for IDPs from Idlib to seek physical safety and shelter in northern Aleppo governorate.
- Improved provision of information about protection services to newly arrived IDPs to enable access to services and assistance, such as through information desks at IDP reception centers.
- Humanitarian organizations and donors are reminded to minimize requirements for civil status documents and accept alternative identification methods such as 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.
- Humanitarian organizations and donors are reminded to establish clear and practical vulnerability criteria to ensure that the most vulnerable people are identified and have access to humanitarian assistance and services.
- Multi-sectoral coordination response prioritizing child vulnerability criteria is needed as child protection concerns are compounding and rarely take place in isolation. Child protection vulnerability criteria needs to be prioritized in delivery of non-food items (NFIs) and services and child protection specialized field staff included in rapid response teams (RRTs). Children who are displaced are at higher risk of recruitment or use by armed forces and/or armed groups, due to reduced family/community protection and positive coping mechanisms, as well as the impact of lack of economic and educational opportunities caused by displacement. Over half a million school-aged children (aged 6 to 18 years) in NWS are out of school, 34% of the total 1,712,468 children in the same age group.
- Donor flexibility is urgently needed in relation to reallocation or redirection of funds for the new emergency in order to avoid long-term consequences to IDPs, especially children and their caregivers.

Response:

- GBV actors continued to distribute dignity kits, reaching 17,012 women and girls of reproductive age (through 15 GBV SC members) since the beginning of December.
- From 21 to 28 January, 12 Protection Cluster members provided emergency response services for civilians recently displaced from southern Idlib governorate. Cluster members provided 11,344 protection interventions to IDPs and affected host community members in 34 communities within 15 sub-districts in Idlib and Aleppo governorates, reaching 4,062 people (942 girls, 815 boys, 1,383 women and 922 men). The main services provided are:
 - Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Psychosocial Support (PSS);
 - Information about other services;
 - Dignity kits distribution; and
 - Risk education.
- Cluster members referred individuals to other basic services, notably to Health and Shelter, and provided Individual Protection Assistance (cash grants for protection purposes).
- In areas where partners were able to continue their work, child protection partners prioritized response to displaced families particularly in the delivery of psychosocial support and case management.

- Identification and response for unaccompanied/separated children has been intensified since 15 December 2019. In most cases separation was found to be due to disrupted transportation means, resulting in a temporary separation of children from their parents/caregivers. To date children in all such identified cases have been reunified with their caregivers. New cases arising are observed to follow similar patterns, and child protection partners respond accordingly.
- 195 recreational kits in support of implementation of child protection interventions were distributed, reaching 17,550 children since mid-December 2019. Similarly, wrist identification bands for caregivers and children aimed at prevention of family separation were provided targeting above 24,000 beneficiaries.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Since 1 January, Protection Cluster members reported a total of 32 suspensions of operations in 10 districts of Aleppo and Idleb, including Atareb, Idleb, Ariha, Teftnaz, Haritan, and Daret Azza. 24 static centers and outreach teams that implemented specialized and non-specialized protection services were reportedly suspended, including community centers, women and girls' safe spaces and child-friendly spaces. Of the 32 reported suspensions, 25 cited airstrikes and shelling as the main reason, while the other seven cited funding limitations. Suspended child protection and GBV activities included GBV/CP case management, PSS & non-formal education, life skills, GBV awareness raising and empowerment activities, parenting programs, transportation of children with disabilities, center-based activities (CFS) and community-based outreach activities.
- Segments of the population who experience barriers in accessing existing humanitarian assistance and who generally lack specialized and focused response services continue to generate concern. This includes older 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.
- Requirement of civil status documentation continues to be a barrier for IDPs to access basic services and humanitarian assistance.
- GBV actors continue to report several GBV-related risks prompted by the lack of WASH facilities, such as overcrowding leading to lack of privacy, lack of lighting, and lack of gender-segregated latrines and WASH facilities, mostly in unofficial sites established by IDPs.
- Basic needs continue to be unmet, inhibiting families from meaningfully engaging in parenting programs and awareness sessions.
- Increasing hostilities and shelling affecting also civilian infrastructure contributes to the prevention of children attending public gatherings including Child Friendly Spaces (CFS), as parents and caregivers fear for the safety of their children.
- 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. Overcrowded IDP locations such as Dana, Atareb and Jebel Saman where these cases are present are of particular concern.
- Suspension of child protection services in the reporting period has been of particular concern. 18 reports of suspension of child protection services at Child Friendly Spaces and of outreach activities by mobile teams were received. Delivery of child protection services were affected in seven sub-districts in Aleppo and Idleb governorates. Activities suspended included psychosocial support, life skills, parenting programs, case management and referrals amongst others, as well as prevented the transportation of children with disabilities which is key for accessing support.

Shelter / Non-Food Item (SNFI) Cluster

Needs:

- SNFI Cluster members have identified 53,000 people in need of NFI and/or shelter assistance, with Dana, Maaret Tamsrin, Atareb, Ariha, Salqin and Idleb sub-districts hosting the largest number of people in need.
- SNFI and CCCM Clusters are receiving daily requests for NFI/tents, as many members have depleted their stock.
- Thousands of families are seeking shelter solutions across a wide geographic area. The cold winter weather and multiple successive days of rain are exacerbating the vulnerability of the affected population.

53,000

People in need of shelter/ NFI assistance

Response:

- SNFI Cluster members continue to respond to the ongoing emergency. More than 100,000 newly displaced people have been provided NFI and/or shelter assistance since the end of December 2019. SNFI Cluster members plan to assist 100,000 additional people with NFI and 13,000 with shelters in the coming weeks.
- Five cluster members are implementing new projects to support 100,000 new vulnerable IDPs with US\$120 cash for responding to their immediate needs.

- The SNFI contingency stock is being replenished with 6,000 NFI kits and 30,000 units of plastic sheeting.
- Five SNFI Cluster partners are starting projects to rehabilitate damaged/unfinished buildings to shelter 96,000 people.
- CCCM, SNFI and WASH Clusters are working with their members to identify land suitable for extending camps.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Housing, land and property rights remain a critical issue for legal access to land for people to settle.
- Given the large number of newly displaced people, the SNFI Cluster has increased its winterization target from 853,000 people to 1 million people in need. A projected US\$5.2 million is needed to reach that targeted.
- Shelter remains the main gap, with US\$11 million needed to continue upgrading damaged/unfinished shelters where new IDPs are seeking refuge.
- Insufficient stock of NFI constrains the ability of SNFI Cluster members to respond to new IDPs, with US\$7.5 million needed to replenish the NFI stock to assist the 150,000 people in need.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Needs:

- WASH Cluster members reported continued high need for lifesaving WASH supplies and services for at least 389,000 displaced people in Afrin, Akhtarin, Atareb, Azaz, Daret Ezza, Jandairis, Mabatli, Mare, Raju, Sharan, Souran and Zurbah sub-districts of Aleppo governorate and Ariha, Marmanaz, Dana, Bennsh, Badama, Darkosh, Harim, Idleb, Janudiyeh, Kafr Takharim, Maaret Tamsrin, Muhambal, Qourqeena, Salqin, Saraqab, Sarmin and Teftnaz sub-districts of Idleb governorate.
- Increased need for WASH services including domestic water, solid waste management, community latrines and wastewater management. The need for desludging septic tanks, water purification, supply of hygiene kits and Jerrycans has increased alongside the number of new IDPs.
- Urgent need to increase water supply and manage drinking water safety in both formal and informal camps, to mitigate against diarrheal and other communicable diseases. Inadequate desludging and solid waste management and ongoing rainfall has increased the likelihood of water source contamination.
- Increased need for desludging septic tanks and pit latrines in conjunction with increased rainfall and flooding in several locations. Landfill rehabilitation is becoming increasingly important especially in northern Idleb and northern Aleppo governorates, to counter improperly managed dumpsites/landfills.
- Operational support for existing piped water systems to handle additional populations needs to be increased in communities and surrounding informal/formal settlements and camps.
- Include new IDPs in ongoing sustained emergency programs to ensure their continued access to all WASH services.

Response:

- The ongoing WASH response has reached 160,000 recently displaced people in 267 locations through 23 Cluster members. 64% of the locations are camps, 23% are communities, 6% are collective centers and 7% other locations.
- Water supply arrangements through existing pipe water systems and water trucking were able to respond to the increased number of displaced people. However, per capita water supply has reduced in the locations that received new IDPs, especially where the Cluster member does not have flexible funding. In communities of Dana and Sarmada, the restored water systems benefit both host communities and recently arrived IDPs. WASH Cluster will advocate and liaise with relevant donors to increase operational support in key dense communities.
- Cluster members are preparing to scale up responses to meet the needs of newly displaced people in their areas of operation, in anticipation of availability of additional funding and supplies. Currently available supplies and services such as water distribution via water trucking, hygiene kits distribution, construction and maintenance of latrines and provision of Jerrycans are limited due to poor funding. Advocacy efforts are ongoing to increase support from donors.
- SCHF has launched an emergency response allocation of US\$2.4 million to respond to urgent WASH needs, and the cluster lead agency has separately secured US\$1.52 million from its own internal funds to support provision of WASH supplies and services to over 100,000 displaced people for 3 to 6 months.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Inadequate space in existing shelters complicates the response, as recently displaced people move from one location to another in search of shelters with existing services or where services may be received from humanitarian agencies.
- Access challenges in many locations especially camps, due to muddy roads caused by rains and security risks due to ongoing military operations. This prevents service providers from entering camps and other identified areas. Activities

such as water trucking, desludging, provision of hygiene items and solid waste collection are either delayed or stopped. Some WASH Cluster members reported having to use motorcycles to deliver some WASH items to people in camps.

- Fuel prices remain a constraint for many organizations as prices of service delivery is constantly increasing. WASH Cluster members reported that several vendors stopped service provision pending revisit and increase of contractual arrangements around prices.
- This is also constrained by the unequipped private sector that find it difficult to increase 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 the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2019 remained around US\$25 million for northwest Syria, the recent influx of IDPs in formal/informal camps and settlements compounds constraints. WASH Cluster estimates a need for an additional US\$8.5 million to support the arrival of an additional 250,000 people.

Logistics

Needs:

- Reliable and consistent transshipment service that facilitates the delivery of life-saving cargo from Turkey into NWS.
- Transparency around storage capacity in northwest Syria is vital for organizations' planning and prepositioning.
- Moving transshipment operations from the customs yard at Bab Al-Salam to the dedicated transshipment hub in Kilis, to increase the safety and security of humanitarian actors and to expand overall transshipment capacity.
- Coordination and information sharing amongst partners to avoid duplication of efforts.

Response:

- The Logistics Cluster facilitates the delivery of humanitarian cargo from Turkey into northwest Syria by coordinating transshipment services via Bab Al-Hawa and Bab Al-Salam border crossings under UNSCR 2504 (2020).
- Daily capacity across the two hubs in Turkey has returned to 46 trucks at Bab Al-Hawa and eight trucks at Bab Al-Salam. Truck figures are expected to revert to approximately 700 trucks per month from February onwards.
- The Logistics Cluster is compiling information on partner storage capacity inside northwest Syria to help coordinate any gaps in storage in the area.
- Coordination meetings are held on a monthly basis, and regular communication of logistics information and updates through a dedicated mailing list continues to be provided.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The Logistics Cluster has thus far been unable to move transshipment operations from the customs yard in Kilis to the dedicated transshipment hub, which would increase daily capacity at Bab Al-Salam from eight trucks to 20 trucks. Final confirmation for the move has not yet been granted.

GENERAL COORDINATION

On 27 January, OCHA Turkey convened a second inter-cluster meeting to support the development of the updated Northwest Syria Humanitarian Operational Readiness Plan for Major Population Movement Response. The plan is currently being developed and finalized based on inputs provided by clusters at the meetings on 15 and 27 January, as well as through separate written contributions. Meetings and briefing sessions related to the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) were also held on 16, 21 and 22 January.

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