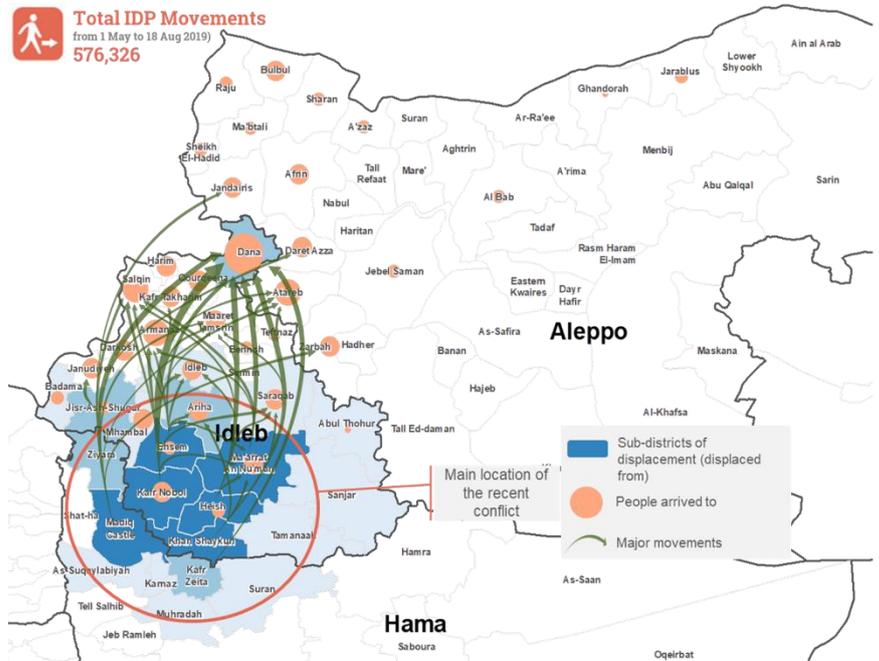
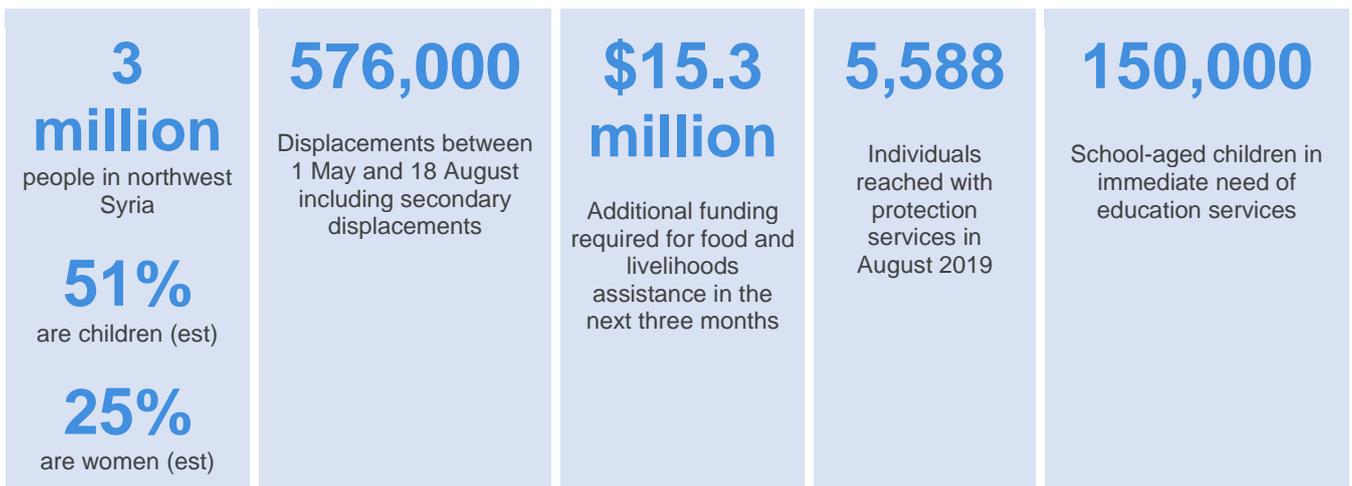


### HIGHLIGHTS

- The humanitarian situation in northwest Syria continues to deteriorate as the latest escalation in hostilities is set to enter its fourth month.
- Hundreds of civilians have been killed or injured due to airstrikes and shelling since 1 May while more than 400,000 people are estimated to have fled their homes to escape from violence.
- The overwhelming majority of the displaced people are moving to densely-populated areas close to the Turkish border in northern Idlib governorate, where humanitarian assistance is overstretched.
- Humanitarian response is ongoing to address the pressing needs of the newly displaced individuals as well as host communities. Hundreds of thousands of people are receiving critical assistance essential for their survival. However, additional funding is urgently required to maintain and scale-up the current levels of emergency response in the coming weeks and months.



Source: CCCM Cluster / IMU – TO BE UPDATED  
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 humanitarian situation in northwest Syria continues to deteriorate as the most recent upscale in violence is set to enter its fourth month. Hostilities between Government of Syria (GoS) forces and their allies and non-state armed groups (NSAGs)

across Idlib, northern Hama and western Aleppo governorates has dire humanitarian consequences for an estimated three million people, of whom 76% are estimated to be women and children.

After a brief lull in airstrikes from 2 to 4 August, as a result of a conditional ceasefire, airstrikes resumed on 5 August. There was renewed violence on 7 August when fighting between ground forces resumed. This resulted in GoS forces gaining control of several towns and villages including Skik, Hbit, Abdin, Arbain, Zakat, Um Zaytuna and, eventually, Khan Shaykun on the M5 highway - the major road running north-south in northwest Syria. These areas as well as Kafr Zeita, Latmana and Latmin in northern Hama are not accessible to humanitarian partners, meaning that any civilians who remain in these areas cannot receive assistance and services that they may depend prior to the latest fighting.

Military activity in northern Hama and southern Idlib that led to shifting frontlines has a drastic impact on the people living in these areas. Since the collapse of the conditional ceasefire on 5 August, local sources are reporting that civilians are fleeing *en masse* towards the north. While the exact number of displaced individuals is difficult to ascertain at this stage, local sources are reporting that entire communities are fleeing from the hostilities. Between 1 and 18 August, more than 72,000 displacements have been recorded from northern Hama and southern Idlib. Local sources are reporting that population movements are continuing. Many of these individuals and families have been displaced before, some of them multiple times, which makes them extremely vulnerable to this additional shock. The most recent wave of displacement adds to an already dire humanitarian situation in northwest Syria. From 1 May to 18 August, some 576,000 individual displacements, which includes secondary displacements<sup>1</sup>, have been recorded. Overall, it is estimated that well over 400,000 people have fled from their communities in northern Hama and southern Idlib to look for safety.

Reports from the ground suggest that the patterns of displacement largely remain the same, with most people moving north close to the border with Turkey to areas that are already densely-populated in northern Idlib and a small number of individuals moving to northern Aleppo governorate. Many displaced individuals move to overcrowded displacement sites or makeshift shelters, placing additional strain on overstretched humanitarian assistance available in these areas. While displaced individuals, as well as receiving communities, have immediate humanitarian needs across all sectors, finding shelter remains one of the most pressing needs. Large scale and frequent population movements pose a particular challenge to humanitarian partners. Humanitarian partners in northern Idlib are increasingly reporting on the shortage of shelter options, increases in rents and a number of displaced people staying out in the open.

Since late April, hundreds of civilians, many of whom are women and children, have lost their lives while countless others have suffered severe injuries, often leaving them with permanent disabilities. Since late April, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has documented the deaths of more than 500 civilians while information provided by local sources indicates that as of August 23, more than 870 civilians may have been killed, including some 180 children and 145 women. Since the resumption of airstrikes on 5 August, these continue to take a heavy toll on civilian lives. On 14 August, a series of airstrikes in the Ma'arrat Humeh area in southern Idlib resulted in the death of two humanitarian workers, a paramedic and an ambulance driver. Their ambulance was completely destroyed, and a rescue worker coming to their aid was also killed. On 16 August, airstrikes reportedly hit residential buildings that were constructed to house IDPs and supported by a humanitarian organization in the city of Has, killing 20 people, including seven children and eight women, and injuring more than 50 civilians.

The widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure, such as people's homes, IDP settlements, bakeries, markets, hospitals, schools and water stations, adds to the suffering of civilians in northwest Syria. Since late April, at least 43 incidents impacting health facilities or personnel in northwest Syria have been confirmed by the World Health Organization, killing and injuring patients, and damaging or destroying vital health facilities. In addition, a total of 87 incidents damaging or destroying educational facilities have been verified by the United Nations Children's Fund during this same period. Moreover, several water stations were reportedly damaged or destroyed by airstrikes or shelling, disrupting access to clean water and education for hundreds of thousands of people.

## FUNDING

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To date, the emergency response to address the pressing humanitarian needs of people in northwest Syria has heavily depended on existing resources, including contingency stocks. To increase or maintain the level of the response, additional funding is urgently required to replenish stocks, expand programming, and to address emerging needs resulting from the

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<sup>1</sup> Some people have been displaced multiple times during this time period, referred to as "secondary displacements".

recent hostilities. Efforts to mobilize funding for the response continue, either through specific emergency activities or scaling up regular programming in areas where a large number of IDPs have arrived over the last months.

The Syria Cross-border Fund\* (SCHF) has launched a reserve allocation to mobilize additional funding to support the ongoing response in northwest Syria. The aim of the allocation is to address the most critical needs of the newly displaced people in Idlib as well as the most urgent and critical needs of people in conflict-affected areas. The envelope for this allocation is set tentatively at USD \$22.5 million and is divided among six clusters: Coordination and Common Services, Health, Protection, Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), Shelter/Non-Food Items (NFI) and Water and Sanitation (WASH). This amount is indicative to inform the review and recommendation of projects. The call for proposals was closed on 14 August and funding requests of a total of USD \$29 million for 45 projects implemented by 33 partners were received. The project selection process is ongoing and will closely follow the evolution of the context to address the most critical needs. The final decision will be based on the quality of the proposals, the extent to which they correspond to the allocation strategy and alignment with the sectoral strategies of the allocation. For more information the allocation strategy paper can be downloaded here: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/stima/document/launch-2019-2nd-reserve-allocation>

The high level of needs and the central role played by the SCHF in supporting partners' humanitarian interventions to reach most vulnerable beneficiaries have already triggered consultations for the SCHF's second standard allocation, which will be launched in September. This will aim to address some critical gaps in the overall humanitarian response in northwest Syria. The discussion on the priorities, areas and activities to identify where the Fund will be best placed to support will include a review of the ongoing emergency response and the mid-term impact of the recent violence. The funding currently available for this allocation remains however insufficient. Despite ongoing efforts, more funding is required respond to most critical needs across sectors.

*\* As of 22 August, the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) is only 28% funded (USD \$912 million of the USD \$3.32 billion required), according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service. A critical funding gaps analysis has been published to identify critical priorities in need of urgent funding, while the Humanitarian Pooled Fund mechanisms remain the quickest modality for disbursing funding to partners. Without donor support, partners will not be able to scale up their operations and respond to both new and existing needs.*

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Most recent spike in violence – now entering its fourth month – exacerbates existing humanitarian needs and vulnerability with catastrophic humanitarian consequences for the estimated 3 million people living in northwest Syria. The humanitarian community is responding to the needs of the affected population by providing food and shelter assistance as well as health, education, nutrition, protection, WASH services. However, the ongoing violence prevents the humanitarian actors to reach people in need in areas directly affected by the conflict due to the security situation. As the humanitarian needs are increasing, the stretched humanitarian response risks being overwhelmed, particularly if the violence continues or further escalates.

The Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG), who coordinate the emergency response, is updating the response plan for northwest Syria while cluster members are also identifying gaps in the response. The multi-sector needs assessment (MSNA), which assesses all areas of Syria and forms the basis of data for the humanitarian community's annual planning, will be completed by the end of August, and the findings will reflect the new needs in northwest Syria for use in response planning. Overall efforts to respond to the needs of both displaced individuals and host communities continue, with a greater focus on gaps in response, coordination, and information sharing.

### Camp Coordination and Camp Management

#### Needs:

- Between 1 May and 18 August, the CCCM Cluster tracked 576,000 displacements in northwest Syria. Of these, 72,033 displacements were recorded in August. 20,184 displacements were recorded at IDP settlements while 51,849 were recorded out of IDP sites. These numbers include secondary displacements.

#### Response:

- Four reception centers in northwest Syria are currently hosting 2,991 individuals. Ma'arrat Tamsrin reception center had reached its full capacity while three other reception centres in Atareb, A'zaz and Al Bab have space for about 5,700 additional IDPs.

# 576,000

Displacements between  
1 May and 18 August  
including secondary  
displacements

- As of 1 May, Cluster members had planned to distribute 12,497 tents, of which 9,929 were distributed as of 20 August.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- Most of the newly established sites or expansions require multi-sectoral assistance, especially WASH services.
- Identification of suitable public lands for establishing IDPs sites and renting for long term remain challenging.



## Education

#### Needs:

- The Education Cluster estimates 150,000 school-aged children, who are recently displaced, are in need of immediate education services. These include access to non-formal education services such as remedial education, catch-up classes, self-learning programs, recreational activities, and provision of learning supplies.
- In arrival locations, absorption capacity is overstretched for both IDP and host communities, and Temporary Learning Spaces are needed to provide access to education in camps in Dana sub-district to accommodate newly arrived crisis-affected children in the area. With the start of the school year in September, the burden on the formal and non-formal education facilities will be extreme.
- Regarding information gaps, the exact number of children with a breakdown of age or grades, number of teachers in the IDP and host community, number of functional schools and learning centers and their capacity are needed.
- Approximately 250,000 school-aged children are affected by ongoing hostilities in Idlib, mainly due to suspension of education activities.

**150,000**

School-aged children in immediate need of education services

#### Response:

- Cluster members supported the education of 14,107 children (7,727 females) in camps and host communities with the provision of non-formal education such as self-learning program, catch-up classes and remedial education in Darkosh, Kafr Nobol, Maaret Tamsrin, Idlib, Dana sub-districts.
- Cluster members continue carrying out outreach and awareness raising activities in Dana and other locations to enroll affected children in non-formal education in their learning centres. Nevertheless, the scope of the response is expected to grow as the beginning of the school year approaches.
- The Education Cluster is monitoring the situation on the ground continuously through its online real-time reporting mechanism.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- To date, a total of 94 schools have been used as shelters by IDPs due to the ongoing violence in Idlib.
- Incidents involving education facilities continue in northwest Syria, resulting in loss of life and destruction of learning facilities. The Cluster has been informed that 58 schools have been damaged or otherwise affected as a result of airstrikes and shelling since the beginning of May in southern Idlib and northern Hama. In the second half of July, attacks on two schools resulted in loss of life of two adults and one child and injured 8 children.
- 15 cluster members reported suspension of their education interventions due to lack of safety and security, affecting approximately 12,741 children and 758 teachers in the sub-districts of Ma'arrat An Nu'man, Ehsem, Ariha, Saraqab of Idlib and Madiq Castle of Hama.
- In the communities of Khan Shaykun, Kafr Nobol, Ma'arrat An Nu'man, Ariha, and Jisr-Ash-Shugur, the cancellation of final exams affected 97,104 students from 405 schools. In Idlib Governorate, a total of 400,000 students from grades 1 to 12 were affected due to the cancellation of their final exams between the end of April and June. Cluster members are trying to respond unilaterally and are also in efforts to organize for funding the end-year exams.
- Key priorities include provision of holistic education services to deliver non-formal education to meet the critical learning needs of girls and boys (5-17 years), including children with disabilities, during the summer break from June-August and ahead of the new academic year commencing in September. The package of prioritized activities will be limited to the provision of protected learning spaces addressing the ongoing over-stretched learning spaces, textbooks and learning materials, and stipends for teachers both in camps and host communities. Addressing this critical gap, which requires USD 4.7 million additional funding, will help support the referral of out-of-school children and those at risk of dropping out of formal schools.
- The activities aim to respond to the education and psychosocial needs of 37,500 of the most recent IDP children and 1,600 education personnel for the next 6 months.

- The goal is to place the recently displaced children back in school, provide them with psycho-social support (PSS) for their psychological well-being, and make sure the locations receiving the highest population influxes can absorb additional students without hampering the quality of education.

## Food Security

### Needs:

- Provision of first line response through emergency food assistance, Ready-to-Eat rations (RTE) (canned food), cooked meals, cash support for the first two to four weeks for displaced households.
- Integration of vulnerable and food insecure households into targeted monthly food assistance once the displaced households are settled and assessed.
- After the initial displacement, the following options need to be considered to support the displaced individuals and host communities: provision of appropriate life-saving livelihoods, support to affected communities and households by increasing agricultural production, support to small scale food production, protection of productive assets, and restoring or creating income generating activities to prevent negative or irreversible coping mechanisms.

**\$15.3  
MILLION**

Additional funding required for food and livelihoods assistance in the next three months

### Response:

- The Food Security Cluster continues to coordinate the emergency response through an online group, an online emergency tracker tool and ad hoc cluster meetings.
- Since the beginning of May, Cluster members are providing emergency food assistance to newly displaced households, including those most recently displaced from Khan Shaykun to Ma'arrat Tamsrin, and re-programming their interventions. First line response is provided through the distribution of ready to eat rations (RTEs), dry rations of mainly canned food sufficient on average for one week for a family of 5, repeated as per needs, and the provision of cooked meals and distribution of emergency multi-purpose cash grants (MPCG) of 120 – 130 USD per household that includes coverage of food needs.
- Between 31 July and 18 August, the CCCM Cluster recorded 72,033 displacements in northwest Syria, of which 20,184 are recorded in IDP settlements and 51,849 out of IDP sites. In coordination with CCCM, Food Security Cluster has coordinated food assistance response to newly established and newly expanded IDP sites.
- In light of the ongoing deterioration of the conflict and in line with the humanitarian readiness plan, the FSL cluster lead remains ready to respond to the growing humanitarian needs. More than 22,000 RTEs are prepositioned in Syria, which is sufficient for approximately 111,000 people. In both Syria and Turkey, around 118,000 RTE kits have been prepositioned, enough for approximately 592,000 people.
- Since 1 June, 21,550 RTEs have been provided to displaced families, covering an estimated 107,750 people.
- In June, food rations were distributed to an additional 29,000 displaced households in Dana camps, increasing the total caseload from 700,000 to 823,000 beneficiaries.
- A beneficiary selection based on vulnerability criteria was conducted. In July, more than 186,000 households were reached with general food assistance reaching over 925,000 beneficiaries in Idlib and Aleppo governorates.
- In August, other cluster members continued to provide the following emergency food response:
  - 2 members distributed cooked meals to reach 2,777 people
  - 3 members distributed MPCGs to assist 18,325 people
  - 3 members distributed Ready to Eat rations to assist 7,619 people
- In July and August 2019 only, the nutritional value of food rations was increased from 1,550 to 1,900 kilocalories.
- In July, 750 households received the poultry kits in Aleppo and Idlib. The distribution was accompanied with the training of the village focal points on Good Agricultural Practices. The assembling of 10 solar powered irrigation systems in Jisr-Ash-Shugur is ongoing and their installation is expected in August.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- After the first line response to address the immediate food needs of the newly displaced individuals, including those most recently displaced from Khan Shaykun, the Food Security Cluster's strategy is to respond to medium-term, life-sustaining food needs with the distribution of monthly food rations through the most appropriate modality (in-kind, voucher or cash) for 2 to 3 months while assessing vulnerabilities of the displaced households. Food-insecure households will be supported with regular food assistance as per Food Security Sector guidelines.
- Out of the 450,000 (approximately 90,000 HHs) people estimated to be displaced, the cluster lead's capacity covers approximately 50,000 HHs. The remaining 40,000 HHs need emergency food assistance especially in Idlib city, Harim, Darkosh and Armanaz, requiring an additional funding of USD 7.2 million. (40K HHs \* 60\$\* 3 months). In addition, 30% of the IDPs (almost 27 thousand HHs) are in need of a one-off livelihood support, requiring an additional funding of

USD 8.1 million (27K HHs\* 300\$), especially in Euphrates Shield and Olive Branch areas. Therefore, the total gap for providing food assistance and livelihood support is approximately USD 15.3 million.

- To cover the needs of bread as the main staple food and avoid the potential gap, Cluster encourages support to the wheat value chain, in all its steps starting from the provision of agricultural inputs to the marketing phase.
- Security situation remains to be the main constraint that causes delays in the response.

## Health

### Needs:

- Health Cluster members continue see the influx of new IDPs. It was estimated that 2,000 families arrived to Atmeh (cluster) camps, with most of them sharing tents with relatives and/or friends. New additional areas/camps are being established in Atfalna (Latmaneh Martyrs camp) to absorb the new arrivals which require additional health services.
- In southern Aleppo countryside, estimated 779 families have arrived increasing the need for services from the members supporting Kahan Touman Primary Health Centre (PHC) and increasing the mobile outreach services.
- As funding by several donors is ending in coming weeks, critical identified support will be required for at least 10 PHCs in Afrin and several mobile units in Deir Sama-Doret Aziza, and around Salqin, Harim and Sarmin.
- Although needs assessments in specific IDPs settlements in southern Aleppo are been conducted by members, further assessments will be needed.

### Response:

- Members have the capacity to cover Atmeh (cluster) camps health needs through two fix PHCs and two mobile medical units (MMU), the new camp extension required the establishment of new mobile services.
- Member-supported ambulance team in Hazarin is operational, providing first aid and transporting casualties from Kafr Nobol and surrounding areas to closest hospitals, in coordination with local health authorities and implementing partners.
- A Psychological First Aid (PFA) training targeting 600 community health workers (CHW) in Idleb began. The aim is to enhance the capacity of the CHW teams to provide appropriate response to the new waves of IDPs regarding psychological services and how and where to refer the cases.
- The third roll out training for chemical preparedness and response inside Syria concluded successfully. These trainings will take place every week for a total of 7 weeks till mid-September targeting 420 medical staff. Currently, a total of 164 have been trained.
- A consignment of dialysis sessions, enough to cover the needs of dialysis centers to the end of February 2020, took place on 21 and 22 August at Bab al-Hawa and Bab al-Salama border crossings.
- Tuberculosis (TB) centers in A'zaz and Idleb cities started receiving patients and providing full services for TB program (diagnosis, treatment and follow-up). An inventory of TB drugs was carried out and transferred to the newly opened TB centers.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- 18 dialysis centres continue to provide services without suspension or closing of the facilities. However, there is a disparity in the number of patients in each centre. The centres in northern Idlib, such as Baba Al-Hawa Centre, Al-Hedaya Centre in Qah and Ibn Sina Center in Idlib, are receiving more patients due to the new waves of IDPs from southern Idlib. On the other hand, the number of patients in the southern centres such as Ma'arrat An Nu'man and Kafr Nobol began to decline due to the unstable security situation in these areas.
- The continued attacks against health care threatens the safety of civilians, patients, health workers and the whole humanitarian community responding to the emergency.



## Nutrition

### Needs:

- Due to the security situation, nutrition programs in southern Idlib, namely Khan Shaykun and Ma'arrat An Nu'man are affected. Six cluster members either suspended or cancelled their programs.
- The influx of IDPs has been observed in areas north of Ma'arrat An Nu'man as well as in northwest Idlib where nutrition interventions are already provided through routine services and rapid response teams. Due to the increase of population by at least 20,000 children under the age of five years as well as pregnant and lactating mothers, rapid response teams and supplies need to be scaled up both inside and outside IDP sites.

**Response:**

- Five Nutrition members deployed 80 community health workers (CHW) to provide curative and preventive nutrition activities to the new IDPs from northern Hama and southern Idleb. Nutrition cluster continues to respond through 20 rapid response teams and mobile clinics to provide Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screening for children under five and pregnant and lactating women (PLW), to distribute supplies and to communicate infant and young child feeding messages.
- A total of 4,256 girls and boys aged 6 to 59 months and 1,259 PLW were screened using MUAC. Out of those, 19 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM), 97 children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 81 PLWs with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) were identified and referred to health facilities to receive treatment. 648 children under the age of 5 and PLWs received high energy biscuits (HEB). 512 children aged 6 to 24 months received Plumpy Doz, used to treat malnutrition. 11,684 children under the age of 5 and PLWs received micro-nutrient supplementation. 648 PLWs received micronutrient tablets. 3,583 PLWs received education on optimal infant feeding and caring practices.
- Nutrition Cluster is launching a rapid nutrition assessment among displaced mothers and children to identify acutely malnourished children and refer them/provide them with the appropriate treatment and nutrition education.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Security situation remains the major risk for scaling up appropriate nutrition response in southern Idleb and northern Hama. Nutrition Cluster is revising the numbers of children under the age of five as well as the numbers of pregnant and lactating mothers in high severity/IDPs hosting/overburdened communities to ensure adequate provision of services, taking into consideration the limited resources.


**Protection**
**Needs:**

- The continued shelling and airstrikes in northwest Syria, particularly in civilian-populated areas, has put the lives of women, men, girls and boys at risk and has resulted in significant numbers of deaths and injuries, including of children. This exacts a psychosocial toll on children and caregivers and results in high levels of trauma.
- In addition, the potential for any large-scale offensive into Idleb continues to provoke fear and dread among civilians, particularly given the lack of any clear possible destinations and the unpredictable restrictions on movement within Idleb and to Aleppo.
- Civilians' access to essential services is reduced as safety and security concerns restrict their freedom of movement, multiple displacements exert stress, and airstrikes and clashes damage basic civilian infrastructure. As communities' coping mechanisms are depleted, they resort to desperate and risky decision-making. This increases protection threats, such as increased vulnerability to death, injury, disability, gender-based violence (GBV), and trauma; or exploitation, child labour, early marriage and association of children with armed groups.
- Provision of humanitarian assistance is therefore critical. All humanitarian actors need to do the utmost to ensure service delivery is safe and accessible. Particular safeguards should be in place to ensure equitable and safe access for persons who are regularly excluded from ongoing assistance, including by ensuring that their teams identify those in critical need, with consideration for those at risk. Humanitarian organizations must work affirmatively to prevent exploitation by humanitarian workers and mitigate obstacles to accessing humanitarian assistance related to lack/loss of civil documentation and discrimination.
- Reports from the field show serious concerns on the psychosocial well-being of children and their caregivers. Unaccompanied and separated children need safe interim care. Services in this regard and in the current circumstances remain extremely limited except for ad-hoc, unsustainable arrangements.
- Approximately 125,000 women and girls of reproductive age are in need of dignity kits (DKs), of which the existing stock can only serve an estimated 35,000, leaving an approximate 90,000 displaced women and girls with no access to dignity kits. The DKs have essential life-saving items for women and girls of reproductive age such as menstrual pad sets, female underwear, cover and flashlights. Therefore, funds are needed to immediately cover for this gap.
- Women and girls were also noted to be at greater risk of harm and exploitation during flight.
- There is a continuous need to integrate newly arrived IDPs and affected persons into existing protection programming. This requires sustained funding for continuity and scaling up of life-saving Protection, Child Protection, GBV and Mine Action services that address both immediate and medium-to longer-term needs.

**5,588**

Individuals reached with  
protection services in  
August 2019

**Response:**

- From 1 to 19 August 2019, ten Protection Cluster members provided emergency response services for civilians recently displaced due to the ongoing hostilities, including psychological first aid, psychosocial support, information about other services, and DK distribution. Cluster members provided 6,711 protection services to IDPs and affected host community members in 21 communities within 11 sub-districts in Idlib and Aleppo, reaching 5,588 individuals (1,575 girls, 455 boys, 1,657 women, and 1,901 men).
- Cluster members also provided specialized child protection and GBV services and individual referrals to other services, notably health. Over 160 children were referred to specialized services in the reporting period. Safety and prevention messages to communities, specifically on family separation and violence, reached 6,170 people (1850 girls, 1844 boys, 1296 women, and 1180 men).
- Psychosocial support and recreational activities were provided to 4,940 children (2,449 girls and 2,491 boys) in the reporting period, aiming to strengthen their coping mechanisms and resilience. Similarly, parenting programmes strengthen parents and primary caregivers' skills and resources to care and protect for their children under severely overstretched community capacities. A new transshipment containing adolescent and recreational kits took place in the reporting period and items will be distributed in the coming days. They will facilitate psychosocial support activities aiming at restoring children's wellbeing, recovery and development.
- GBV Sub-cluster (SC) members continued to provide GBV specialized services through the static women and girls' safe spaces as well GBV prevention and empowerment activities. GBV SC outreach teams provided awareness sessions, group and individual counselling, psychological first aid, and referrals.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Between August 8 and August 21, 5 Cluster members reported the closure of a protection static and mobile service point with services suspended due to active conflict in 12 locations within Idlib and Aleppo (Ma'arrat An Nu'man, Ariha, Saraqab, Jisr Ash-Shugur districts). This suspension affects the direct implementation of protection interventions as people lose their access to the protection services in mentioned locations. These suspensions include two child protection partners implementing psychosocial support; case management, including specialized child protection services; mine risk education and contamination impact survey out-reach teams; and specialized and non-specialized GBV services.
- Since 29 April, a total of 42 Protection Cluster and Sub-Cluster members reported suspension/closure of programming due to the conflict in southern Idlib, Aleppo and Hama. This includes static service points and mobile outreach services, which include community centers, women and girls' safe spaces, child-friendly spaces, and health facilities, in addition to mobile risk education and contamination impact survey teams.
- Donors are recommended to increase funding for all basic needs and services in order for humanitarian organizations to help meet the survival needs of rapidly growing IDP populations in north and northwest Syria.
- If further displacement takes place due to military offensives in Idlib or western rural Aleppo, a significant disruption to ongoing protection service delivery is expected. Even with existing emergency response capacity and resources, the pattern and pace of the conflict may render response limited. Continued advocacy by the humanitarian leadership, donors and member states with all parties to the conflict must reinforce their obligations under international humanitarian law, particularly their obligations to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure.
- Lack of multi-sectoral response hinders the delivery of protection services. Protection actors report challenges in the provision of psychological first aid, psychosocial support and referrals when these services are not accompanied by other basic services to meet IDPs' needs.
- The recent intensification of violence adds yet another layer of complications. Lack of access for survey and clearance puts the lives of the displaced at risk. Further, it is estimated that the number of survivors of explosive hazards incidents due to the escalation has increased and the ability to provide immediate response services is limited.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)****Needs:**

- A comprehensive WASH response is required for IDPs across all locations including in camps and communities.
- WASH needs are constantly increasing with increased displacement. This includes demand for domestic water, solid waste management, community latrines, wastewater management, hygiene kits and jerry cans.
- Comprehensive WASH services and supplies to at least 190,000 IDPs in camps and informal settlements and to over 120,000 IDPs accommodated within host communities are needed.

**263,000**people reached with  
WASH assistance

- Apart from the supplies and services, there is a clear need to build technical and management capacity within cluster members to enhance their ability to respond in a timely manner maintaining agreed standards.
- Based on the information that at least 61 per cent of the displaced are not intending to return to their place of origin, there is a need to introduce mid-term solutions with more sustainable WASH services.

**Response:**

- WASH humanitarian response has reached 263,000 displaced people through 32 WASH cluster members. Over 136,000 IDPs arriving at hundreds of camps and informal settlements are receiving some form of WASH assistance through additional water trucking, new community latrines, increased solid waste management, and supply of water purifying agents and hygiene kits.
- Several communal latrines and showers are under construction and water tanks are being installed in camps and informal settlements that are receiving additional IDPs. Only about 120,000 IDPs accommodated within host communities received some form of WASH services and supplies, especially water purification agents, jerry cans and hygiene kits.
- Cluster members are reaching out to the most vulnerable people with supplies and services.
- The cluster, in collaboration with SCHF, is launching an emergency reserve allocation to respond to a proportion of current needs. As the movement of IDPs is ongoing, WASH cluster through SCHF proposals is planning to cover the most recently displaced population.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Because of the wide geographical spread and continuous movement of IDPs, providing supplies and services to the displaced people along displaced routes is challenging.
- Operations in several locations in north Hama and south Idleb are still suspended, due to security issues.
- Additional resources are being sought, to enhance much needed supplies and services, to procure hygiene kits, carry out water trucking, build new latrines and maintain existing latrines, as well as to support solid waste management.
- Three months into the response, there is a need to focus on mid-term to longer interventions as IDPs have settled. This is necessary as at least 61 percent people are not intending to return to their place of origin in near-future.
- Increased support to ongoing WASH programs is needed, especially in camps and informal settlements where IDPs shelter.
- Damage to 29 water systems has resulted in a large number of people suffering from water shortage, as they are forced to rely on unsafe water sources such as water trucking from private water vendors and/or water from unprotected wells.

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<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/stima>