

#### Key figures

**2.8 M**

displaced people  
in north-west Syria

**1.7M**

Internally  
displaced  
people in IDP  
sites

**26,679**

confirmed  
COVID-19 cases  
(9 August 2021)

**316**

trucks of UN assistance  
transshipped in July

#### Funding

(Syria Humanitarian Response)

**\$1.05 billion**

**25%**

of estimated financial  
requirements under the  
2021 Syria HRP



#### Highlights

- The UN Security Council on 9 July renewed a resolution enabling cross-border humanitarian assistance to north-west Syria.
- The Syrian Pound (SYP) remained stable in July, but the economic crisis continues to drive humanitarian needs. More than 90 percent of people live below the poverty line.
- Reflecting the local impact of the global climate crisis, since autumn 2020, unseasonably low levels of rainfall are contributing to water shortages and low agricultural production.
- More than 1 million children are estimated to be out of school out of a population of 1.7 million school-aged children.

#### Overview

##### Protection

- Communities across north-west Syria and in the Ras Al Ain and Tell Abiad (RAATA) areas are suffering from the impact of hostilities in the largest escalation since the ceasefire was established in March 2020.
- Overall, the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) verified that at least 42 civilians were killed (including seven women and 27 children) and at least 89 civilians (including 15 women and 36 children) were injured as a result of shelling in July.
- The security situation is impacted by the prevalence of explosive hazards and fighting between Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs). Seven incidents of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and unexploded ordnances (UXOs) in north-west Syria and the Ras Al Ain and Tell Abiad areas resulted in at least nine civilians being injured.

##### Displacement

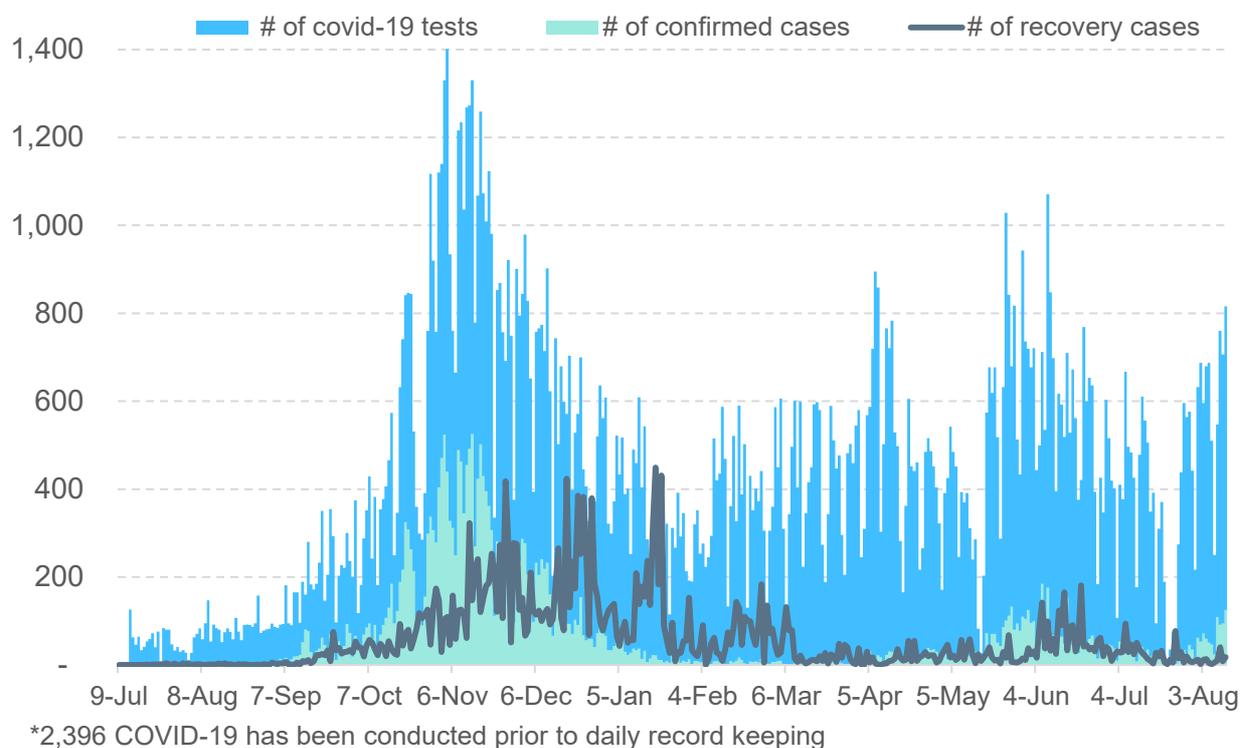
- The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster tracked 43,621 displacements of people in June. It was the largest displacement since the March 2020 ceasefire and twice the number tracked in May. About half of them were due to the escalation in conflict in southern Idlib. In July, the number of new displacements of people was 32,304.

- In July, most movements occurred within and between Aleppo and Idlib governorates. Some 7,000 people left Ehsem sub-district in Idlib, with Jarablus and Raju sub-districts in Aleppo each receiving 3,000 people.
- Return movements of people slightly increased compared to the previous month. In July, the humanitarian community recorded some 3,558 returns, while June saw some 2,358 returns across Syria. Mhambal sub-district in Idlib recorded the highest number of returns.

### COVID-19

- The COVID-19 vaccination program for north-west Syria begun on 1 May, targeting first healthcare and social workers. It was expanded on 7 June to cover persons with non-communicable diseases and on 1 July to all persons over 60 years. As of 9 August, 48,080 people had received at least a first dose. Critical funding gaps remain in the COVID-19 response as well as in the vaccination campaign.
- The number of new COVID-19 cases was low compared to previous months, with 771 confirmed cases recorded in July. As of 9 August, there have been 168,679 tests in north-west Syria, with 26,679 cases confirmed: 13,578 cases in the Idlib area and 13,199 in northern Aleppo governorate. There are six labs with the capacity to conduct tests.
- A total of 727 COVID-19 associated deaths had been reported by 9 August, with an overall fatality rate of around 3 percent. The current cases among healthcare workers is 4.3 percent. Some 7.7 percent of all COVID-19 cases are in IDP camps.

**NUMBER OF COVID-19 TESTS, RECOVERY AND CONFIRMED CASES  
as of 11 August 2021**



## Cross-border access

### **The UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2585 (2021), enabling cross-border assistance through the Bab al-Hawa crossing**

On 9 July 2021, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2585, unanimously deciding to extend the delivery of UN humanitarian aid through the Bab al-Hawa crossing. This will continue to offer a life-line to millions of people.

Security Council Resolution (SCR) says the extension is “for a period of six months, that is, until 10 January 2022, only for the border crossing at Bab al-Hawa with an extension of an additional six months, that is, until 10 July 2022, subject to the issuance of the Secretary General’s substantive report, with particular focus on transparency in operations, and progress on cross-line access in meeting humanitarian needs.”

In the 10th year of the crisis, some 3.4 million people in north-west Syria are still in need of humanitarian assistance. Cross-border delivery of aid reaches more than 8 out of 10 people in need of aid. Since the beginning of cross-border assistance in 2014, over 44,000 trucks carrying humanitarian aid have gone through Bab al-Hawa and Bab al-Salam crossings: almost 6,500 trucks through the former in the first seven months of 2021 alone.

The renewal of authorization will ensure aid reaches people who have already been significantly affected by the conflict and deterioration of the economic situation. Prices of food staples rose by over 200 percent last year and severe acute malnutrition among children increased by 55 percent in April 2021.

The prevalence of COVID-19 and the restrictions on movement and access to livelihood opportunities had a detrimental effect on people’s ability to meet basic needs. Enabled by the SCR, the area received its first vaccines through COVAX on 22 April, with 53,800 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine delivered. Another 204,000 doses are expected in August 2021.

The renewed SCR will also continue to enable other forms of support, ranging from the payment of salaries to teachers and health workers, to the funding of protection services, such as provision of psychosocial support and legal counselling. The Syria Cross-Border Humanitarian Fund provided \$180 million in 2020 and more than \$100 million in 2021, most of which was allocated directly to NGOs.

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## Climate Change

### **Changing weather conditions affect livelihoods and exacerbate the worsening economic conditions**

The local impacts of the global climate crisis are being felt by the most vulnerable, including in Syria. Since autumn 2020, unseasonably low levels of rainfall have contributed to water shortages in the region, and to reduced agricultural production. At the same time, water flows into the Euphrates River from Turkey have progressively reduced. The result is a significant threat to agricultural production and food security in an area that has already been ravaged by deteriorating economic conditions and conflict.

In north-west Syria, the main impact of the climate change is the reduced production of the agricultural crops, mainly wheat. The instability of rainfall rates across five agro-ecological zones has had a detrimental impact. Later than expected rainfalls in some zones has affected agricultural cultivation, while heavier rainfall in others has caused floods, with loss of shelter, property and agricultural lands.

Some farmers have stopped cultivating their lands, renting them to be used for camp establishments. Livestock breeders sold off their animals. Not only did people lose their regular income but prices increased of primary and final agricultural products, such as wheat and bread. Coupled with the SYP's lower purchasing power, access to basic food needs has become increasingly difficult for many people. According to 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), 3.1 million people in north-west Syria are in acute food insecurity and in need of food assistance.

The humanitarian community is working to respond to the needs exacerbated by climate change, including allocating funds through the SCHF and other donors. More action is needed to mitigate and reduce the impact of climate change. This includes establishing an early warning system and research centers, more support to meteorological ground stations to follow rainfall patterns, and more funding on mitigation.

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## Education

### Education is essential in the humanitarian response

Ten years into the crisis, education in north-west Syria is overstretched and underfunded. Access to learning has been crippled by the conflict and dire economic circumstances. COVID-19 measures are further distancing children from learning spaces. The number of schools is far from sufficient. Currently, there are 2,139 functioning schools in host communities in north-west Syria, including the Ras Al Ain – Tell Abiad area. Out of more than 1,000 IDP sites, there are only 196 schools (191 primary and five secondary).

Out of 1.7 million school-aged children (3-17 years of age), approximately 60 percent - or more than 1 million children - are estimated to be out of school. In 2019, the figure was 34 percent (approximately 580,000 children). There is growing evidence that out-of-school children are more at risk of recruitment by armed groups, forced child labor, arranged marriage, pregnancy at a very early age, and sexual violence. In north-west Syria, bringing the children back to safe learning spaces and providing them with education is vital for their protection.

Schools in north-west Syria continue to be affected by the conflict, compromising their role as safe spaces to teach and learn. In 2020 alone, 47 schools were either damaged or destroyed. Displacements as a result of the hostilities or economic reasons have an impact on learning spaces as well. Currently, 56 schools are used as shelters in Idleb, affecting some 17,000 children who should be attending those schools.

Another challenge is the compensation of teachers. At least 6,030 teachers (one in three) in north-west Syria have been working without pay for over a year. The most affected are those teaching 5th to 12th grades, accounting for two-thirds of all teachers who work without compensation. This has a detrimental effect on the quality of the education provided.

Education Cluster members are providing formal and non-formal education to children, education supplies to both teachers and students in the form of stationery kits, textbooks, establishing and expanding learning spaces (including providing water and sanitation facilities), compensating teachers and providing training. The cluster response is more focused on primary education,

which leaves a huge gap in the provision of support to adolescents, youth and upper primary and secondary education.

The education sector faces a funding gap. Based on the findings of a funding gap analysis for July – September 2021, the sector has 14.3 percent available of its required \$45.3 million funding. If not properly addressed, this gap will result in the reduction of educational support to children. The sector advocates for its prioritization in the humanitarian response.

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## Funding overview

The 2021 Syria Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) has a budget of \$4.2 billion. Currently, \$1.05 billion of the required amount has been received. An additional \$290 million in humanitarian funding has been provided for programming outside the HRP.

A funding gap analysis of north-west Syria covering July to September shows that \$158 million out of the \$403 million of the funds required to provide assistance is available, leaving an almost 60 percent gap. If not addressed, these funding gaps will inevitably force sectors to adjust their programming and re-prioritize, leaving people without adequate assistance.

The education sector is only 14.3 percent funded, with an estimated 800,000 people affected. The nutrition sector has received only 40 percent of its required funding, while 34 percent of the children under five years of age are chronically malnourished.

The Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF) continues to fund critical needs, to allow partners to boost response and preparedness in priority areas, and to strengthen integration and the coordination of interventions. So far in 2021, the SCHF has received close to \$119 million in contributions from 13 donors and allocated over \$100 million to humanitarian partners in one standard and three reserve allocations.

- The July quarterly SCHF dashboard can be assessed [here](#).
- Further information on the SCHF activities and contributing donors can be found [here](#).
- Further information on the Inter Agency Appeals can be found [here](#).

### For further information, please visit:

[www.unocha.org](http://www.unocha.org)  
[www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)  
[www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/stima](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/stima)

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