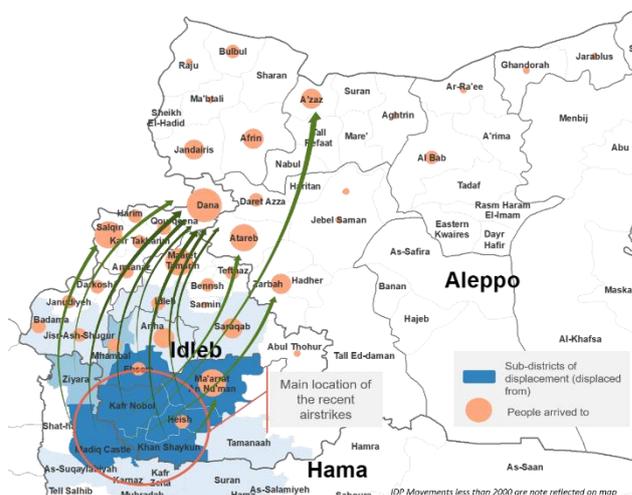


HIGHLIGHTS

- Ongoing conflict in northwest Syria is impacting civilians, civilian infrastructure and service provision in northern Hama and southern Idlib governorates, as well as the countryside of Aleppo.
- Approximately 180,000 people were displaced between 29 April and 9 May, while 18 health facilities, many schools, three IDP settlements and one refugee camp were reportedly affected due to hostilities.
- Response is ongoing with tens of thousands of people being provided food, protection, nutrition, health, shelter, education and WASH services, while critical gaps remain, particularly in shelter assistance.



Source: CCCM Cluster
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

180,000

Individuals recently displaced

85,000

Individuals in need of NFI assistance

83,000

Individuals outside camps

97,000

Individuals in camps and reception centres

45,000

School-aged children are in need of immediate education support

250,000

School-aged children affected by the recent conflict

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Ongoing violence and hostilities continue to exact a heavy toll on civilians, civilian infrastructure and service provision in northern Hama and southern Idlib governorates, as well as the western countryside of Aleppo governorate. Since the publication of the last Situation Report on the recent developments in northwest Syria on 9 May, ongoing conflict in northwest Syria between Government of Syria (GoS) forces and its allies and non-state armed groups (NSAGs) has continued. While information is difficult to verify, unconfirmed reports indicate that more than 170 civilians, including at least 15 women and 20 children, have been killed, while many others have been injured.

Between 29 April and 9 May, approximately 180,000 individuals fled the fighting. Some 164,000 people fled to northern and eastern Idlib Governorate and around 16,000 people to northern and western Aleppo. About 97,000 individuals are in camps and reception centres while about 83,000 are outside camps. Since 13 May, thousands more are reportedly displaced, and further information on their displacement is being compiled.

The number of displacements, as a result of the situation in northwest Syria from 1 February to date, exceeded 300,000. A large influx of people displaced into areas with high levels of existing IDPs creates the danger of overwhelming already overstretched services. The shelter availability online map - updated by cluster members - indicate that the current available capacity can only host approximately 26,000 individuals.

Reports suggest many communities have been abandoned as residents seek safety. At the same time, some residents have stayed behind, including female-headed households, elderly and others with limited ability to move, exacerbating their vulnerability. Many of those who stayed behind are dependent on humanitarian services for their daily needs. The potential longer-term impact on the civilian population may be compounded as the violence is

occurring during the harvest season, disrupting the normal food production cycle and potentially reducing food security for months to come.

The latest violence compounds an already fragile humanitarian situation. In the de-escalation area of Idlib alone, there are an estimated 3 million people, including 1.3 million internally displaced people (IDPs). Many of the population affected have been displaced in the past, some multiple times. As such, their ability to cope is reduced or compromised. The areas that recently displaced people are moving towards are already densely populated, often with camps at full or excess capacity, putting additional strain on services. Of particular note, approximately 130,000 newly displaced individuals have moved to camps in Dana sub-district in Idlib Governorate, placing additional strain on available services, including the host communities. Reports indicate that rents have increased fivefold - where housing is available – since 1 May. Similarly, anecdotal reports suggest the price of a family tent has increased eight-fold over the same period. The need for shelter is critical as many cannot be accommodated by the available space in reception centers and camps.

Impact on civilians, civilian infrastructure and humanitarian activities

The latest upsurge in violence has a serious impact on critical civilian infrastructure, including hospitals and schools. Since 28 April, a total of 18 health facilities have come under attack, including eleven in Hama Governorate, six in Idlib and one in Aleppo Governorate as well as one ambulance. Two of the health facilities were struck twice. Due to the escalation of conflict, 49 health facilities have partially or completely suspended activities. These facilities provided over 171,000 medical outpatient consultations, over 2,760 major surgeries and supported 1,424 newborn deliveries on monthly.

Many schools have been reportedly damaged or destroyed as a result of airstrikes and shelling since 30 April. As of 17 May, 45,000 school-aged children are in immediate need of education services. The capacity of education services in camps and in receiving host communities will be stretched due to the increased number of children in need of support. The exams of at least 400,000 students were postponed due to the violence. Three members of the protection cluster providing protection services reported direct impact and damage to their facilities (two women and girls safe spaces and one child friendly space) from airstrikes and shelling in Madiq Castle, Ehsem and Heish sub-districts.

Since the beginning of the ongoing escalation, three IDP settlements have been affected by hostilities in northern Hama and southern Idlib. Most recently, a densely-populated camp for Palestinian refugees in western Aleppo governorate was affected. Neirab refugee camp was hit on 14 May as families gathered to break their fasts at the Ramadan iftar meal. At least ten civilians, including four children, were killed while schools and health centers suspended services in the area.

The impact of the recent increase in conflict on the civilian population, civilian infrastructure and the provision of basic services is deeply worrying. Many humanitarian responders have been forced to suspend their activities in the conflict area. This will negatively impact on civilian population's ability to cope at a time when needs are increasing. Some organizations suspended activities as their premises were damaged, destroyed or rendered unsafe by the violence. Others have suspended activities in to keep their staff and beneficiaries safe, or because the beneficiary population, as well as the service providers are displaced. As of 17 May, partners operating in the conflict areas have suspended at least 48 programmes which provide food, nutrition, education, health, and humanitarian protection services to people. Five humanitarian workers, including two health professionals, have reportedly been killed due to airstrikes and shelling.

FUNDING

Under the current ongoing allocation, the Turkey Humanitarian Fund for Syria (THF) has been working closely with the cluster coordinators to fast track the finalization and approval of projects supporting the emergency response. Examples of such projects include the replenishment of the emergency NFI pipeline for 45,000 people and the provision of cooked meals in reception centres for newly arrived IDPs. In parallel, the THF called on each sectoral committee to propose modifying, revising or scaling-up the proposed operations to take into account the recent escalation of conflict.

For ongoing projects, the THF is initiating project revisions to support measures linked to duty of care, to support the emergency response, or to reorient activities in affected areas upon the request of partners. In addition, triggering an emergency reserve can be considered once the gaps are clearly identified based on needs assessments. Donors and partners are strongly encouraged to communicate with OCHA and the clusters on their current and planned actions.

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

Humanitarian workers continue to respond to needs where security allows. This includes prepositioning stocks inside Syria and surging health and protection services, in particular in areas where people are being displaced to. Humanitarian partners are assessing the impact of the escalation on humanitarian needs in northwest Syria and scaling-up their operations to rapidly meet these needs of the population. The humanitarian community is implementing a readiness plan that was prepared in case of a large-scale escalation of conflict in northwest Syria. This plan aims to provide support for up to 700,000 displaced people in NSAG-controlled areas. The results of a rapid multi-sectoral assessment currently underway will be available early next week. In addition, individual organizations are also carrying out needs assessments.

Humanitarian assessments and response efforts have proven difficult to undertake as a result of the insecurity and the large-scale displacement that took place within the space of two weeks. The ability of partners to respond has been compromised by the violence, as staff are displaced themselves and infrastructure to deliver services has been damaging or destroyed. Donors are asked to allow for flexibility in terms of reprogramming existing funding allowing partners to respond more effectively. Reprogramming, however, will leave gaps in existing programmes that will need to be funded urgently, not to negatively impact on other vulnerable populations.

The humanitarian response in northwest Syria is an integrated response which is service-based. Aid is being provided by humanitarian partners working cross-border from Turkey to the population in the area. Humanitarian responders are themselves Syrians, many of whom are now part of the affected population. Humanitarian commodities are sent cross-border from Turkey. For the United Nations, humanitarian commodities continue to be sent through the Bab al Hawa and Bab al Salama cross-border facilities from Turkey.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

Needs:

- There is a need for life-saving multi-sectoral assistance especially in the most populated communities such as Atma (55,700) individuals, Qah (30,397) individuals, Sarmada (11,955) individuals, Deir Hassan (10,579) individuals.

Response:

- Currently, four CCCM Reception Centres in northwest Syria have available space for 5,709 individuals.
- The CCCM/SNFI Review Board of the Contingency stock received five requests for tents. Four of these requests for 1,030 tents. Tents are being released while other requests are being evaluated and will be recommended if all criteria are met.
- Since 6 May, 2,195 tents were released to respond to the current crisis and the estimated IDPs to be sheltered with these tents are 13,170 individuals. While there are reports that some IDPs have moved to Afrin, but no cluster members are able to reach and identify their exact locations at the moment.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Emergency latrines to expand existing IDP sites or for new informal sites continue to be a gap.
- The key issue for shelter assistance is the lack of space and access. There are some 7,000 tents that can be dispatched, but there are few safe locations for the IDPs and limited access for the NGOs to provide these tents. Limited space is a pressing challenge for the entire response to the emergency.

97,000

Newly displaced individuals moved to camps and reception centres



Education

Needs:

- Of the 180,000 newly displaced individuals, the Education Cluster estimates that 45,000 are school-aged children in need of immediate education services. These include access to their final exams, non-formal education such as remedial education, catch-up classes and self-learning programs, recreational activities, and provision of learning supplies.
- Overstretched classroom capacity is expected in camp schooling in Dana to accommodate newly arrived crisis-affected children in the area.
- Approximately 250,000 school-aged children are affected by ongoing hostilities in Idleb.

45,000

School-aged children in need of immediate education services

Response:

- A total number of 9,181 children and youth (4,639 girls and women) were provided with education services by partners in Al Mara, Ariha, Harem, and Idleb, both in camp and host communities.
- Education Cluster members started outreach and awareness raising activities in Dana and other locations to enroll affected children in non-formal education in their learning centres.
- One cluster member reported that the situation has allowed them to resume their self-learning program for out-of-school children in five locations in Idleb. The resumption of learning is now taking place on 15 May in Heish, Kafr Nobol, Kafruma, Ehsem, and Maar Tahroma, benefitting 1664 children after a period of temporary suspension. Meanwhile learning activity has been suspended in Khan Shaykun and Tamanaah affecting the education of 623 children for two months.
- The Education Cluster continues monitoring the situation on the ground through its online real-time reporting mechanism.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Attacks on education facilities continue in northwest Syria, resulting in loss of life and destruction of learning facilities. The Education Cluster was informed that 11 schools have been damaged or affected as a result of airstrikes and shelling between 1 April-3 May in southern Idleb and northern Hama. As of 5 May, cluster members reported seven attacks on education facilities pending verification in southern Idleb and northern Hama. Since then, several other schools have been reportedly impacted due to conflict in Idleb governorate, affecting education services.
- Eight partners of the Education Cluster reported to have suspended their education interventions due to safety and security, affecting approximately 15,000 children in southern Idleb and northern Hama.
- The final exams for the academic year 2018-2019 have been cancelled in Khan Shaykun, Kafr Nobol, Ma'arrat Al-Nu'man, Ariha, and Jisr-Ash-Shugur. A total of 400,000 students of grade 1-12 were impacted who were registered to sit for final exams between the end of April and June in Idleb.



Food Security

Needs:

- Up to 186,000 newly displaced individuals are in need of emergency food assistance.

186,000

newly displaced individuals as well as affected host communities have immediate food assistance

Response:

- 12 partners reported that activities implemented in or near conflict areas have been totally or partially suspended. Some partners relocated their operations to new areas while others withdrew their field teams waiting to understand developments. Two partners in Ariha who reported the suspension of activities during the first days of hostilities have now resumed activities.
- Food security partners continue to step up their response to meet emergency food needs of people affected by the crisis. First line response is provided through the distribution of ready-to-eat rations (RTEs), provision of cooked meals and distribution of emergency multi-purpose cash grants (MPCG) of 120 – 130 USD per household which includes the coverage of food needs.
- As the cluster lead, WFP through its partners continue to assist displaced people. Since the beginning of May, nearly 20,000 RTEs were distributed to serve approximately 100,000 newly displaced individuals. Of these, nearly

16,300 RTEs were distributed in Dana sub-district, which has received some 130,000 displaced individuals as of 9 May. There are 17,300 RTEs in stock inside Syria and nearly 40,000 prepositioned in Turkey.

- Cluster members assisted and confirmed plans to assist 44,186 households/224,374 individuals with emergency food assistance (cooked meals, RTEs, MPCG). As of 15 May, they have assisted around 60,000 individuals in Dana sub-district.
- NGOs have increased the distribution of cooked meals to families in communities and spontaneous settlements. One cluster member is providing 7,769 cooked meals a day to families in communities outside of reception centres.
- One cluster member reported that food prices in Dana sub-district marginally increased since the recent escalation of conflict and markets remain operational. However, many people are displaced from agricultural areas to Dana, which is not an agricultural area, and the prices of basic food staples are approximately 10-15% higher than what they are used to paying. Most displaced families report that they are rationing their savings. They are concerned that they will not be able to continue purchasing food sustainably because they lost access to livelihood opportunities.
- As movement from Idlib to Afrin has reportedly eased recently, partners are reporting that over 200 families that need food assistance moved to Afrin. Some partners with ongoing food security projects funded by the Turkey Humanitarian Fund for Syria have included newly displaced into their assistance.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The main concerns expressed by Food Security Cluster members are about their capacity to maintain the level of response necessary if needs increase or remain at the same level for several months, and about their capacity to integrate newly displaced people into regular assistance.



Health

Needs:

- Needs identified by local health authorities are mobile clinics to reach IDPs and the capacity to scale up (back-up) hospitals for the ones suspended.
- More in depth needs assessment to be shared from the field regarding need for medical equipment and kits.

Response:

- The Health Cluster is coordinating closely with its partners and members to identify needs, gaps and to align the response vis-à-vis the changes on the ground due to the recent escalation.
- The medical referral network is currently reorganizing the referral mechanism and relocating several vehicles and ambulances to the locations where gaps are identified.
- Two PHCs located at IDPs camps, receiving newly displaced individuals, and four mobile units servicing affected host communities are activated. Eight additional mobile units in support of cluster partners will be activated in the coming days.
- As part of its preparedness plan, UNFPA as the lead for Sexual and Reproductive Health Working Group, has been working to strengthen the capacity of existing health facilities to meet the current needs of IDPs and host communities. This includes pre-positioning and distribution of essential commodities. 44 Reproductive Health (RH) kits that serve 450,000 - 500,000 people for three months were issued in late April and are being distributed to locations primarily in northern Idlib as well as in western rural Aleppo. The kits are designed to enable the operationalization of new Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC) facilities, in case there is a need for existing health facilities to be relocated. 270 additional RH kits and 39,000 bulk consumables for family planning, including oral contraceptives, IUDs, and condoms, are due to arrive on 27 May. Some of these will increase the coverage period for the above-mentioned population for up to 6 months. The remaining balance will be kept in stock to respond to possible further displacements and to respond to needs in potential displacement destinations such as Afrin and A'zaz.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Since April 28, the health system in Idlib, Hama and Aleppo governorates is facing a heavy challenge to cope with the damages inflicted to 18 health facilities, some of which were affected more than one time. The destruction of health facilities left major gaps in response to the remaining population as well creating a load on health facilities in the areas where the newly displaced moved to.
- The incidents affected five Primary Health Care Centres (PHC) in Hama, three in Idlib and one in Aleppo. Five Secondary Health Care facilities in Hama and four in Idlib were affected, as well as one ambulance in Idlib, resulting in the death of the driver.

18

health facilities, and
one ambulance
affected

<http://ssa.who.int>

- 49 health facilities partially or totally suspended activities, which provided over 171,000 medical outpatient consultations, over 2,760 major surgeries and supported 1,424 newborn deliveries on a monthly average.¹
- 12 Health Cluster members suspended services servicing an estimated population of 629,730 individuals. 21 Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) centres stopped routine immunizations.
- Further airstrikes could lead to the destruction of health facilities as well even greater number of people being displaced. This would put an additional load on remaining health facilities, their staff and services.
- Identifying back-up facilities is still a constraint for the partners when they are trying to respond to the needs on the ground.



Nutrition

Needs:

- Screening of children under the age of 5 years, and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) for acute malnutrition and the treatment of acute malnutrition.
- Prevention of acute malnutrition among children under the age of 5 years through promotion of optimal infant feeding and caring practices.

Response:

- Nutrition Cluster strategy focuses on scaling up life saving curative and preventative nutrition interventions.
- Nutrition Cluster prepositioned supplies in Dana, Idlib and in A'zaz, Aleppo. Currently, prepositioned supplies are enough for 38,000 children under the age of five, pregnant and lactating mothers.
- Nine cluster partners are responding to the current emergency, reaching 20 subdistricts in Idlib and rural Aleppo governorates with life saving nutrition interventions through 119 rapid response teams. So far, around 20,000 children, pregnant and lactating mothers are reached with life-saving nutrition services.
- From 28 April to 15 May, 10 Nutrition cluster partners deployed 323 community health workers (CHWs) to provide curative and preventive nutrition activities to the newly displaced individuals from northern Hama and southern Idlib in 10 sub-districts. These CHWs responded through mobile clinics deployed to Armanaz, Atemh, Dana, Jisr-ash-Shugur, Maar Tamsrin, Qah, Sarmada, Ariha, Zardana, Janudiyeh and Afrin to provide mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screening for children under five and PLWs, to distribute supplies as well as infant young child feeding counselling messages.
- A total of 11,866 girls and boys aged from 6 to 59 months and 4,940 PLWs were screened for acute malnutrition using MUAC. Out of those, 44 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM), 182 with moderate acute malnutrition and 440 PLWs with moderate acute malnutrition were identified and referred to the health facility to receive treatment. The CHWs reached 24,118 children under five and PLWs with preventive nutrition intervention including 5,127 children under the age of 5 years and PLWs who received high energy biscuits (HEB), 15,699 children aged 6 to 24 months who received Plumpy Doz, and 3,292 children under the age of 5 years and PLWs who received micro-nutrient supplementation. In addition, 3,302 pregnant and lactating mothers received education on optimal infant feeding and caring practices.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Security deterioration might limit the access of beneficiaries to life-saving nutrition services.
- Funding and resources available for scaling up life-saving nutrition interventions remains limited.
- As of 17 May, most of nutrition partners in south Idlib governorate suspended their programs due to security concerns.



Protection

Needs:

- The continued shelling and airstrikes in northwest Syria, particularly in civilian-populated areas, puts the lives of women, men, girls and boys at risk every day and has significantly impacted their psychosocial well-being with reportedly high levels of trauma. Multiple displacements and the lack of access to basic services further exacerbate individuals' and communities' needs, increasing risks for death, injuries, disabilities, gender-based violence and trauma, particularly among children.

186,000
Newly displaced
individuals with
immediate protection
needs

¹ As of 14 May, the Health Cluster has not been officially notified of resumption of operations. Monthly average figures are based on reporting facilities. As not all facilities report, real figures are expected to be higher.

Additional displacements are likely to further strain already-stretched coping mechanisms of individuals and families, leading to desperate and risky decision-making that further exacerbate protection threats, such as exploitation, child labour, early marriage and children associating with armed groups.

- Caregivers are barely able to care for their children, demonstrating extreme levels of distress, leading to physical abuse of their children and, in extreme cases, abandonment of their children. A high number of unaccompanied and separated children have been identified, including one case of child abandonment. Unaccompanied and separated children need safe interim care, but such services remain extremely limited except for ad-hoc, unsustainable arrangements.

Response:

- From 7 through 13 May, 12 Protection Cluster members provided emergency response services for civilians recently displaced due to the ongoing hostilities. Cluster members provided 6,243 protection services to IDPs and affected host community members in 46 communities within 16 sub-districts in Idlib and Aleppo reaching 2,978 individuals (644 girls, 571 boys, 1,134 women, and 629 men). The main services protection actors provided are as Psychological First Aid (PFA), Psychosocial Support (PSS), dignity kits distribution, and explosive hazard risk education.
- In addition, Cluster members are referring individuals to other services including health and specialized protection services. Cluster members are also initiating rapid protection monitoring and one Child Protection Sub-Cluster member established child care points where children receive care and PSS while their caregivers search for shelter and other services.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Since 29 April, 12 Protection Cluster and Sub-Cluster members reported suspension/closure of programming due to the violence. In total, 14 static service points (community centres, women and girls safe spaces (WGSS), child-friendly spaces (CFS) and health facilities) are currently non-operational, with three members in Madiq Castle, Ehsem and Heish sub-districts reporting direct impact and damage to their facilities (two WGSS and one CFS) from airstrikes and shelling. The members further reported that their protection teams have been displaced, alongside other community members.
- As of 7 May, none of these centres were operational, meaning communities and individuals in need no longer have access to life-saving protection services, including psychosocial support and case management. On average, these centres and their mobile teams reach over to 1,135 women, men, girls and boys each month.
- Recent intensification of violence and hostilities adds yet another layer of explosive contamination. Lack of access for survey and clearance puts the lives of the displaced population at risk. Further, it is estimated that the number of survivors of explosive hazard incidents due to the escalation has increased and the ability to provide immediate response services is limited.
- As highlighted by the Cluster in the northwest preparedness plan, the Cluster expects additional disruption to protection service delivery if the hostilities continue. Even with existing emergency response capacity and resources, the tempo of the conflict and the patterns of displacement may render response across sectors limited and insufficient.
- Lack of multi-sectoral response hinders the delivery of protection services. Protection actors report challenges in the provision of PFA, PSS and referrals when these services are not accompanied with other basic services to meet IDPs' needs.
- As the lead of the Sexual and Reproductive Health working group, UNFPA is working to mobilize 380,000 USD to procure dignity kits (DK) for immediate needs of 45,000 women and girls. The DKs have essential life-saving items for women and girls of reproductive age such as menstrual pad sets, female underwear, cover and flash lights. Recently, 5,050 DK were mobilized to northwest Syria, within existing resources. Despite these efforts, there is a gap of 30,000 DK, costing 600,000 USD. Additional resources are required to reinforce facilities in IDP destination areas such as Dana and Afrin.

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

Needs:

- 180,000 individuals have been displaced since April 29. The shelter/NFI partners continuously assess the needs and coordinate with the cluster to avoid duplication or gaps. Shelter is one of the main priorities for IDPs.
- During the joint Emergency Response Meeting of CCCM & SNFI on the 8 May, the displacement was ongoing, which means the assessed numbers reported by Cluster Partners for IDP arrivals was still very fluid. The key message was that new tent settlements are a priority need.

85,000
individuals in need of
NFI assistance

Most of the newly displaced are staying with other families, which leads to overcrowded conditions in many camps as well as random settlements and even host communities.

- Shelter and CCCM partners are trying to identify available land to install tents. They are doing their due diligence and are coordinating with other sectors to make sure that basic services are provided wherever tents are installed.

Response:

- The SNFI Cluster is working in collaboration with the CCCM Cluster to respond to this emergency, target priority areas and avoid duplication of assistance. The Emergency Response Tools has been activated to support SNFI cluster partners. Nine partners have already requested tents and/or NFI from the contingency stock. The CCCM and Shelter/NFI are expecting more requests in the coming days.
- Based on the emergency response plan reported to the Cluster by its members, a total of 84,777 Individuals (~14,130 households) have started receiving NFI assistance from 6 May onwards. Out of those 24,629 individuals (~4,105 HHs) were reached as of 15 May and the remaining 60,148 Individuals (~10,025 households) will receive assistance as soon as possible. Many of these may also need shelter assistance.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The main gaps based on the IDP Tracking are in Atmeh camp in Dana Sub-District where high numbers of the newly displaced individuals moved to. The partners, especially from the CCCM Cluster, are doing the required coordination with camp officials in order to establish new tents, and complement this with NFI kit distributions prior to providing assistance in these locations with their own stock or applying to the contingency stock. This process requires time to have all the required documents available as well as the permits to establish new tents, mostly as extensions of already existing camps.
- Many rapid needs assessments were shared with the Cluster to inform decision on the contingency stock of tents and response overall. Unfortunately, most of these date back to the week of 6 – 10 May. While this information is valuable, it might not be accurate anymore. As many of the newly displaced individuals who were staying in the open reportedly moved on, there is additional pressure accumulating on the already overcrowded camps and settlements.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Needs:

- The WASH cluster continues to carry out needs assessments through its partners. With the current displacement of 186,000 newly displaced individuals, the existing camps and informal settlements are overcrowded. This demands additional water supply, community latrines and solid waste management services. Critical WASH supplies such as hygiene/dignity kits, jerry cans, and water purification support are urgently needed.

186,000
newly displaced
individuals in need of
WASH support

Response:

- The WASH Cluster is in touch with partners to respond to the displacement, coordinate response and identify gaps in terms of supplies and services. As of 15 May, at least ten Cluster partners responded to around 27,000 new IDPs in 33 communities and 81 camps in the sub-districts of Sarmada, Dana, Harim, Idleb, Jebel Saman, Ariha, Ehsem, Ma'arrat An Nu'man, Heish, Kafr Nobol, Atareb and Ma'arrat Tamsrin. Water trucking and hygiene kit distribution is being carried out in four camps and nine communities to serve about 6,500 IDPs in Ma'arrat Tamsrin, Dana, Atareb, Harim and Armanaz by one cluster partner. Newly displaced individuals are also receiving WASH services in the reception centres. Cluster partners are encouraged to integrate WASH services to reach the entire target population through various platforms such as communities, protection centres, schools and health centres.
- As the cluster lead, UNICEF, through its partners, is conducting outreach to about 38,000 people in 38 informal camps/settlements with water trucking and solid waste management, and about 4,000 people with hygiene/dignity kits in 16 informal camps/settlements in Atareb, Daret Ezza, Dana, and Maaret Tamsrin.
- WASH stocks are being prepositioned in Idleb and Aleppo that can support over 250,000 individuals. Critical supplies such as water purifying chemicals are available to support 250,000 people for over six months and hygiene/dignity kits are available to support 50,000 people. Additional supplies such as hygiene kits are in the pipeline to meet the critical needs of the newly displaced population. Three partners are ready to carry out life-saving hygiene promotion, distribution of hygiene kits, water trucking, installation of water-tanks, restoration and repair of water systems, building latrine blocks, solid waste management, and operation and maintenance management of community latrines and water stations.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The wide geographical spread of the IDPs and continuous displacement is making it difficult to reach people with acute humanitarian needs. It is necessary to constantly monitor the situation and undertake a flexible response, since it is difficult to be precise in response planning due to the unpredictable nature of the situation.
- Several cluster partners have temporarily suspended their operations in several locations in north Hama and south Idlib, as the fighting escalated.
- Additional resources are needed for community mobilization, installation of water points, and construction of community latrines in the locations where additional IDPs are arriving.

GENERAL COORDINATION

Cluster leads are rolling out the readiness plan with their partners and clusters are implementing the plan through the previously identified response activities as best they can, given the volatile context. Nonetheless, much of the plan will be challenging to carry out due to the conflict. A rapid needs assessment is being carried out in affected areas, in addition to assessments and needs information gathered from individual organizations. The results are expected early next week. There are serious concerns about the protection of civilians, including ensuring freedom of movement of affected people. Overall the coordination of response is challenged by the high levels of violence and the remote management aspect of coordination mechanisms. Inside northwest Syria humanitarian organizations are coordinating through ad hoc groups in many geographic areas.

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