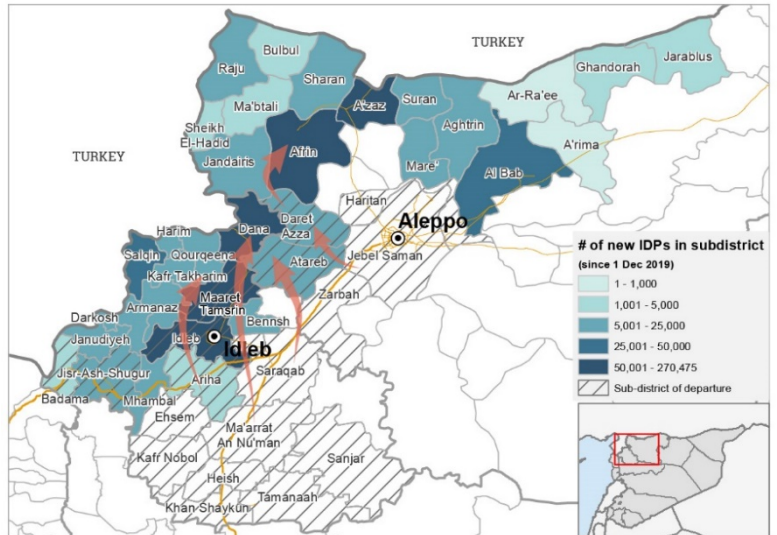


HIGHLIGHTS

- People in northwest Syria are living through some of the worst crisis since the war in Syria began. More than 800,000 people have been displaced since 1 December, due to intense conflict in freezing weather. The humanitarian community is doing everything it can but is overwhelmed by the scale of needs. An immediate cessation of the violence is critical. More resources, including funding, is immediately needed to save people's lives and alleviate their suffering.
- Of the more than 800,000 people who have been displaced in northwest Syria from 1 December 2019 to 12 February 2020, some 60 percent are estimated to be children. Women and children – who are 81 percent of the newly displaced people– are again among those who suffer most. Several children are reported to have died due to the freezing temperatures.
- While the humanitarian community continues to scale up the response to support all people in need, this latest emergency compounds an already dire humanitarian situation for people in northwest Syria who have been made vulnerable by years of crisis, violence, economic downturn and multiple displacements. Shelter is the most urgent need, as millions of people have been pushed into small areas not equipped to support that many people, especially during the cold winter.



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.

4 M

People in northwest Syria

Over 800,000

People displaced between 1 December and 12 February

\$ 336 M

funding required to support 800,000 people for 6 months

51%

CHILDREN (est)

60%

Of them are CHILDREN

\$ 30 M

Funding secured from CERF

25%

WOMEN (est)

21%

Of them are WOMEN

\$ 40 M

Funding through SCHF reverse allocation

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The humanitarian situation for people in northwest Syria is at the most critical points due to ongoing hostilities, harsh winter conditions, and existing needs that were already severe. From 9 to 12 February, some 142,000 more people were displaced, bringing the total number of displaced individuals to more than 800,000 people since 1 December. The massive scale and rapidity of this displacement compounds the previously existing needs in northwest Syria. Since late January, intensive

airstrikes and shelling continued to affect communities in the Idleb area, including western Aleppo governorate. Ground fighting between non-state armed groups (NSAGs) and Government of Syria (GoS) forces and its allies rapidly extended to include a larger geographic area, affecting many population centres, such as Saraqab and its vicinity. As of 13 February, ground fighting in western Aleppo countryside reportedly continues resulting in rapidly shifting frontlines. Since late January, some 100 communities¹ in southeastern Idleb and western Aleppo countryside have reportedly come under the control of GoS forces, in addition to several western neighbourhoods of Aleppo city. While communities in proximity of the frontlines are almost deserted as people flee to safer areas, those who are left behind generally have existing vulnerabilities and face greater risks due to their inability to evacuate.

As a result of this rapid escalation, civilians from towns and villages, which until this point had received displaced people such as Sarmin, Atareb, Tefnaz, Bennsh, Kelly, Ariha and Idleb city, began to flee further north, to areas close to the Turkish-Syrian border in northwest Idleb and to northern Aleppo governorate. As of 11 February, local sources reported that civilians continue to flee in anticipation of fighting directly affecting their communities, including from areas that are in proximity to large IDP camps, such as Dana and Sarmada in northwest Idleb. On February 10, Kafr Aruq site located in Harim community, was reportedly hit by an airstrike, resulting in the death of one person and injuring seven others. Four shelters used to accommodate four families were completely damaged.

Of the more than 800,000 individuals who have been displaced since 1 December, more than 550,000 moved within the Idleb area, mostly to Dana, Maaret Tamsrin and Idleb sub-districts, which are densely populated with displaced people who had been displaced previously. More than 250,000 have moved to areas in northern Aleppo governorate including Afrin, A'zaz, Jandairis and Al Bab. Since last week, movement to northern Aleppo governorate reportedly increased, indicating that more people are seeking to reach safety and services in these areas.

Given the high number of people who fled their homes in the past two months and the rapidity of the population movement, humanitarian needs in northwest Syria are increasing exponentially. Shelter, non-food items, food and protection assistance continue to be the most pressing needs, with 93 percent of the newly displaced individuals identifying shelter as a main need. As of 13 February, the CCCM Cluster reported that 36 percent of the newly displaced people are staying in rented houses or with host families, while 17 percent of people moved to camps. Another 12 percent of the newly displaced people are reported to seek shelter in individual tents, while 15 percent of them are in unfinished buildings. Some 82,000 people are reportedly in open areas, including under trees.

These dire conditions are further exacerbated by harsh winter weather across northwest Syria where the coldest days and nights of the current winter season have been observed since last week. On the night of 10 February, the temperatures dropped to minus 7 degrees Celsius, and a wind chill factor that dropped ambient temperatures lower. This happened on a night when thousands of families fled from their homes in the Atareb area in the western Aleppo countryside. Those families who could take some of their belongings as they fled from their homes are reportedly burning whatever they could find, including pieces of furniture and whatever can be spared to stay warm for a short while. Others are reportedly pooling money to buy unfinished shacks with no roof, windows or doors to protect themselves from the cold as much as possible. On 11 February, five people reportedly died due to suffocation at an IDP site in Kelly, as they reportedly burned materials that let out toxic fumes for heating. The SNFI Cluster estimates that 488,000 of the people displaced since 1 December need additional winter assistance.

Women and children – who represent 81 percent of the newly displaced people – are again among those who suffer the most. Of more than 800,000 people who have been displaced in northwest Syria from 1 December 2019 to 12 February 2020, more than 60 percent are children. As families and communities continue to be displaced, many of them for multiple times within the space of two months, their resilience has rapidly eroded, which aggravates existing vulnerabilities. Local sources and NGO partners alerted that several young children who are extremely vulnerable to the cold reportedly passed away due to the harsh conditions. The Nutrition cluster highlighted that malnutrition among pregnant and lactating mothers as well as displaced children are on the rise. Several local sources reported that women and children are being exposed to serious protection risks such as gender-based violence, particularly in informal settlements where makeshift WASH facilities do not provide for privacy.

As a result of hostilities and displacement, the provision of humanitarian assistance is severely hampered. Many humanitarian workers are themselves displaced with their communities, undermining the human capacity to provide humanitarian assistance. As of 11 February, at least 72 health facilities have suspended services due to insecurity or mass displacement in northwest Syria. As the security situation continued to deteriorate in February, many other facilities reported that they have suspended their work. On 10 and 11 February several hospitals and healthcare centres in Idleb and Aleppo

¹ Communities in this context refer to urban settlement areas.

governorates shut, suspended or reduced operations as a result of the ongoing hostilities. Reportedly, those that have suspended operations include maternity and childcare hospitals in Atareb and Idleb city, and primary healthcare centres in Abzemo and Sahara. Three other primary healthcare centres – in Iss, Zərbah and Sarmin – have reportedly closed, and a hospital in Maaret Tamsrin reportedly suspended all operations except for emergency services.

Reported restrictions on civilian movements through crossings and the unpredictable closure of crossings are further threatening the ability of people to escape hostilities as they are forced to seek new routes. On 6 February, local sources reported that GoS forces prevented civilians from the Idleb area from entering GoS-controlled areas in Aleppo through the Al-Tahya crossing point. On the same day, the Isse/Hader commercial crossing point, in southern Aleppo linking NSAG and GoS areas, was reportedly closed due to ongoing clashes.

Moreover, the Bab al Hawa crossing, which is the primary lifeline for providing humanitarian assistance to the Idleb area, was reportedly closed to civilian traffic, including for humanitarian transshipments, on 10 February as a result of increased hostilities. On the following day, UN transshipments at Bab al Hawa were delayed or postponed altogether, as drivers inside Syria did not wish to be separate from their families in the volatile context. Later on 11 February, UN transshipments reportedly resumed and proceeded as scheduled.

The hostilities in northwest Syria have a devastating human cost. From 29 April 2019 to 10 February 2020, OHCHR recorded incidents in which at least 1,710 civilians were killed, including 337 women and 503 children in northwest Syria including Idleb, Hama and Aleppo governorates. Of these, 93 civilians including 23 women and 28 children were killed in areas under the control of the Government of Syria.

FUNDING

A readiness and response plan is in place for northwest Syria to address the massive displacement since 1 December for 800,000 over six months, but the projected figure for six months has already been eclipsed in several weeks. It identifies \$336 million that is needed to assist 520,000 people displaced between 1 Dec 2019 and 31 Jan 2020, plus 280,000 people who were considered to be at imminent risk of displacement. The plan will be revised.

The Syria Cross-Border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF) is providing \$40 million USD through a reserve allocation to help meet rapidly the most urgent needs. The deadline for application is 17 February. More information is available in the [allocation strategy paper](#) which builds on the most critical needs highlighted in the readiness and response plan. For more information please contact info-schf@un.org. The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), which provides rapid funding during acute emergencies, is also releasing \$30 million USD. It will be used for shelter support, water and sanitation services, food, and non-food items, which are the most urgent priorities. Complementarity between CERF and SCHF funding will be ensured to maximize the use of this funding. Partners are undertaking resource mobilisation. These funding sources are being processed as rapidly as possible and will be released in the coming weeks.

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

- The number of people who are displaced since 1 December 2019 over 800,000 individuals (158,212 families).
- There is a need to establish new camps and reception center/s as part of the preparedness plan for the new wave of displacement.
- Marat Al-Ekhwan Reception Center currently has a population of 2,823 individuals that exceeds the camp's capacity at 1,800 individuals maximum. There is an urgent need to expand the camp to provide temporary accommodation.
- A'zaz Reception Center has a population of 4,434 individuals that exceeds the camp's capacity at 2,000 individuals maximum. There is an urgent need to expand and/or establish the reception center to provide temporary accommodation.

**Over
800,000**

People displaced since 1
December 2019

- Most of the families hosted at the three existing reception centers have been there for three months. They need to be resettled, which is not possible due to the lack of shelter options.

Response:

- CCCM Cluster members are working on the expansion of Marat Al-Ekhwan Reception Center.
- CCCM Cluster in coordination with SNFI Cluster and OCHA held a technical meeting to discuss and answer cluster members questions the SCHF allocation. CCCM Cluster has provided technical support to facilitate the project proposals for reception center and camps expansion/establishment.
- CCCM Cluster is receiving more proposals from active members on camps establishment/expansions. As of 12 February, three new projects have already been received.
- CCCM Cluster, in coordination with partners, is producing IDP displacement tracking and IDP snapshot infographics, including their community-based needs.
- CCCM Cluster, in coordination with SNFI Cluster, is monitoring contingency stocks of tents prepositioned in Syria, stocked in Turkey or in the pipelines.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Insufficient capacity of A'zaz and Marat Al-Ekhwan reception centers to accommodate the current number of IDPs or to absorb new arrivals.
- Lack of available lands to expand or establish camps for the most vulnerable IDPs. Reportedly, there are 2,600 IDPs in open areas, and 16,889 IDP are under trees. In total, 19,489 people are in urgent need for shelters.
- Time lost due to information delays and/or conflicting information that require data cleaning and verification.
- Reportedly, some 21 families have been stranded at Dadat crossing point to Manbij, at Al-Halwangi village, 16 km from Jarablus. Reportedly, there are no NGOs who have access to the area and IDPs are unable to leave.

Education

Needs:

- The humanitarian situation across northwest Syria, particularly in Idleb and Aleppo governorates continue to deteriorate at an alarming rate due to ongoing violence, which has a devastating effect on the four million people in northwest Syria.
- As of 9 February 2020, a displacement of nearly 689,000 took place in north-west Syria; mainly departing from Ariha (28%), Saraqab (18%), and Ehsem (18%). 54% of them were displaced to Dana sub-district near to the Turkish border. The overall number of people displaced since 1 December surpassed 800,000 as of 13 February. Due to the huge influx of IDPs from southern Idleb to northern areas, many schools became temporary shelters, and education have been suspended, impacting the learning of 280,000 school-aged children.
- A total of 180 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. The education process has been suspended in Ariha sub-district with few schools still functional. For the time being, only 5 schools are still functioning with overcrowded classrooms due to displacement from nearby locations.
- To address the needs, the education sector objectives are:
 - Providing psychosocial support (PSS) and psychological first aid (PFA) activities in coordination with the Child Protection Sub-Cluster.
 - Support some 150,000 learners to sit for the mid-year examinations through provision of additional learning spaces, catch-up classes and supporting the recruitment of school staff for facilitation;
 - Establish and furnish temporary learning spaces (tents or caravans) to decrease 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 2,000 teachers and education personnel in impacted areas;
 - Provide heating for 2,189 classrooms to benefit some 59,000 children as part of winterization effort; and
 - Provide school-based hygiene materials (including medicine against headlice) for newly displaced children in Aleppo and Idleb governorates, in coordination with the Health and WASH clusters;
 - Providing incentives to 2,000 teachers and education personnel in addition to teacher training.

280,000

school-aged children
whose education is
impacted by the ongoing
displacement

Response:

- Education Cluster was able to reach 28,456 school aged children with education assistance. 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.
 - 7,020 children supported with PSS and PFA in Idleb, Maaret Tamsrin, Harim, Dana and Atareb, Qourqeena, Daret Azza and Bennsh;
 - 10,562 children supported with formal and non-formal education in Idleb, Harim, Dana, Atareb, Salqin, Maaret Tamsrin, Qourqeena; including children with disabilities.
 - 825 children supported with winter clothes in Maaret Tamsrin and Atareb; 216 children benefitted from fuel for heating in schools.
 - 4,159 children supported with recreational kits, school bags, student kits and textbooks in Ariha, Idleb, Harim, Dana, Armanaz, Salqin, Kafr Takharim, Idlib City, Marat Tamsrin and Qourqeena,
 - 4,150 children supported for their mid-year exams.
 - 173 provided with medicine against headlice in coordination with the Health Cluster.
 - 1,106 children supported with home-based education based on Self learning program in Marat Tamsrin, Daret Azza, Ariha and Haritan sub districts.
 - 4,000 out of school children provided with Short life skills, recreation and PSS education activities

Gaps & Constraints:

- Education should be used as an opportunity to normalize the lives of children and communities and help them heal. Emergency education should commence once people have had their primary needs met (health, food, shelter, etc.) and are settled enough to take steps to normalize their lives. However, the education sector is still unprioritized.
- Overcrowding in IDP sites and shortage of available space and the use of schools as shelter by displaced people is a constraint.
- As children are constantly on the move due to the ongoing displacement and security situation, it is challenging to provide sustained education support. In addition, the overstretched education system that already suffered from overcrowded classrooms (60- 80 students/class) is now further challenged as 100 children need to be accommodated per classroom.
- Due to extremely cold weather, winterization in school now became also a lifesaving issue as the weather conditions do not allow children sit in a classroom without a heater.


Food Security
Needs:

- The number of people displaced in northwest Syria from 1 December 2019 to 9 February 2020 has reached 689,098 individuals. As of 13 February, this number has surpassed 800,000. Many newly displaced people are bringing with them large numbers of livestock, particularly those who are moving to Afrin district in northern Aleppo governorate.
- 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. To enable improved planning and targeting of activities, there is a need to obtain updated estimates of livestock numbers owned by displaced people. The main needs for the livestock now are the dry storage fodder warehouses, water for the animals and three main vaccinations; Pastorilla, Entrotoximia, PPR vaccine.

184,654

People for whom additional food assistance support is needed

Response:

- The Food Security Cluster supports the frontline emergency response through the coordination with members by online group, the emergency tracker tool (database), communication by phones and the organization of ad hoc Strategic Advisory Group and cluster meetings.

- This frontline response includes distribution of RTEs (tailored for standard household of 5 members), provision of cooked meals and emergency multi-purpose cash grants (MPCG) with an amount of 120 – 130 USD for each household to cover the immediate food needs.
- From 1 January to 11 February, FSL Cluster members provided the following assistance:
 - 14 FSL members distributed 18,785 Emergency Food Basket (one-off) to reach 96,455 beneficiaries.
 - 14 FSL members distributed 95,644 RTEs to assist 472,905 beneficiaries.
 - 3 FSL members distributed 1,192,900 USD MPCGs to assist 55,745 beneficiaries.
 - 10 FSL members distributed 40,590 cooked meals to assist 184,060 beneficiaries.
- By the end of February 2020, Food Security Cluster members will provide further assistance to the newly displaced people according to the following plan:
 - 9 FSL members will distribute Emergency Food Basket (one-off) to reach 116,500 beneficiaries.
 - 15 FSL members will distribute RTEs to assist 567,780 beneficiaries.
 - 7 FSL members will distribute cash to assist 159,210 beneficiaries.
 - 9 FSL members will distribute cooked meals to assist 100,225 beneficiaries.
- FSL members will continue to assist newly displaced people with cooked meals, RTEs, and food baskets, through the additional funds from SCHF 2020.

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 184,654 newly displaced people. The Food Security Cluster calls for additional support to meet these urgent food assistance needs 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:

- As of 11 February, in northwest Syria, some 72 health services (hospitals, primary health care centres, specialized care centres, and mobile clinics) have been suspended in the affected areas in Idleb and Aleppo governorates since 1 December 2019, employing 191 doctors, 304 nurses and 55 midwives. The impact of the suspension of health facilities impact is:
 - Over 106,000 medical outpatient consultations per month are suspended.
 - An average of 10,850 monthly trauma patients are not served.
 - 1,690 major surgeries are not performed endangering the life of patients.
- The health needs of civilians in Syria's northwest today are unprecedented as violence and displacement continues unabated. The health situation is characterized by limited access to vaccination services, increased number of casualties requiring trauma care that often is not immediately available as ongoing displacements, high prevalence of non-communicable diseases and lack of specialized treatment. There is a serious shortage of qualified staff. The deteriorating security situation in Idlib has directly affected the provision of health services after many health facilities suspended services.
- Therefore, there is an urgent need to increase the access to services via expansion of the referral network and to benefit from the mobile teams located within IDP and host communities. Also, it is crucial to maintain the medical emergency supply line in order to avoid shortages of essential life-saving medicine, particularly for trauma care and non-communicable diseases
- The mental health and psychological status of displaced people is seriously damaged, requiring a community-based approach to assure provision of Psychological First and First Aid Training as well as a community-based approach for Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) prevention when there is limited essential NCD drugs in many of the health facilities.
- Thalassaemic patients also were displaced with the flow of displaced people. Out of 638 patients identified 485 are children under 18 years old. As per the delicacy of their cases, there is a serious need to provide them with appropriate care, keeping in mind the closure of around 50 % (as per one health partner) of blood bank services due the escalation and risk to be injured. Also, patients with chronic diseases are putting more pressure on the existing health facilities in Dana and near the border with Turkey, especially cases of asthma, diabetes and blood pressure.
- As per a Health partner, Sexual and Reproductive Health services lack in some areas, blocking the provision of proper care for women suffering from reproductive and urinary tract infections (RTIs/UTIs).

Response:

- Eight truckloads of medicine were sent from Turkey to Syria by the cluster lead agency to provide more than 270,000 treatment courses. Among the supplies were burn kits, essential medicine sets for primary health, emergency kits, trauma kits and surgical supply kits, delivered to more than 150 health facilities. On NCD, 23 NCD Kits module 1A will be delivered, but the quantity is still under the threshold to cover the needs of both IDPs and host communities.
- The possibility to move teams and relocate Emergency Programme on Immunization (EPI) centers to areas receiving displaced people is being considered by Health Cluster members in coordination with the Syria Immunization Group. Already 5 teams were relocated. 2 EPI centres cold chain were evacuated in addition to equipment, vaccines and registers to safer areas and solar-powered vaccine refrigerators were installed in Bhory PHC, Milis Centre (Idleb) and Sejjo Camps centre (Aleppo).
- As per movement of displaced people, the referral system ambulances and non-emergency transportation in Idleb and Aleppo shifted to respond in areas hosting the new displaced people.
- Mobile teams were activated to provide Primary Health Centre (PHC) services to newly displaced with a plan to expand the support to include more mobile clinics, fixed PHCs in Idleb, western Aleppo and Afrin.
- The UN lead agency activated with partners the “PFA helpers” composed from 571 trained Community Health Workers and 308 humanitarian aid workers trained on Psychological First Aid. On another hand, the MHPSS Helpline Services, including Suicide Crisis support, is yet to be activated and to be stationed at Sarmada Mental Health Center for more immediate support and referral.
- For dialysis services, hemodialysis patients were distributed between existing centers nearby their shelter in order to ensure the continuity of this life saving services.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Since December 2019, the escalation of security situation in Idlib affected directly the provision of health services after many health actors decided to suspend or close health facilities/services. Moreover, the health facilities located in southeastern Idlib became front-line facilities, and by that risking the lives of staff and patients when most of them became themselves IDPs and left to safer places toward Dana district and the border with Turkey.
- Increasing numbers of IDPs are concentrated in a small geographical area, putting an enormous strain on health responders, struggling to respond. Reports were received of health actors starting to move medical equipment from Idlib city to Salqin, further north in Idlib governorate, close to the Turkish border. A number of hospitals have reported to have reduced services and cancelled operations, due to material damage from airstrikes or threats of attacks.
- Since 1 January, attacks on health in Syria are 3 in total, all of them in the northwest, causing 10 deaths and 30 injuries. Since 1 December 2019, 5 attacks against health care have been confirmed by the WHO Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care (SSA), resulting in 10 deaths and 32 injuries. An NGO partner reported that airstrikes on 5 February affected Al Hikma Hospital in Teftnaz, Idlib governorate, causing material damage and putting the hospital out of service. No casualties were reported, and the report is pending in the SSA.
- From 1 December 2019 to 11 February 2020, some 72 health services (hospitals, primary health care centres, specialized care centres, and mobile clinics) have been suspended in the affected area in Idlib and Aleppo governorates, employing 191 doctors, 304 nurses and 55 midwives. The health services that have ceased to operate in Idlib governorate, due to areas being depopulated or due to security constraints, can be relocated.
- Currently, around 7 in 10 health facilities in the northwest, are partly or fully operational, supported by cluster lead agency, run by 49 health partners/NGOs. Few partners were able to relocate their services to safer places leaving the load of response on other partners operating already in areas receiving displaced people with limited capacity.
- Since the December 2019, 23 EPI centres were suspended jeopardizing the delivery of services to a monthly estimate of 3120 children under one year old. Three were already relocated to safer areas in line with the displaced people movement in order to assure continuity of vaccination. Some staff were able to integrate in another EPI center existing in the new arrivals' areas.

**Nutrition****Needs:**

- Need to scale up nutrition response to reach all displaced mothers and children within the accessible geographic areas.
- Multi-sectoral responses to address acute malnutrition among displaced pregnant and lactating mothers and chronic malnutrition among displaced children 6-59 months

44,878

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

Response:

- Since the start of the last escalations in Idlib and Western Aleppo, 13,85 pregnant, lactating mothers and 31,844 children under the age of five years were reached with life-saving nutrition services in 113 communities in 31 sub-districts in Idlib through 58 Rapid Response Teams (RTT) and mobile teams by 18 partners. This represents nearly 26% of the population in need. This percentage of reach could be explained by the increased influx of displaced people, to which the Nutrition Cluster is scaling up its response to reach at least 50% of the expected case load of 172,250 mothers and children.
- 12,913 of displaced children under the age of 5 years, pregnant and lactating mothers received high-energy biscuits for preventing acute malnutrition. It is also reported that 27,915 pregnant and lactating mothers and children 6-59 months age received micro-nutrient supplementation while additional 23,072 children 6-59 months of age received high calories lipid-based nutrition supplements for prevention of acute malnutrition.
- Out of the 45,702 mothers and children screened for Acute Malnutrition, 187 cases of severe acute malnutrition and 689 cases of moderate acute malnutrition were identified among displaced children, with the highest number of cases found in Afrin and camps in northern Idlib. Identified malnourished children were referred to appropriate care. Malnutrition among pregnant and lactating mothers is also identified with 1,386 acutely malnourished mothers referred to appropriate care. The increase in Acute Malnutrition cases among mothers has increased by 16% in two weeks. Around 22,530 mothers and care givers were reached with infant feeding and caring practices messages and counselling
- During the last two weeks, Nutrition Cluster data shows a 1.2% increase in the cases of Acute Malnutrition among displaced children especially Moderate Acute Malnutrition. Acute Malnutrition among the pregnant and lactating mothers has reached 30% with an increase of 3-6% every week, which highlight the possibility of increased illness and reduced access to food among mothers. This requires a comprehensive maternal health and nutrition care in close coordination with Food Security, WASH and Shelter cluster. The chronic malnutrition proxy indicator among displaced children remains beyond emergency threshold of 20% at 28%.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The nutrition sector reach is still around 26% of the accessible total displaced mothers and children due to security deterioration and increased displacements. Nutrition cluster will increase the numbers of rapid response teams from 58 RRTs to 100 RRTs capable of reaching between 120,000 and 130,000 children under the age of five years, pregnant and lactating mothers each month.

Protection

Needs:

- Ongoing conflict and civilians' direct exposure to hostilities continue to pervade the protection environment in northwest Syria, exacerbating 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 a smaller area.
- From 1 December 2019 to 12 February 2020, more than 800,000 people were displaced in northwest Syria, mostly from southern parts of Idlib governorate, 81 percent of whom are women and children (over 500,000 children). Individuals and families from frontline areas are reported to travel by night to avoid being affected by aerial bombardment or other conflict related violence. Furthermore, some individuals and families are reportedly moving out of Idlib city due to fear of increased conflict-related violence, a fear aggravated by circulation of rumours and uncertainty. Families are reportedly paying disproportionate amounts for transportation purposes.
- 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, while also allowing humanitarian workers to respond to needs of civilians, especially those who are trapped in frontline areas, such as Atareb and Daret Azza. Parties to the conflict are reminded of the right to freedom of movement for civilians.
- Significant numbers of reports from the field continue to highlight during this period grave child rights violations, including the killing and maiming of children.
- The risk of death and injury due to explosive hazards, including unexploded ordnance, is increasing due to increased artillery and aerial bombardments in locations where civilians are located or moving, as well as the legacy of years of conflict.

42,375

Protection interventions
provided from 21 January
to 10 February

- Protection risks have increased due to the ongoing displacement, the lack of shelter options, and sub-standard living conditions in areas of displacement. Some displaced people are reportedly moving to immediately unsafe areas due to a lack of available accommodation, while others are sheltering under trees in the wild or in overcrowded unfinished buildings. Related Child Protection and GBV risks include:
 - Overcrowding in rental accommodation, collective centers, and makeshift shelters in IDP sites, as well as a lack of a lack of privacy and suitable, gender-segregated WASH facilities place women and girls at particular risk of Gender Based Violence. In the past weeks, Gender Based Violence Sub Cluster (GBV SC) partners reported a number of incidences of rape in camps and informal IDP sites.
 - GBV SC partners are reporting incidents of exploitation and abuse of displaced women and girls by men in position of power such as property owners, in exchange of cash or material assistance. Increased economic vulnerabilities due to displacement place women and girls at risk, especially recently displaced female-headed households.
 - Pregnant women were identified on the road and in informal IDP sites and are in need of medical and other support. Some pregnant women are reportedly delaying birth due to lack of access to medical facilities.
 - Children who are displaced are at higher risk of recruitment or use by armed forces and/or groups due to reduced family/community protection and exhaustion of coping mechanisms, as well as the impact of lack of economic and educational opportunities caused by displacement itself.
 - Ongoing fighting in populated areas and shifting frontlines with subsequent displacement severely affects the protection of children and their caregivers. Deaths of caregivers and unreliable means of transportation are resulting in children being left unaccompanied and separated. Child- and female-headed households are also identified.
 - Child Protection and humanitarian concerns are mutually compounding. Multi-sectoral coordination of responses and would aid in mitigation Child Protection concerns by prioritizing children and caregivers in vulnerability criteria. Risks are further mitigated by including Child Protection specialized staff in rapid assessment and response teams.

Response:

- From 21 Jan to 10 Feb 2020, 14 Protection Cluster partners provided specific emergency response services for civilians in the affected host community and displaced from Idleb and Aleppo due to the ongoing hostilities. Cluster partners conducted 42,375 protection interventions in 78 communities within 20 sub-districts in Idleb and Aleppo reaching 12,674 individuals (3,455 girls, 2,509 boys, 3,941 women, and 2,769 men). The main emergency response services protection actors provided are as follows:
 - Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Psychosocial Support
 - Information sharing about other services
 - Child Protection and GBV case management
 - Dignity kits distribution
 - Mine/Explosive Hazards Risk Education
- Cluster partners also referred individuals to other basic services, notably to health and shelter. Moreover, Cluster members provided Individual Protection Assistance (including cash grants for protection purposes).
- GBV SC partners aim to ensure GBV survivors have access to quality and life-saving responses, including specialized services such as case management, while engaging with communities to prevent and mitigate risks of GBV.
- GBV SC partners continued to distribute dignity kits, reaching 13,417 women and girls of reproductive age (through 15 GBV SC partners) since the beginning of January.
- Distributions of dignity kits give GBV SC partners the ability to provide other essential protection services such as referral to urgent services (medical and legal), PFA, Individual Protection Assistance and information about available services with emphasis on how these services should be free of charge to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse.
- In areas where partners were able to continue their work, Child Protection partners prioritized the response to protection needs of displaced families, particularly in the delivery of psychosocial support and case management.
- Efforts to identify and respond to reunification needs of unaccompanied and separated children have intensified since the 15 December 2019. In most cases separation is caused by disrupted transportation, often being a temporary separation of children from their parents/caregivers. To date all 57 cases identified under these circumstances have been reunified with their caregivers. New cases identified are observed to follow similar patterns and Child Protection partners respond accordingly.
- During the reporting period 210 recreational kits in support of Child Protection interventions were distributed reaching 18,900 children in Harem, Jebel Saman, and Idleb districts.
- Child Protection partners also distributed identification bracelets in prevention of family separation targeting around 24,000 children in Harem, Jebel Saman, Idleb and Jisr ash Shugur districts.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Since 15 January, 13 Protection Cluster, including GBV and Mine Action partners, reported 31 suspensions or closures of their programming due to the increase in conflict activity in southern Idlib and western Aleppo governorates, specifically Atareb, Idlib, Ariha, Teftnaz, Haritan, Maaret Tamsrin, Jisr ash Shugur, Afrin, and Daret Azza districts. Suspensions include activities in and outreach units as well as static service points, including community centers and women and girls' safe spaces.
- Suspension or closure of Child Protection services in the reporting period has been of particular concern, with 18 Child Protection members reporting 39 suspensions of services at the Child Protection mobile teams and Child Friendly Spaces, 90% outside camps and 10% within camps. Most of these suspensions are temporary; however, in some locations partners had to relocate to safer locations to ensure continuity of services. Delivery of Child Protection services were affected in Afrin, Ariha, Atareb, Bennsh, Dana, Daret Azza, Haritan, Idlib, Jebel Saman, Saraqab, Maaret Tamsrin, Jisr ash Shugur and Teftnaz sub districts in Aleppo and Idlib. Activities reported suspended include psychosocial support, life skills, parenting programs, case management and referrals, as well as the transportation of children with disabilities in order to access specific support.
- All suspension notifications cited airstrikes and shelling as the main reason. Displacement of humanitarian staff has also been reported.
- 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.
- Contrary to humanitarian principles, the requirement of civil status documentation continues to be reported as a barrier for IDPs to access basic services and humanitarian assistance. Furthermore, GBV sub-cluster partners are reporting difficulties in efficiently and safely utilizing GBV case funds due to some donors are asking for documentation requirements that are not in line with GBV guiding principles.
- GBV specialized services are still not available in 1,641 communities across NW Syria, mostly due to limited funding. Additional resources are needed to support GBV prevention and response with a particular focus on vulnerable groups such as adolescent girls, widows, and divorced women, persons with disability, as well as men and boys that have experienced sexual violence.
- The current stock of dignity kits is only enough to meet the needs of 38% of the currently displaced women and girls of reproductive age.
- Despite a scale-up in the humanitarian response, gaps in addressing basic needs continue to exist. Families cannot meaningfully engage in parenting programmes and awareness sessions unless the most basic needs of their families are met. It is reported that at least 3 children died last week due to cold weather conditions in the camps near to the Turkish border.
- Parents and caregivers fear for the safety of their children due to continued and increased indiscriminate shelling and often prevent their attendance to public gatherings including Child Friendly Spaces.
- 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 and Jebel Saman where these cases are present are of concern.
- Donor flexibility is urgently needed to redirect the funds for the new emergency in order to avoid long-term consequences to children and their caregivers.

Shelter

Needs:

- Shelter / Non-Food Items (SNFI) Cluster members estimate that 280,000 people are in need of emergency shelter such as tents or shelter kits.
- The Contingency Stock Review Board including cluster focal points are receiving requests on daily basis for NFI/tents as a large number of members have depleted their stock.
- Thousands of families are seeking shelter solutions across a wide geographic area. The cold winter weather, consecutive days of rain that caused flooding and snow are exacerbating the situation for the affected population.

Response:

- Cluster members continue to respond to the needs of the displaced population in north-west Syria. More than 397,903 individuals, including both IDPs and host communities, were assisted with NFI and/or shelter in January.
- Of the 600,000 people identified as in need of NFIs, over 155,711 individuals received NFI kits during January.

- In January, over 98,682 individuals were assisted with shelter response, including emergency/seasonal shelter assistance and shelter rehabilitation.
- 34,115 individuals have been assisted with provision of emergency shelter, which includes family tents or shelter kits.
- The Cluster members plan to assist 100,000 recently displaced people with winter assistance, including winter cash top-up (funded by SCHF), in the coming weeks.
- The initial winterization plan was to target 853,000 million individuals. To date, since October over 639,000 people have been reached by Cluster members with winterization activities for mainly protracted displaced people.
- CCCM and SNFI are working with their members to identify lands suitable to extend camps.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Housing, land and property rights remain a critical issue for legal access to land for people to settle.
- The SNFI Cluster estimates that 488,000 people displaced since December need additional winter assistance. 94,050 new IDPs are being assisted with winter cash assistance. USD 13.7M is needed to cover the gaps.
- Shelter remains the main gap. USD 11 Million are needed to continue upgrading damaged/unfinished shelters including collective centers where new IDPs are seeking refuge.
- In order to assist the 280,000 new displaced people moving to camps, Cluster members need funding to install shelter for 26,076 households.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- WASH cluster members reported continued high needs with regards to life-saving WASH supplies and services for more than 800,000 displaced people to Afrin, Aghtarin, Atareb, A'zaz, Daret Ezza, Jandairis, Maabatli, Mare, Raju, Sharan, Suran, and Zarbah sub-districts of Aleppo governorate and Ariha, Marmanaz, Dana, Bennsh, Badama, Darkosh, Harim, Idleb, Janudiyeh, Kafr Takharim, Maaret Tamsrin, Mhambal, Qourqeena, Salqin, Saraqab, Sarmin and Teftnaz sub-districts of Idleb governorate. Displaced people need WASH services including domestic water, solid waste management, community latrines and wastewater management. The need for desludging of septic tanks, water purification, supply of hygiene kits and jerry cans has proportionately increased.
- In both formal and informal camps, there is a huge need to increase water supply and manage drinking water safety, to mitigate against diarrheal and other communicable diseases. In most of these locations, number of displaced people have increased, who are sharing same level of services and supplies. Inadequate desludging and solid waste management with the ongoing rain has increased the chances of contamination of water sources.
- The need for desludging of septic tanks and pit latrines is increased with rain and subsequent flooding in several locations. With increasing displaced people, the need for solid waste management has also increased. Land fill rehabilitation is becoming increasingly important especially in northern Idleb and A'zaz-Al Bab-Jarablus regions, especially with the increased number of displaced people that is resulting in a creation of new non-properly managed dumpsites/landfills.
- Since the displacement is ongoing and displaced population are prioritizing communities to settle in, there is a need to increase the operational support to existing piped water systems to handle additional population in communities and in surrounding informal/formal settlements and camps.
- It is unlikely that new displaced people will return to their areas of origin near future. Therefore, there is a need to include them in the ongoing sustained emergency programs to ensure their continued access to all WASH services.

Response:

- The ongoing WASH response has reached to 315,644 recently displaced people in 521 locations through 23 Cluster members (76% of the locations responded to are camps, 15% in communities, 5% in collective centers and 5% other locations).
 - 86,230 people received water trucking and continue to receive
 - 41,000 people received solid waste management service and continue to receive for 2 to 3 months
 - 7,716 people received new latrines (most of the existing public/community latrines are overcrowded due to a smaller number of latrines)
 - 81,000 people benefited from hygiene kits (with 12,250 family hygiene kits and 5,000 baby hygiene kits)
 - 60,000 people benefited from water purifying agents (with Aquatabs)
 - 85,000 people benefited from the distribution of jerry cans (34,000 can distributed, 2 cans per households)
 - 15,000 people received tarpaulin sheets (3,000 tarpaulin sheets distributed, 2 sheets per family)

- The water supply arrangements through existing pipe water systems and water trucking were able to respond to the increased number of displaced people. However, the water supply per capita has reduced in the locations that received new displaced people, especially where the member organization do not have the flexible funding. In communities of Dana and Sarmada, the restored water systems are benefiting both host communities and recently arrived displaced people. WASH cluster will advocate and lease with relevant donors towards increasing operational support in key dense communities.
- Cluster members are preparing to scale up the response to meet at least the need of newly displaced people in their areas of operation in anticipation of availability of additional funding and supplies. The available supplies and services such as: water distribution via water trucking, provision of hygiene kits, construction and maintenance of latrines, provision of Jerry cans is currently limited, because of poor funding. Advocacy efforts to increase support is ongoing with different donors.
 - 105,000 people are expected to receive water trucking – as planned by cluster member organizations for displaced people
 - 230,000 people are expected to receive solid waste management services – especially in locations with high number of displaced people and will also benefit host communities (65% host community and 35% IDPs)
 - 96,000 people will benefit from new latrines under construction
 - 102,000 people will benefit from the available hygiene kits (16,400 family hygiene kits and 10,000 baby hygiene kits)
 - 112,5000 people will benefit from available jerry cans (45,000 jerry cans available, each household usually receive 2 cans)

Gaps & Constraints:

- Inadequate space in existing shelters complicates the response, as recently displaced people continue to move from one location to another. The recently displaced people are looking for potential shelters with existing services or where it is promising to receive services from the humanitarian agencies. WASH cluster is working with CCCM and Shelter Clusters to ensure joint planning and installation of new camps with requisite WASH services. The immediate gaps in nine sub-districts for 80,000 displaced people is as below:
 - 69,205 displaced people lack water trucking (many more displaced people sharing existing water supply of host communities and other displaced people)
 - 65,020 people need public latrines rehab/construction
 - 9,200 people need recurrent solid waste management
 - 80,700 people need hygiene kits
- Challenges in access to many locations especially camps due to muddy roads because of rains and security risks due to ongoing military operations, which is preventing the service providers from entering the camps and targeted locations. Activities such as water trucking, desludging, provision of hygiene items and solid waste collection are either delayed or stopped. Some WASH cluster members reported that they had to use motorcycles to deliver WASH items to people in camps.
- Fuel prices remain a constraint for many organizations as the prices of service delivery is constantly increasing. It has been reported by WASH cluster members that several vendors stopped service provision, until the contractual arrangements around the prices are revisited and increased.
- This is also constrained by the unequipped private sector that find it difficult to increase the supplies and services overnight in sporadic locations.
- To ensure a timely and effective WASH response to the increasing needs and to mitigate against the potential outbreak of communicable diseases, additional financial resources are urgently required for the aforementioned activities.
- The recent readiness and response plan estimate an additional need of USD \$18 million, to address the needs of newly displaced people in formal/ informal camps and settlements. This will also support the WASH funding needs for recently planned formal camps that is likely to accommodate 35,000 displaced people.

Logistics

Need:

- Organisations responding to the needs of the affected population in northwest Syria require a reliable and consistent transshipment service that facilitates the delivery of life-saving cargo from Turkey into the region.
- As the situation becomes more dynamic and volatile, coordination and timely information sharing amongst partners will be critical to assist with partner operational decision-making and to ensure the duplication of effort is avoided.
- Visibility on storage capacity inside the northwest Syria is vital for organisations' planning and prepositioning.

- Moving transshipment operations from the customs yard at Bab al-Salam to the dedicated transshipment hub in Kilis is required to increase the safety and security of humanitarian actors, and to expand overall transshipment capacity.

Response:

- Since 1 February to date, the Logistics Cluster has coordinated the transshipment of 308 Syrian trucks: 274 through Bab al-Hawa; and 34 through Bab al-Salam.
- The Logistics Cluster is looking to increase the transshipment capacity at the hub in Bab al-Hawa to 100 trucks daily to meet the needs of partner organizations responding to the needs of the people in northwest Syria. Bab al-Salam currently remains at 8 trucks daily.
- The Logistics Cluster has coordinated with UNMM and Turkish customs authorities to ensure all parties are prepared for the scale-up. In addition, the cluster has requested UNDSS for a security approval to grant an extension to the hours of work at the Bab al-Hawa and Bab al-Salam hubs on behalf of all UN agencies.
- Information on partner storage capacity inside northwest Syria has been compiled to help coordinate any gaps in storage in the area.
- Coordination meetings are held in Gaziantep and Antakya on a monthly basis, and regular communication of logistics information and updates through a dedicated mailing list continues to be provided.

Constraints:

- With the escalation of hostilities in northwest, delays and even cancellations to transshipment operations are likely to occur and increase in frequency. To cover the gap, the Logistics Cluster will organise higher numbers of truck transshipments on the days where the context allows for operations to be undertaken. Timely information sharing and coordination will be key.
- The Logistics Cluster continues to wait for approval to move transshipment operations from the customs yard in Kilis to the dedicated transshipment hub. This would increase capacity at Bab al-Salam from 8 trucks to 20 trucks daily.

GENERAL COORDINATION

Given the scale of the ongoing emergency, an emergency meeting is being held each day between humanitarian leadership, key clusters and their lead agencies to consolidate the latest information and agree on urgent actions. These key clusters (Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Shelter and NFIs, Protection, and WASH) have also co-located to work together to meet needs. The readiness and response plan which outlines the response for some 800,000 people for six months at a cost of \$336 million USD is being implemented and used as the basis for funding advocacy. It will be updated in the coming week as the 800,000-person threshold has already been surpassed. Clusters are also holding emergency meetings as required, and several urgent Humanitarian Liaison Group meetings have been held as well to address strategic issues. Inside Syria, humanitarian organizations are coordinating as possible in the volatile context.

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