

NORTH-WEST SYRIA: INTER-SECTOR RAPID NEEDS ASSESSMENT - FLOOD IMPACT

January 2019

CONTEXT

On 26 December 2018, exceptionally heavy rainfall caused severe flash flooding in Idlib and Aleppo governorates in north-west Syria.¹ This area has a high proportion of displaced people and concentration of camps and sites, making it a region with a notably large vulnerable population.² Hundreds of tents were reportedly swept away and concrete houses in camps collapsed.³ As a result of the flooding, thousands of people have been impacted.

KEY FINDINGS

The results of this assessment showed a **critical need for repair and rehabilitation of infrastructure and social services impacted by the flood**. 74% of KIs reported partial damage to roads/streets as a result of the flood, and a majority of KIs (78%) reported a high priority need for repair/rehabilitation of roads/streets. The flooding impact has exacerbated pre-existing conditions and needs. **Access to education for school-aged children among the population in assessed locations was found to be challenging**. KIs in 34% of assessed IDP camps/sites and communities reported that less than 50% of school-aged children were attending school, with the top barrier to education reportedly being children working/children having to work. **This assessment also showed a critical need for winterisation support**. Winterisation kits were reported to be a priority by KIs (68%) when asked of top educational needs. Similarly, winter clothing kits were reported by KIs (97%) to be a top need when asked about shelter and NFI needs.

METHODOLOGY

An inter-sector rapid needs assessment (RNA) to understand the needs of populations in flood-affected areas in Idlib and Aleppo governorates was undertaken. Data collection was conducted by the Humanitarian Needs Assessment Programme (HNAP) and data checking, cleaning and analysis was conducted by REACH, with clusters and OCHA providing support on technical elements. Findings presented in this factsheet are based on data collected between 15-20 January 2019, through a total of 182 key informant (KI) interviews, across 182 accessible camps, sites and communities. Data was collected at the camp, site and community level with enumerators interviewing one KI per location. KIs were selected based on their knowledge of the population and general expertise about the assessed locations. Findings have been triangulated using secondary data sources.

LIMITATIONS

Of the 182 KIs interviewed, 26 (14%) were female. Field teams found that the majority of camp managers were male, and in cases where female KIs were identified, they tended to defer to their male managers to confirm their information.

Findings are not statistically representative and should only be considered as indicative of the situation. This information pertains to people in accessible camps, sites, and communities that were assessed. Therefore, people in some locations that may have been affected are not included in this assessment.

Demographics

Estimated total population living in assessed IDP camps/sites and communities (locations): **639,131**

Estimated number of people directly affected by the flood that remained in assessed locations: **81,805**

Of the total estimated population living in assessed locations, KIs estimated that, on average, **13% were directly affected by the flood**.

Significantly higher proportions of affected populations were reported in assessed locations in **Zarbah (60%)** and **Atareb (55%)** sub-districts in western Aleppo, and in **Heish (29%)** and **Darkosh (26%)** sub-districts in Idlib governorate.

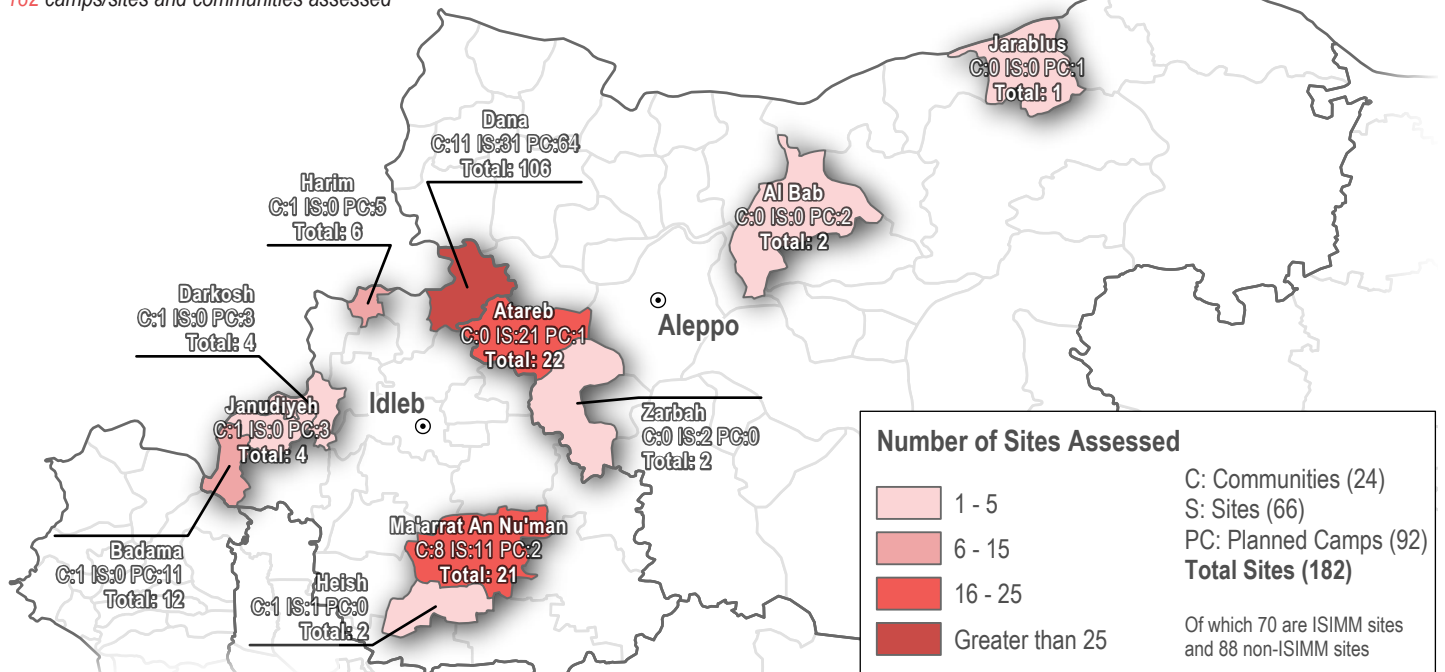
Estimated number of people having left the assessed camps/sites and communities due to flooding: **3,392**

Top 3 most vulnerable groups (by % of KIs reporting):⁴

-  KIs in **77%** of assessed locations reported **female-headed households** were among the most vulnerable groups.
-  KIs in **58%** of assessed locations reported **older persons (60+ years)** were among the most vulnerable groups.
-  KIs in **38%** of assessed locations reported **pregnant/lactating women** were among the most vulnerable groups.

ASSESSED COVERAGE AREA

182 camps/sites and communities assessed



Shelter and non-food items (NFI)

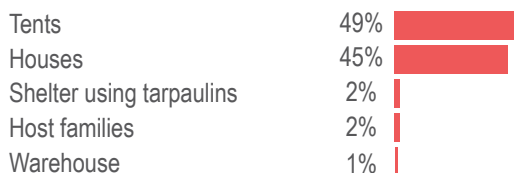
Shelter situation since the flood:

Of the estimated 112,777 shelters in assessed locations, KIs estimated **12% to be partially damaged (liveable) and 6% to be completely destroyed (not liveable)** due to flooding.

Significantly higher proportions of partially damaged shelters were reported in **Atareb (46%)** and **Zarbah (26%)** sub-districts in western Aleppo, and **Darkosh (28%)** sub-district in Idlib governorate.

KIs estimated **1,605 people in assessed locations in Dana sub-district in Idlib governorate were without shelter** since the flooding.

Top 5 most reported shelter types in assessed locations (by proportion of total population in assessed locations):⁴



Shelter and NFI assistance:

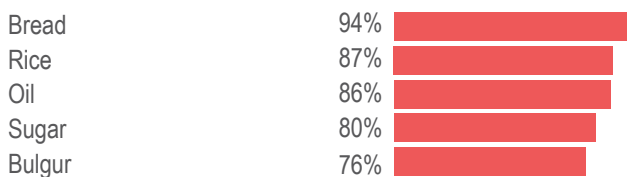
68% of KIs reported that people in the assessed locations did not receive NFIs and or shelter items after the flooding.

Top 5 most reported shelter/NFI needs (by % of KIs reporting):⁴

- 1 Fuel (97%)
- 2 Winter clothing kit (97%)
- 3 Shelter kit (94%)
- 4 Standard NFI kit (92%)
- 5 Kitchen set (90%)

Food security

Top 5 most reported staple food commodities consumed in the assessed locations (by % of KIs reporting):⁴



KIs estimated, on average, that **25% of the food stock in the assessed location was lost** due to flooding. KIs estimated at the time of data collection that the current food stock would be sufficient for an average of **8 days**.

Top 3 most reported ways of accessing food in assessed locations (by % of KIs reporting):⁴



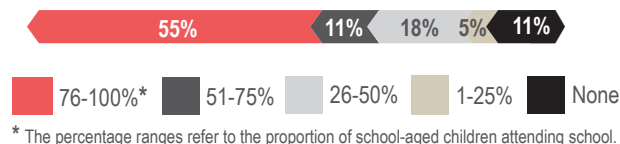
Functioning and available markets and bakeries:

KIs in 98% of assessed locations reported food markets were still regularly open and available to customers and suppliers. However, 15% of KIs in assessed locations in Idlib governorate reported that there had been **major increases in prices of basic food commodities**⁵

KIs in **19%** of assessed locations reported that **bakeries in assessed camps/sites and communities were not functioning**. In addition, KIs in 9% of assessed locations reported that functioning bakeries had an insufficient supply of wheat flour, yeast, and fuel since the flood.

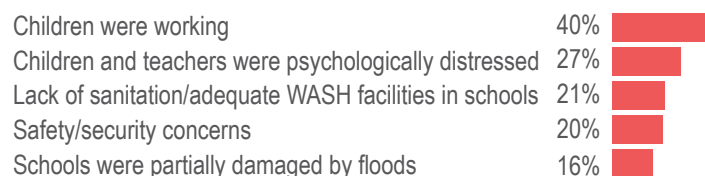
Education

Estimated percentage of school-aged children in assessed locations attending school (by % of KIs reporting):



Of the 11% of KIs that reported no children in the assessed locations were attending school, **43%** were located in Dana sub-district in Idlib governorate.

Top 5 most reported barriers to education (by % of KIs reporting):⁴



The large majority (**88%**) of assessed locations reporting partial damage to schools as a main barrier to attending schools were located in Dana sub-district in northern Idlib governorate.

Top 5 most reported critical education needs (by % of KIs reporting):⁴

- 1 Textbooks and stationery for children (78%)
- 2 Heaters and fuel for heating (71%)
- 3 Winterisation kits for children (68%)
- 4 Provision of new learning spaces (66%)
- 5 Teachers (42%)

Livelihoods

Top 5 most reported livelihood sources for men and women before the flooding (by % of KIs reporting):⁴

	Men	Women
Wages - unskilled labour	1	Wages - unskilled labour
Loans/borrowing	2	Food aid
Wages - skilled labour	3	Loans/borrowing
Food aid	4	Wages - skilled labour
Livestock products	5	Livestock products

KIs in assessed locations reported that wages from unskilled labour was the most common livelihood source for both men and women in assessed locations.

Top 5 most reported livelihood sources for men and women after the flooding (by % of KIs reporting):⁴

	Men	Women
Wages - unskilled labour	1	Wages - unskilled labour
Loans/borrowing	2	Food aid
Wages - skilled labour	3	Loans/borrowing
Food aid	4	Wages - skilled labour
Trading/business	5	Livestock products

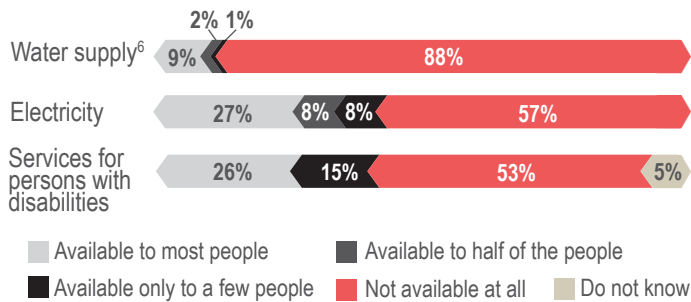
KIs in assessed locations reported that wages from unskilled labour still remained the most common livelihood source for both men and women after the flood.

Infrastructure and social services

Top 5 community infrastructure and social services affected by the flood (by % of KIs reporting):⁴

Partially damaged		Completely damaged	
Road/streets	74%	Road/streets	14%
Telecommunication and internet coverage	52%	Small drains	6%
Small drains	51%	Electricity network	6%
Bridge/culverts/piped culvert	35%	Water supply network	2%
Electricity networks	25%	Telecommunication and internet coverage	1%

Services most inaccessible to people in assessed locations (by % of KIs reporting):



Infrastructure and services with highest rehabilitation/repair priority (by % of KIs reporting):⁴

- 1 Road/streets (78%)
- 2 Bridge/culverts/piped culvert (20%)
- 3 Small drains (18%)
- 4 Telecommunication and internet coverage (14%)
- 5 Community-dug wells (6%)

Protection

Top 2 most reported protections risks for men, women, boys, and girls since the flood (by % of KIs reporting):⁴

Men	Women
Lack/loss of civil documents 1	Lack/loss of civil documents 1
Housing, land and property issues 2	Housing, land and property issues 2

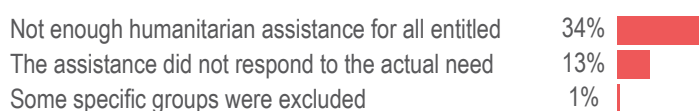
Boys	Girls
Child labour 1	Lack/loss of civil documents 1
Lack/loss of civil documents 2	Forced and early marriage (under 18 years) 2

Humanitarian Assistance

Access to humanitarian assistance since the flood:

40% of KIs reported people in the assessed locations faced problems obtaining humanitarian assistance after the flood.

Top 3 most reported problems with obtaining humanitarian assistance (by % of KIs reporting):⁴



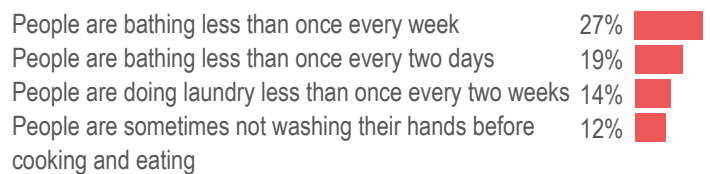
WASH

Main water sources and percentage supplied by each water source:⁴

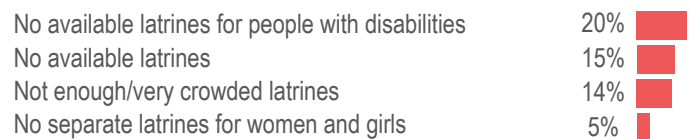
Main water source	% of KIs reporting each source	Average % supplied by each source
Water trucking	96%	90%
Closed well	12%	2%
Piped water network	10%	6%
Open well	7%	1%
Bottled water	5%	1%
Rain water	3%	<1%

KIs estimated, on average, that the assessed locations received around **69 cubic meters of water per day for the entire camp/site and community**. KIs estimated that people had to travel, on average, around **12 minutes to access water**.

Change in hygiene practices since the flood due to lack of water (by % of KIs reporting):⁴

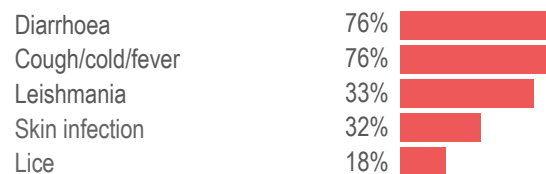


Most commonly reported issues with the availability of latrines (by % of KIs reporting):⁴

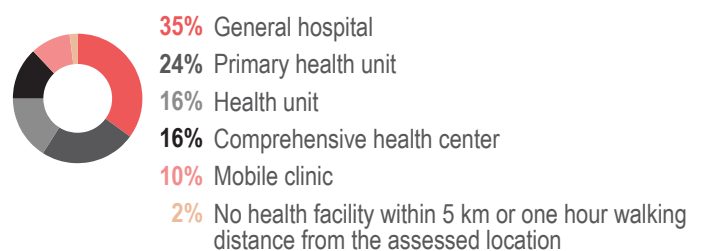


Health

Top 5 most reported health problems (by % of KIs reporting):⁴



Types of nearest health facilities (by % of KIs reporting):



1. Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations. Record Rainfall Devastates IDP Camps in Northern Syria. 27 December 2018. <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/record-rainfall-devastates-idp-camps-northern-syria>
 2. CCCM ISIMM list. November 2018. <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/stima/document/cccm-clusteridp-sites-integrated-monitoring-matrix-isimm-november-2018>
 3. Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations. Record Rainfall Devastates IDP Camps in Northern Syria. 27 December 2018. <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/record-rainfall-devastates-idp-camps-northern-syria>
 4. Multiple responses allowed.
 5. Basic food commodities refers to wheat flour, rice, oil and sugar.
 6. Water supply was considered a supply of water through water network.