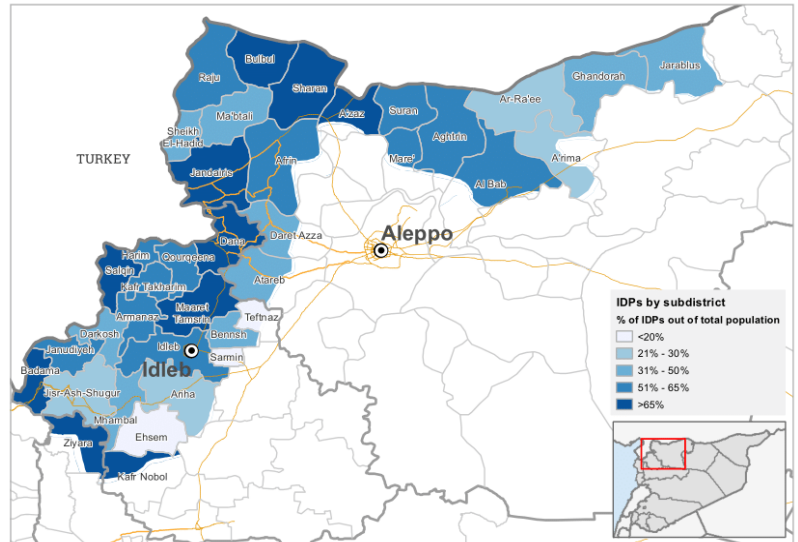


HIGHLIGHTS

- The rapid devaluation of the Syrian Pound has created severe economic instability and is making daily life unaffordable and unlivable for people in northwest Syria.
- This has a disproportionate effect on women, children, the elderly, the disabled, and others with specific vulnerabilities. Reports of child labour and child marriage, domestic violence, and scavenging for food or supplies are increasing.
- New displacement is being reported from some frontline locations following conflict in these areas, while returns to other areas continue to be reported.
- COVID-19 preparedness and prevention measures continue, while no cases have yet been confirmed in northwest Syria.



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

4.1 M
affected people

2.8 M
People in need

2.7 M
internally displaced

76%
Of the overall population are women and children

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The humanitarian situation for people northwest Syria remains severe as the impact of COVID-19 preventative measures, and the rapid devaluation of the Syrian Pound (SYP) are putting additional strain on the population, already suffering from the effects of nine years of conflict, insecurity, displacement and economic hardship. Of the 4.1 million people in northwest Syria, an estimated 2.8 million are in need of humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs such as food, shelter, water, health and education while the impact of these recent developments is entrenching the existing humanitarian needs and creating new ones.

Since early June 2020, the value of the SYP began to decline rapidly, losing half of its value within a month and reaching new historical lows. The most recent wave of devaluation is a continuation of the economic turbulence that has been affecting the Syrian people across the country, particularly since late 2019. In real terms, the SYP weakened by some 360 percent in a year since June 2019, eroding the purchasing power of the people, rendering them more vulnerable in the face of any new shocks. This most recent devaluation resulted in massive price increases, triggering shortages of food and other key supplies in markets. The price of the minimum amount of basic goods that people need for their survival such as food, water, fuel and hygiene items has been increasing every month since November 2019, also reaching historical highs in May 2020. The economic decline also adds another layer of complexity in an already challenging operating environment. For instance, key humanitarian activities such as water trucking or local procurement of food items are reportedly becoming difficult due to the instability of the currency.

While there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in northwest Syria, the pandemic and its secondary effects continue to have a significant impact on the humanitarian situation. COVID-19 is a driver of additional humanitarian needs and a multiplier that exacerbates the pre-existing needs of a vulnerable population. The restrictions of movement and limitations on commercial activities such as markets which were introduced as a public safety measure to counter the spread of COVID-19 contribute to the intensification of humanitarian needs, as well as the overall impact of the pandemic on the global and local economy. While humanitarian actors adapted their key activities and procedures to mitigate COVID-19 related risks, certain activities had to be suspended to protect the affected population as well as humanitarian workers.

An important driver of humanitarian needs in northwest Syria is displacement. Of the 4.1 million people living in northwest Syria, 2.7 million people are estimated to be internally displaced. Some 780,000 of the nearly 1 million people displaced between December 2019 and early March 2020 are estimated to remain in displacement. Longer-term needs of those who are displaced are increasing, including for health, nutrition and education services, even as urgent needs for shelter, food, water, sanitation, hygiene and protection persist. Overall, more than 1.4 million IDPs are living in IDP camps and settlements in precarious conditions and 80 percent of these individuals are women and children. On 19 June, heavy rainstorms in the Maaret Tamsrin sub-district of the Idlib governorate reportedly caused large floods in some 20 IDP sites destroying and damaging hundreds of tents and directly affecting some 1,300 IDPs. The flooding also reportedly caused substantial material damage, including sewage overflows and putting some latrines out of service.

Moreover, those who have returned to their host communities, particularly in western Aleppo governorate and southern Idlib, continue to face challenges. Humanitarian actors are steadily increasing their activities in these areas, where they were forced to suspend their services during the previous period of hostilities. While the displacement had come to a halt since early March with the relative in the Idlib area, reports of an increase in hostilities in June and renewed displacement from areas along the frontlines, including of recently received returnees, are extremely worrying. Moreover, the overall security situation in northern Aleppo governorate and the Idlib area deteriorates periodically as a result of improvised explosive device incidents as well as armed confrontations and clashes involving non-state armed groups and civilians, which puts the lives of civilians in danger and complicates the operational environment for humanitarian work.

Women, boys and girls who make up 76 percent of the population of northwest Syria continue to be affected disproportionately by the overall conflict. For instance, more children are likely to be out of school due to the economic crisis, as families struggle to cover education costs and may resort to harmful activities such as child labour and child marriage. Increased malnutrition rates for mothers and children are being reported by humanitarian actors working on the ground. Humanitarian actors are reporting an increase of people searching for food in rubbish containers as well as women and children searching for sellable and reusable materials in landfills to survive. Female-headed households report an average income 33 percent lower than the national average, making them exceptionally susceptible to economic shocks. Protection needs for women, boys and girls are also increasing, as reported cases of domestic violence rise throughout northwest Syria as of late May. New cases of families forcing their young daughters to take hormones and other medications believing this would fasten puberty, enabling them to get married and conceive afterwards.

FUNDING

The first standard allocation of the Syria Cross-Border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF) continues. With new contributions the amount available for the allocation has increased from an initial amount of USD75 million dollars to USD83 million. This additional funding will support bread distribution in light of the ongoing deterioration of the economic situation and fill in critical funding gaps in the education, protection and WASH sectors. A total of 100 projects have been approved for funding, 74 per cent of which will go directly to national NGOs. Partners are required to complete the revision of the projects in a timely manner and strictly adhere to the required guidance to ensure cost-efficient use of the resources available. As part of the COVID-19 support, the fund will allocate an additional US\$6 million to procure essential personal protective equipment (PPE) to support the continuation of non-health and health frontline activities (bringing the total allocated from the SCHF for COVID-19 to approximately USD23 million). At the end of June, the SCHF will have expended and committed all the funding available, outside of pipeline expenses already committed.

The recently published document “Humanitarian Funding Gaps for Syria” highlights the continuous mobilization of donors in support of the humanitarian response, illustrated by the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan’s higher funding level than in 2019. Donors continue to mobilize new funding to support people in northwest Syria, which is all the more important in the current deterioration of the economic situation.

Ahead of the mid-year review of the HRP and to help resources mobilization efforts, partners and agencies are required to ensure information on funding secured is appropriately reflected on the Financial Tracking Service (FTS). This will help provide an accurate overview of the funding situation for the humanitarian response in Syria. As of 25 June 2020, the 2020 Syria HRP remains underfunded with 29 per cent of the total requirement funded halfway through the year, while 22 per cent of the additional Covid-19 response requirements are funded.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

Needs:

- In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, expanding and establishing camps are essential to decongest overcrowded sites, while also ensuring that services are available in the new locations.
- Likewise, establishing and reinforcing camp management is required. CCCM Cluster's multisectoral service monitoring factsheet for May indicates that out of 907 sites hosting more than 1.41 million IDPs, camp management is not available in 515 sites.
- Some 3,089 IDP are still hosted in four Reception Centers (RC). Some of them have been there for more than five months with no resettlement possibilities due to lack of adequate shelter options. Facilitating the relocation of IDPs from overcrowded RCs to sites where physical distancing and hygiene practices are more feasible is therefore a main priority.
- One of the priority needs for new arrivals is cash/voucher assistance.
- Based on the findings of CCCM's multisectoral factsheet that evaluates 907 IDP sites, an urgent need was identified for fire points in 724 IDP sites.

Response:

- CCCM Cluster closely monitors 993 IDP sites hosting some 1.45 million IDPs (275 k families). Updated information from the ISIMM database was shared with members during the cluster meeting, with 21 new sites added to the CCCM database, and 11 sites inactivated in the May update. More details about the IDP sites in northwest Syria are available via [the dashboard](#).
- CCCM Cluster continued to monitor and report on multiple incidents in IDP sites as part of the coordination response. An increase in fire incidents has been observed by the Cluster. One of the reasons has been the misuse of heaters.
- CCCM Cluster in coordination with SNFI Cluster held a meeting with their members to coordinate the response to the flash flood that occurred in 19 sites affecting about 250 families.
- The Land Identification Taskforce has continued to prioritize the establishment and expansion of IDP sites, which are essential activities in order to decongest overcrowded sites that face heightened risks due to COVID-19. Since the beginning of this exercise in December 2019, the Taskforce has assessed a total of 301 sites as of 12 May, with an approximate area of eight million sqm; including identified and verified sites, as well as sites currently in proposal.
- The Land Identification Taskforce held a meeting to discuss the ways to improve land identification/verification process as part of preparedness plan in case of new displacement occurred.
- The CCCM Cluster held a coordination meeting to discuss the services provided in the reception centers and the COVID-19 preventive measures taken and the movement of IDPs to and from the RCs.
- The CCCM-Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) held a meeting to discuss the CCCM strategy for 2021, COVID-19 indicators, and the CCCM Severity Scale at the sub-district level.
- The CCCM Cluster held a coordination meeting with PSEA to discuss best ways to deliver the PSEA training and key messages and referral system at the camp level.
- As part of CCCM's monthly displacement tracking in May 2020, the total reported IDP population is 2,680,117 people. The number of IDPs who were reported as having returned to their community of origin during May is 74,894 people; with Ariha, Ehsem and Atareb recorded as the top three returnee destinations. In May, CCCM Cluster tracked 41,328 recent displacements, noting that people may have been displaced multiple times and that the reasons for movement may vary.
- According this displacement update in May 2020, the top priority needs for those who have been recently displaced include cash/voucher assistance (36%), shelter (27%), NFIs (10%), food (9%), health (8%), water (5%), safety and security (5%).
- Until now, three functioning RCs have responded by hosting 3,089 IDPs (some 614 families), including the provision of food, shelter and WASH services.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The continuous displacement led to a decrease in areas available to accommodate the newly displaced population.
- Although IDP sites are usually a last resort option, they are necessary in the current context in northwest Syria, and the issue of over-populated IDP sites continues to be a concern.
- Due to delays and/or contradictions in the information provided by multiple members across borders, a massive data cleaning process and verification is required.
- Since 90% of IDP sites are self-settled with a lack of a camp management system, there are challenges in ensuring the application and enforcement of COVID-19 prevention, response and mitigation guidance.

- CCCM also identified gaps in shelter availability in 584 IDP sites.

Early Recovery

Needs:

- According to the most recent nationwide socioeconomic overview report of a UN partner, one third of households in Syria reported their primary livelihood activity as private business, while in northwest Syria daily labour was the most common livelihood activity (32 percent), followed by private sector employment, not including small businesses (31 percent), and public sector employment (12 percent).
 - Household income is lowest in northwest Syria, where average income is 16 percent lower than the national average. Female-headed households reported an average income 33 percent lower than the national average, making them exceptionally susceptible to economic shocks.
 - Households reported an average monthly income of 113,503 SYP. 61 percent of households reported that their income was insufficient to meet their needs. Crucially, households that primarily depend on daily wage work (19 percent of total households in Syria and 32 percent of households in northwest Syria) on average report an income of 83,041 SYP, substantially lower than both the median and mean incomes.
 - The most important household barrier to employment or diversifying income was a lack of employment opportunities, as reported by 66 percent of households, followed by a lack of financing (54 percent), lack of skills (40 percent) and the security situation (19 percent). From a regional perspective, the security situation and lack of employment opportunities are more frequently reported as an obstacle in northwest Syria. Lack of skills is an obstacle that is also more commonly reported by female-headed households (51 percent).
 - 60 percent of households in northwest Syria reported that their income was insufficient to meet their needs. Other forms of income reportedly relied upon by these households to compensate for income gaps include borrowing money or buying on credit (79 percent) and spending on savings (43 percent), which can negatively impact the ability to deal with future shocks due to the reduction of resources. 24 percent of households reported selling household goods/assets and 12 percent of households reported selling productive assets or means of transport, directly reducing future productivity of households, including that of human capital formation. Three percent of these households reported that children in their household were working.
 - In northwest Syria, 81 percent of males between the ages of 17 and 64 worked during the last three months of 2019, while only nine percent of females worked during the same period. These are the lowest work rates for both males and females across all of Syria.
 - The most common reason for not working was due to disability (32 percent). For men, being a student was the most reported reason, while the main reason women reported for not engaging in economic work was childcare or pregnancy. 17 percent of women who had not been working reported not having the right skills for the market, compared to four percent of men. 10 percent of women reported that they were not allowed to work, compared to one percent of men.
- According to the most recent multi-sectoral rapid needs assessment (RNA) in March, child labour is prominent across northwest Syria and poses a high risk particularly for displaced persons. This is due to greater challenges in accessing sustainable livelihoods than host community households, resulting in children being sent to work in order to provide for their families.
 - In 73 percent of assessed communities, it was reported that households faced barriers to accessing markets. The greatest challenge reported for accessing markets was lack of transportation.
 - Among reported sanitation issues were the absence of sewage systems and sewage flowing into streets. Insufficient garbage collection and the resulting presence of garbage in streets was reported in 33 percent of assessed communities.
 - Electricity networks were completely damaged by conflict in 56 percent of assessed communities, while internet coverage and telecommunications networks were completely damaged in 32 percent of assessed communities.
 - The most commonly reported rehabilitation needs according to the number of communities in which they were reported were electricity networks, water supply networks, roads, schools, hospitals and health facilities and community-dug wells.
- Due to COVID-19:
 - Projected further job depletion, resulting in increasing need for support in terms of livelihood opportunities, income and employment, adding to the people already in need of livelihoods. support prior to the crisis
 - Possible disruption in the supply chain for goods and services, with severe impact on the local economy (consumption patterns, business, service provision, rehabilitation works, etc.)

Response:

- 24 ERL Cluster members responded in April, with 11 ERL members reaching 70,323 people in 11 Aleppo subdistricts and 16 ERL partners reaching 274,655 people in nine Idlib sub-districts.
- Rehabilitation of access to basic utilities (electricity, gas, water and sewage) interventions reached 42,434 households, mostly in Al Bab and Jandairis in Aleppo governorate and Mhambal in Idlib governorate.
- 3,408 m3 of debris and waste was removed, mostly in Atareb and A'zaz in Aleppo governorate and Bennsh in Idlib governorate.
- 218 persons were employed through the creation of short-term work opportunities, in light rehabilitation works of road and drainage systems or in COVID-19 awareness raising campaigns.
- 70 persons provided regular employment access in the field of media and advocacy works in Maaret Tamsrin in Idlib.
- 98 people were supported by entrepreneurial activities, mostly women and youth supported to start a business or service or farmers provided with micro-loans.
- 1,563 people benefited from vocational and skills trainings, primarily light rehabilitation works, mechanics and mobile maintenance, hairdressing and sewing.
- 19 people with disabilities benefitted from activities such as vocational training, short-term work opportunities and entrepreneurship support.
- Four organisations were provided capacity and equipment support in northern Aleppo governorate.
- Rehabilitation of 15 kilometres of road and six drainage systems in Dana in Idlib governorate remains ongoing.
- Recommendations were provided to ERL partners for mitigating the risk of COVID-19 transmissions while implementing ERL activities.
- A specific guidance note on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the COVID-19 response, in ERL activities and in general was developed by an ERL Cluster partner and shared with other ERL partners.
- According to the latest indications from ERL partners following COVID-19-related adjustments:
 - Vocational training and skills training activities, social cohesion activities including support to civic engagement activities, and community initiatives have been and are expected to continue being affected. ERL partners have reported halting or suspending activities for an indefinite period. Few partners reported exploring/implementing shifting to online modalities; opportunities to address this are being explored.
 - Support to entrepreneurship, short-term work opportunities and support to regular employment: ERL partners have indicated that activities are continuing as planned and were adjusted to take into account curative and preventive health measures for COVID-19, such as raising awareness on prevention measures through distributions of brochures, leaflets and posters and reducing the number of participants where appropriate.
 - Most ERL partners rehabilitating basic utilities, local economic infrastructures and health facilities reported continuing as planned before COVID-19 while adapting for curative and preventive health measures.

Gaps & Constraints:

- At least 500,000 additional people among the displaced population, returnees and host communities are not reachable by ERL partners with the currently available funding. This groups need to be urgently reached with:
 - Support to businesses in both urban and rural environments.
 - Start-up support through grants or micro-credit;
 - Support for micro-businesses and businesses to contain the impact of the COVID-19 on their activities.
 - Creation of short-term work opportunities, particularly through the Cash-for-Work modality and potentially linked to rehabilitation works improving access to services.
 - Rehabilitation/restoration of access to basic utilities, local economic infrastructure and other social infrastructures, including:
 - Electricity (provision of electricity through solar panel installation, etc.);
 - Access ways/roads to markets for farmers, shopkeepers and business owners, to cultivatable lands, and to and from IDPs camps;
 - Markets;
 - Water systems (water pipes, pumping stations, groundwater tanks to ease stress on overburdened services);
 - Rehabilitation of sewage channels and drainage systems to ease stress on overburdened services.
 - Restoration of essential services and basic infrastructure to prioritise activities that would support the preventive and curative health response to COVID-19, including rehabilitation of health centres and facilities, retrofitting of designated quarantine facilities, equipping of isolation centres, waste management,

restoration of water and sanitation services and provision of energy to these facilities, in close coordination with other sectors and local governance structures.

- Collecting daily solid waste in urban areas and inside camps, providing cleaning machines or garbage collections vehicles to local councils, removal of demolitions from roads and sidewalks, and cleaning of main and secondary roads and social infrastructure by removing rubble and garbage.
- Market-based modalities assistance to vulnerable households, including assisting vulnerable households with transportation to and from markets and health facilities.

Education

Needs:

- Due to the large influx of displaced families, many schools were converted to temporary shelters, preventing them from being used for educational purposes. 23,419 people reside in 277 schools in Afrin, Al Bab and A'zaz districts in Aleppo governorate and Ariha, Harim, Idleb and Jisr-Ash-Shugur districts in Idleb governorate.
- Education activities have been continuously suspended due to insecurity as well as schools being used as shelter. Only five schools remain functional in Ariha sub-district as a result, with overcrowded classrooms due to displacement from nearby locations.
- More than 300 schools are out of operation, impacting 117,000 children and more than 5,000 teachers:
 - 135 schools in Ma'arrat An Nu'man and neighbouring communities, impacting 48,649 children and 2,704 teachers. This area is reportedly de-populated, and children moved to nearby locations.
 - 23 schools in the communities of Ariha, impacting 5,681 children and 384 teachers.
 - 41 schools in the communities of Saraqab, impacting 4,901 children and 615 teachers.
- Closures of schools due to COVID-19 compound the problem. Schools in northwest Syria reopened on 6 June after closure since 14 March in the Idleb area and since 16 March in northern Aleppo governorate, with the summer semester planned to take place until mid-August. Measures are reportedly taken to avoid the large gathering of students at once to keep social distancing in classes, to limit the attendance hours by half.
- Examinations for grades 9 to 12 will reportedly be held from 4 to 21 July in the Idleb area and northern Aleppo governorate.
- To address needs, the objectives of the Education sector are:
 - Providing education personnel and teacher incentives and training;
 - Providing learning materials for children and teachers;
 - Provision of non-formal education and summer school for out-of-school children (in classroom or remote/distance);
 - Preparing for the safe reopening of schools (reparation/extension of classrooms and school furniture, WASH, hygiene promotion and supplies, school disinfection, etc.)
- COVID-19 prevention needs:
 - Cleaning of education facilities (as they become accessible to children and/or adults again);
 - Clean WASH facilities in schools (in coordination with WASH cluster);
 - Hygiene and basic health sensitisation at home, printed and/or through social media in coordination with Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) efforts;
 - Physical re-planning of school infrastructure, especially in camps, taking into consideration adequate physical distancing and to prevent large gatherings of children when schools reopen;
 - Modalities of education services (classes etc.) need to be adjusted to prevent large gatherings.
- Continuation of learning:
 - Childcare arrangements for children whose parents are healthcare workers (in coordination with the Child Protection sub-cluster);
 - Adaptation of existing curricula and implementation through printed materials and/or social media and self-learning programmes;
 - Assessment of students', parents' and teachers' access to affordable internet connectivity and internet-enabled devices. Consider paper-based individual home learning assignments based on current curricula as alternative;
 - Hold meetings virtually to consult with school governance bodies (PTAs, SMCs) on the proposed approach;
 - Provision of education materials and supplies to children affected by COVID-19, to enable them to continue education through distance learning;
 - Provision of exercise sheets to all students, regardless of whether they have access to online platforms.

Response:

- As of 24 June, the Education Cluster reached at least 284,259 school-age displaced children with education assistance. Children are being reached with diverse packages of education services including psychosocial support (PSS), psychological first aid (PFA), formal and non-formal education activities, home schooling, student bags and textbooks to minimise disruption to children's learning.

- 11,682 children supported with PSS and PFA in Idleb, Maaret Tamsrin, Harim, Dana, Atareb, Qourqeena, Daret Azza and Bennsh;
- 23,277 children supported with formal and non-formal education in Idleb, Harim, Dana, Atareb, Salqin, Maaret Tamsrin and Qourqeena; including children with disabilities;
- 43,200 children supported with recreational kits, school bags, student kits and textbooks in Idleb and Aleppo.
- 4,150 children supported for their mid-year exams;
- 173 children provided with medicine to treat headlice, in coordination with the Health Cluster;
- 1,106 children supported with home-based education based on a self-learning programme, in Marat Tamsrin, Daret Azza, Ariha and Haritan sub-districts;
- 4,000 out-of-school children provided with life skills, recreation and PSS education activities;
- At least 64,737 children benefited from distance learning in Idleb and Aleppo governorates as an alternative way to continue education during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- In Idleb and Dana sub-districts, 111,480 students and teachers have been provided with awareness raising on COVID-19 and received information, education and communication (IEC) and sterilisation materials;
- 21, 779 students, teachers and parents sensitized on prevention of COVID 19
- Since February, 228,878 children from displaced and host community populations received textbooks in Idleb and Aleppo governorates;
- 443 teachers and education personnel provided with teachers' incentives
- 63 teachers and education personnel were trained on literacy, numeracy and PSS and referral mechanisms;
- 227 families have been provided with tents by Education partners to support the relocation of displaced people sheltering in schools, in order to enable the resumption of learning activities in the affected areas;
- At least 36 schools and temporary learning spaces have been sterilised to mitigate against COVID-19.

Gaps & Constraints:

- One of the biggest challenges is the increase of child labour which will cause children to drop out of schools. Mitigation is mainly linked to livelihood and food support for families as well as increasing support of education activities for those children (stationary, transportation, etc)
- With the increase of fuel prices, the sustained provision and storage of fuel used for heating and sometimes electricity at schools may become challenging. Mitigation measures are to increase the number of guards in schools and increase the safety measures in school such as fences.
- Regarding the new needs emerging, children and their caregivers need much more supportive programs which create new livelihood opportunities, in kind and/or in-cash support for children, etc.
- Increased fighting in northwest Syria is affecting the safety of children and security and education services delivery.
- Lack of funds inhibits the ability of Education Cluster members to provide quality education support, particularly in conjunction with security situations in which children are constantly on the move.
- Education services need to be relocated to follow displaced populations and be established in locations where displaced people settle. Lost or destroyed educational materials need to be replaced.
- The education system in areas receiving newly displaced families were already overstretched prior to the latest displacement. The needs for receiving the newly displaced people in the existing education services risk inflaming inter/intra-community tensions.
- Students and teachers lack basic education supplies, and school furniture and WASH facilities are insufficient.
- Many learning facilities have no basic safety equipment/systems in place despite ongoing safety and security concerns.
- Students and education personnel are not receiving the psychosocial support, knowledge and skills needed for a safe and productive learning environment.
- Suspension of schools due to COVID-19 impacted on the quality of children's education.
- Use of schools by IDPs as shelter continues to have a negative impact on the children's access to education services.

Food Security

Needs:

- The large-scale displacement of people in northwest Syria contributed to an intensive movement of livestock. Increased contact and exchange of animals between flocks from different areas has increased the risk of disease transmission and outbreaks. Extensive vaccination coverage for livestock is thus a priority in order to prevent epidemics.
- Emergency food assistance is needed for recently displaced people during the first two to four weeks of displacement, through cooked meals and ready-to-eat (RTE) rations. After the first-line emergency response, displaced people need to be integrated into the monthly regular food assistance.

- After the initial wave of displacement, livelihood initiatives are key to support affected local communities and households to recover agricultural production, sustain small-scale food production, maintain productive assets, and create income-generating activities to prevent reliance on negative coping mechanisms.
- There is need for 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 by local suppliers are cost-efficient and sustainable. The main current needs for livestock are dry storage fodder warehouses, water for the animals and three main vaccinations, against *Pasteurella*, *Enterotoxaemia*, *Peste des Petits Ruminants* (PPR).
- Availability of animal food products such as dairy, eggs and meat plays a crucial role in preventing human malnourishment. Support for animal production significantly contributes towards protecting human health and reducing vulnerability to COVID-19.

Response:

- Urgent response is still underway to provide food access to recently displaced people and returnees, via distributions of ready-to-eat rations (RTE), which are tailored to a standard five-person household, provision of cooked meals and emergency multi-purpose cash grants (MPCG) in the amount of US\$ 120 to US\$ 130 per household to cover immediate food needs.
- 15 FSL Cluster partners delivered emergency food assistance to 353,377 recently displaced people and returnees between 24 May and 24 June:
 - 6 FSL Cluster members distributed 26,511 Emergency Food Baskets to reach 135,840 people;
 - 10 FSL Cluster members distributed 35,635 RTEs to 181,487 people;
 - One FSL Cluster members distributed US\$229,680 Cash for food to 9,724 people;
 - Four FSL Cluster members distributed 26,326 Cooked Meals to assist 26,326 people.
- The Cluster lead agency has prepositioned more than 263,600 RTEs with partners in northwest Syria to meet the immediate food needs of more than 1.3 million people, in addition to the stock of food rations for regular monthly assistance to reach some 1.3 million people for 2 months. The Cluster lead agency reactivated its one-off emergency assistance response as of 31 March while maintaining monthly regular general food assistance (GFA) combined with RTEs for those in need.
- To address the recent issues surrounding bread availability in northwest Syria, the FSL Cluster held an ad hoc meeting on 9 June with relevant partners in conjunction with the Bread and Bakery Coordination Group. Key points include:
 - 11,000 tonnes of bread are needed to meet the daily bread needs of the 4 million people in northwest Syria.
 - Due to the collapse of the Syrian Pound, bread packs in some areas have been priced in Turkish Lira (TL), costing 1 TL for 600 grams (8 loaves). In some areas, the price of subsidised bread is fixed in Syrian Pounds, while unsubsidised bread prices are the Syrian Pound equivalent of US\$ 0.39 according to prevailing exchange rates.
 - The price of one tonne of wheat is currently US\$ 220 in Aleppo and US\$ 240 in Idlib.
 - Under the ongoing SCHF standard allocation, the total envelope for the FSL cluster has been increased by US\$ 2 million to support the availability of bread.
- *Peste des Petits Ruminants* (PPR) is globally the most dangerous infection of sheep and goats. The northwest Syria PPR vaccination campaign, implemented by 3 partners, runs from 5 May until end June. It covers up to 950,000 sheep and goats in all accessible areas in northwest Syria. This includes an additional 200,000 sheep and goats that arrived in different areas in northwest Syria from southern Idlib and northern Hama governorates in May and early June 2020.
- In June, the Cluster lead agency shipped 400 feed roller mills to northwest Syria (Harim, Al Bab, Jarablus and A'zaz Districts). The equipment has been distributed to 400 farmer groups (4000 households) that are currently being trained and supported to use feed roller mills for producing animal feed on their farms. By producing their own animal feed, livestock owners no longer need to buy overpriced and poor-quality commercial livestock feed.

Gaps & Constraints:

- A gap of 100,000 displaced people who were not reached with food assistance remains.
- The wheat and barley harvests are ongoing until the end of June 2020, making this a crucial period for farmers who are still seeking someone to purchase their yield at subsidised prices that would enable them to continue cultivation. These activities will impact on food security, alongside other livelihood activities related to agriculture, livestock and irrigation.
- In the last weeks, several fire incidents occurred in Idlib and Aleppo, which had a minor impact on the arable lands in northwest Syria. As of mid-June 2020, the fires affecting more than 2,000 dunums planted with wheat and barley were neutralized, while nearly 481 dunums were burned. 90% of these lands were harvested, though some wheat or barley had remained unharvested. Preventive measures and firefighting points applied and established by farmers, NGOs, civil defense, and stakeholders played an important role to prevent major damage.
- Related to COVID-19:

- Five FSL Cluster members reported having postponed training activities; around 1,596 people are planned to be trained (150 people, 32 agriculture engineers, 1,014 people and local councils, 200 people and 200 people from five projects).
- More funds are needed to cover unexpected costs due to COVID-19 mitigation measures being applied by FSL Cluster members, such as door-to-door distribution, addition of soap to food baskets, etc.

Health

Needs:

- The Health Cluster recalls the need to sustain essential health services for the people in need in northwest Syria. A few weeks before the decision to be taken by the Security Council on the UN cross-border resolution 2504, there is still a crucial need to assure that essential health services, medicines and consumables are available and continue to serve the vulnerable people.
- Regarding Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), out of 1,174,783 women and girls in reproductive age in northwest Syria, 579,934 are adolescent girls and 69,000 are pregnant women of which 8,500 are giving birth every month. There is a crucial need to maintain essential services for them such as emergency obstetric and newborn care (EmONC), ante-natal care (ANC), post-natal care (PNC), treatment of sexually-transmitted diseases (STI) and other services.
- Progress was achieved in the last period in procurement of supplies under the preparedness and response plan (PRP) for COVID-19. However, the need to secure Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and Infection Protection and Control (IPC) measures remains crucial.
- For COVID-19:
 - There is a need to establish strong and solid communication channels with the local authorities in northwest Syria in order to assure high and responsible compliance of the community vis-à-vis rules and recommendations to protect themselves from COVID-19.
 - There is a need to secure the PPE and hygiene items for community health workers (CHW) and volunteer teams as they are carrying out awareness activities related to COVID-19 via door-to-door visits and need to be protected with masks and gloves.
 - There is a need to plan public education on risk factors associated with non-communicable disease (NCD) comorbidities, capacity building of doctors providing continuing quality of NCD care, prevention and support for all NCD patients once COVID-19 cases surface.

Response:

- The cluster lead expanded its support to primary health centers (PHC) and mobile teams by recently supporting two mobile teams in Atmeh and Maaret Tamsrin, one PHC and one mobile team in Ariha, in addition to its support to the referral system in Idleb area and Afrin district in northern Aleppo. The plan is to include in the referral system A'zaz, Jarablus and Al Bab districts in northern Aleppo to save more lives.
- Quality of care is assured via the "quality of care mentoring team" for Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC) and neonatal and NCD. The team is conducting "routine visits" to selected health facilities in order to assure the quality of care is in place. Also, the team provides needed technical support, on-job coaching and feed-back when required. A total of 98 health staff (96 females and 2 males) for CeMONC & Neonatal and 30 participants (28 male and 2 females) for NCD were supported by the team.
- As part of the integration strategy of tuberculosis (TB) in PHCs, two training sessions were held on early detection and referral of suspected TB cases towards TB centers. The two sessions were held in Afrin and attended by 40 PHC doctors while in sessions in A'zaz and Idleb will be held end of June.
- On Emergency Programme Immunization (EPI), 91 centers conducted 1,215 sessions in the last two weeks. Two polio campaigns are planned for 2020 for children below five years old. Dates are adjusted according to COVID-19 preventive measures and the situation in the field.
- During EPI-week 23, 85% of the Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN) sentinel sites reported 182,687 consultations of which 37% were for children under five years.
- A Mental Health Gap Action Programme (mhGAP) training took place for 162 PHC doctors during the third week of June. A field supervision for mhGAP started in Aleppo and Idleb and around 100 field visits were conducted since 9 June. As part of mental health capacity building, an online Arabic training on mental health specialized care is being provided by psychiatric experts based in UK on volunteer basis, targeting psychiatrists and resident psychiatrists in northwest.
- Due to the increase in malnutrition cases observed among pregnant and lactating women, a collaboration was set up with the Nutrition Cluster to position nutrition workers in reproductive health (RH) health facilities, which are not conducting Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screening.

- As per the latest updates from RH technical working group, 135 clean delivery kits were provided to RH partners to serve 27,000 pregnant women in labour and not able to reach the health facilities. In addition, 112 RH kits were distributed to for Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC) and CEmONC facilities in Atareb, A'zaz, Idleb, Janudiyeh, Jarablus, Dana, Atma, Afrin and Jandairis to serve around 300,000 people for three months.
- CHWs are crucial actors for a successful public health response at community and health facilities level. Therefore, the effort is ongoing to add more 660 CHWs for a better coverage, which will be also support the COVID-19 prevention and preparedness.
- Cluster lead agency sent 14 truckloads of medical supplies including essential medicines for primary care and specialized kits for NCD care to serve 750,000 population for 3 months. Also, specialized health kits were provided to serve 7,200 trauma and surgical interventions.

For COVID-19:

- Another batch of supplies, under the SCHF allocation for COVID-19, were procured and distributed to 41 triage point (for 3 months), 1,600 CHWs (for 1 month) and 700 Point of Entry (PoE) workers (for 12 days):
 - 25 Ventilators to 3 Intensive Care Unit (ICU) hospitals assigned for COVID-19 case management;
 - 595,000 examination gloves;
 - 150,100 surgical masks
- Also, one COVID-19 Community Treatment Center (CCTC) in Idleb City received:
 - 12,000 examination gloves;
 - 60 N95 masks;
 - 3,500 surgical masks;
 - 2,280 protective gowns
- The northwest Syria COVID-19 Task Force continues to coordinate actions to activate planned COVID-19 Community Treatment Centers (CCTCs), which have seen delays in starting operations (due to reasons ranging from location changes, donor agreements, recruitments)
- As of 23 June, 1,409 samples have been collected and tested for COVID-19 using the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) in laboratories in Idleb and Aleppo. All the samples have returned negative.
- The Task Force finalized advisory/ messages on the public use of fabric facemasks and on the necessity of the continued application of COVID-19 preventive measures. The messages were distributed to the awareness-raising teams to be shared with community members and were posted on social media groups.
- Via seven Health Cluster members, about 745 awareness workers reached 90,246 people with different awareness-raising activities in Afrin, Ariha, A'zaz, Harim, Idleb, Jebel Saman, and Jisr-Ash-Shugur.
- As of June 19, out of 13 cross-border/cross-line entry points, seven points of entry (PoE) are partially open and have measures in place to screen travellers, suspect and refer cases. More human resources added to the 7 Points of Entry (PoEs) in addition to vehicles for referrals, equipment and PPEs.
- The crossline POEs in Abu Zandin, Um Jloud and Saraqab were closed while national exams are taking place this month, which can lead to a significant movement of students. Two mobile teams to screen travelers and refer suspected cases will be deployed if those POEs will be opened.
- During the first two weeks of June, 92 suspected cases were transported to the referral hospitals and to the CCTCs through the referral system. 35 cases were referred from the POEs and the other 57 from the primary health facilities. The Task Force distributed PPEs and Ventilators from the stock received in May 2020 to health facilities.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Due to the high number of individuals in households and crowded living conditions particularly for IDPs in some locations, it will be challenging to maintain essential services as well as quality health services. Compounded by the dire economic situation in northwest Syria and the drop of the value of the Syrian Pound, this leads to difficulties in ensuring the needed services are provided, especially as the UN cross border resolution expires on 10 July 2020.
- Until EPI week 23/2020, 137 suspected measles cases were reported. Samples were collected and 34 cases returned positive out of 81 cases and 5 are clinically measles cases.
- For logistic reasons (shipment and appropriate shelf-life) there is a delay in procuring Leishmaniasis medicines.

For COVID-19:

- Due to continued attacks and other security situation, the EBS/alert system is facing problems to provide optimal response while there is a growing need to further strengthen system to detect and capture any signals related to COVID-19 and all other morbidities reportable to the EWARN.
- The COVID -19 preventive measures and lack of funding affected the implementation of the regular capacity building activities including the Personal Support Worker training, and the School Mental Health training-of trainers and roll-out.
- It is challenging to find a way to minimize the possible disruption of NCD care when COVID-19 cases inside northwest Syria will begin to be confirmed. This can create a negative impact for every NCD patient. Alternative options should

be in place such as telemedicine, virtual consultations and other strategies to assure continuation of NCD service delivery during COVID-19 pandemic.

Nutrition

Needs:

- In May 2020, the proxy prevalence of acute malnutrition across northwest Syria based on community-based nutrition surveillance was two percent among children 6-59 months and 11 percent in pregnant and lactating women (PLW).
- The proxy prevalence of acute malnutrition was higher in Idlib compared to Aleppo among children 6-59 months (three percent vs. one percent) and PLW (18 percent vs. four percent).
- The proxy prevalence of chronic malnutrition (stunting) among children 6-59 months across northwest Syria according to May 2020 surveillance report was 29 percent and it was higher among boys (31%) compared to girls (26%).
- Proxy acute malnutrition was generally highest among those displaced compared to residents. The prevalence of acute malnutrition among children 6-59 months has increased from one percent in April 2019 to two percent in May 2020. Similarly, the prevalence of chronic malnutrition (stunting) has increased from 19 percent to 29 percent during the same period.
- Exclusive breastfeeding was found to be 34 percent, minimum dietary diversity at 54 percent, while minimum acceptable diet (MAD) was 39 percent.
- While the prevalence of acute malnutrition in children 6-59 months remains relatively low, the high prevalence of stunting in children 6-59 months and acute malnutrition in PLW are of concern.
- The Nutrition Cluster estimates the burden of acute malnutrition in the accessible locations of northwest Syria to be 103,905 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and 26,720 children 6-59 months – 3,127 severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 23,593 moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).
- The poor nutrition situation is largely attributed to continued exposure of children and PLW to unsafe living conditions, diseases (including impacts of COVID-19), suboptimal infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices, high maternal malnutrition, low purchasing power, poverty, food insecurity, family separations and poor care practices, early marriages, and destruction of infrastructure causing limited access to health services, and inadequate sanitation and water supply.

666,475

Children below age 5 and pregnant and lactating mothers reached with life-saving nutrition services

Response:

- Since the start of the year, 666,475 children 6-59 months and PLW have been reached with life-saving nutrition services covering 487 communities and 39 sub-districts in Idlib and Aleppo.
- The number of children 6-59 months and PLW reached to date represents nearly 42 percent of the population in need with 35 percent increase in the coverage compared to the last situation update on 12 June.
- The following numbers of children 6-59 months and PLW have been reached with specialized nutritious supplements – Ready-to-Use Foods (RUF), Lipid-based Nutrient Supplements (LNS), High Energy Biscuits (HEB) or micronutrient supplement:
 - 288,594 children 6-59 months reached which represents 31 percent of those in need.
 - 141,890 PLW reached which represents nearly 34 percent of those in need;
- Life-saving nutrition services are provided through 120 Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) and mobile teams, 9 Stabilization centers and 165 Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP)/Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP) by 24 Nutrition Cluster partners.
- Nutrition Cluster members provided the following services;
 - 89,432 displaced children 6-59 months and PLW received HEB for prevention of acute malnutrition;
 - 267,900 PLW and children 6-59 months received micronutrient supplementation;
 - 55,076 children 6-36 months received LNS for prevention of acute and chronic malnutrition;
 - 235,991 mothers and care givers were reached with infant feeding and caring practices messages and counselling.
- Out of the 666,475 PLW and children 6-59 months screened for acute malnutrition:
 - 2,330 cases of severe acute malnutrition and 7,482 cases of moderate acute malnutrition were identified among displaced children 6-59 months and referred for appropriate treatment;
 - 8,264 acutely malnourished PLW identified and referred for appropriate treatment.

- The proportion of those reached with services for treatment of SAM, treatment of MAM, prevention of acute and chronic malnutrition, and micronutrient supplementation are 75 percent, 12 percent, 45 percent, and 30 percent respectively of those in need.
- Nutrition Cluster members are implementing the recommended adaptations in the context of COVID-19 which include: continuity of life-saving nutrition services, integration of IPC measures for mitigation of COVID-19 infection in all platforms, enhanced communication on IYCF-E in context of COVID-19, simplified protocol for treatment of acute malnutrition, surveillance, supply pre-positioning to avoid stockouts, etc.
- Weekly nutrition cluster COVID-19 taskforce meetings are conducted to review emerging global evidences and recommendations and discuss northwest Syria experiences and questions raised by partners in relation to the operational guidance. The Cluster also conducts coordination meetings fortnightly.
- The Cluster Strategic Review Committee completed a technical review of the projects that were submitted for the 2020 first standard allocation and recommendations were shared with the Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Members shared with the Nutrition Cluster some of the challenges being encountered in adjusting their operations in the context of COVID-19 according to the Nutrition Cluster guidance. The main challenges include: lack of PPE, lack of infrared forehead digital thermometer to facilitate isolation at facilities, inadequate WASH services, and mobility restrictions.
- A few Nutrition Cluster members have procured light PPE for their non-health staff who are involved in routine MUAC screening to ensure continuity of this activity as it informs the nutrition situation and impact of COVID-19 on children and PLW. However, the procured quantities are insufficient due to funding constraints.
- The low achievements are indicative of limited funding, access constraints and supply shortages especially Ready-to-Use Supplementary Food (RUSF) for MAM prevention and treatment.
- COVID-19 outbreak could potentially cause a further deterioration of the nutrition situation during the second half of 2020 attributed to dysfunctional markets, limited livelihoods opportunities, inflation, low purchasing power, increasing food insecurity, and disruption of access to health and WASH services.
- Limited implementation of an integrated approach which is crucial in addressing the underlying drivers of acute and chronic malnutrition.
- The Cluster is currently engaged in discussions regarding the continuity of service delivery and contingency plan in case the cross-border resolution is not extended and potential implications for the nutrition situation in northwest Syria.

Protection

Needs:

- Intermittent airstrikes in southern rural Idlib and western rural Hama throughout June and ground-based strikes and shelling continue to endanger the physical safety of civilians and create an insecure environment.
- In past months, large-scale civilian movements towards areas close to the front-line have been observed. Civilians returning to their original locations of residence may face a shortage of basic supplies and services, general insecurity, limited assistance, as well as damage to – or destruction of – homes .
- In areas under the control of non-state armed groups in the north of Aleppo, civilians were reported to be killed and injured as a result of increased sporadic fighting between and within armed groups and the indiscriminate use of firepower between various non-state armed groups.
- Civilians throughout northwest Syria also continue to face risks related to explosive hazards, such as IEDs and unexploded ordnances (UXOs). This is especially the case for individuals moving back to areas that have seen active fighting in January and February. Civilians were reported to also have been killed by indiscriminate attacks carried out with various types of improvised explosive devices (IEDs).
- Human rights violations and abuses are increasingly reported by Protection Cluster members. These include, but are not limited to, forced eviction of IDPs from residential and commercial property.
- The weakened Syrian Pound has resulted in a multitude of problems for civilians, including in relation to basic needs and accessing services. The currency devaluation and economic downturn increases risks related to adoption of negative and harmful coping strategies, disproportionately affecting children and persons with disabilities and increasing risks of gender-based violence (GBV).
- This reporting period has been characterized by persistence of child protection concerns in northwest Syria, aggravated by COVID-19 pandemic and the devaluation of the Syrian Pound and its impact on the local economy. The impact of the devaluation exacerbates an already dire humanitarian situation for children in northwest Syria, resulting in a steep increase on child labour including worst forms of child labour. Reports from the field in this period confirm increases in

child labour and child marriage. An increase in the number of children begging or searching for casual labour in the street until very late at night is also observed.

- Members of the GBV Sub-Cluster (SC) continue to notice a significant increase in reported incidents of gender-based violence (GBV), mainly domestic violence (marital rape, physical and emotional violence, and denial of resources and services). Women and girls with disabilities and pregnant women continue to be those most vulnerable to violence during this period. Similar to trends reported earlier in the year, GBV SC members are dealing with new cases of families forcing their young daughters to take hormones and other medications believing this would speed up puberty, enabling them to get married and conceive afterwards. Contributing factors to this are an increase in divorces, psychological distress and the deteriorating economic situation.
- Increased instances and elevated risks of eviction for IDPs unable to pay rent continues to be reported during this period.
- Female beneficiaries are requesting micro-investments in small businesses and cash support opportunities to mitigate the risk of sexual exploitation in light of the increasing financial needs.

Response:

- Between 8 June until 21 June 2020, three Protection Cluster members reported to have provided emergency response services for civilians displaced from Idlib and Aleppo due to the ongoing hostilities. Cluster members provided 21,538 protection interventions to IDPs and affected host community members in 24 communities within eight sub-districts in Idlib and Aleppo reaching 13,845 individuals (4,500 girls, 888 boys, 8,197 women, 260 men). The main services protection actors provide in response to new displacement are as follows:
 - Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Psychosocial Support (PSS)
 - Information sharing about other services
 - Dignity kits distribution
 - Risk education
 - Finally, Cluster members also referred individuals to other basic services, notably to health and shelter, and provided Individual Protection Assistance (cash grants for protection purposes). It should be noted that the above emergency response activities are in addition to activities included in the HRP and monthly reported through the 4Ws.
- Despite limitations in an increasingly restrictive operational environment, Child Protection partners have continued to deliver while incorporating where possible COVID-19 prevention messages and messages on childcare in times of isolation and unpredictability. Child protection partners have continued to adapt key, core interventions, such as psychosocial support, case management and child protection awareness raising.
- Members of the GBV Sub-Cluster continued providing services while taking into account safety procedures related to COVID-19. Key ongoing interventions consist of case management services including follow ups, individual consultations, cash support, dignity kits distribution to women and girls, life skills sessions, recreational activities and trainings for GBV and other humanitarian actors.
- GBV Sub-Cluster members have distributed more than 100,000 dignity kits to women and girls of reproductive age since December 2019. Besides meeting basic sanitary and hygiene needs, dignity kits are also used as an entry point to provide life-saving GBV services including PFA, PSS, information about available services and referrals of high-risk cases.
- During the reporting period, 3,705 individuals (1,594 girls, 1,836 boys, 107 women and 168 men) have been reached with child protection emergency interventions.
- 602 caregivers and children (143 girls, 184 boys, 107 women and 168 men) were reached through awareness raising on child protection issues including prevention from separation in Harim district, in Idlib governorate. 61% of all people reached were located in Idlib district, while 39% in Harim district, in Idlib governorate.
- Child Protection Case Management and Individual Protection Assistance (IPA) continued. Case management including family tracing has continued in the reporting period. In high to medium- risk cases, child protection partners are still conducting follow-up visits, while taking the necessary precautions due to COVID-19. While data for June will be compiled beginning of July, the Child Protection Sub-Cluster is aware that in the last two weeks (in addition to the ongoing caseload) 17 new cases were registered since the last report (10 girls and 7 boys). In Harim district, cases were identified in Armanaz and Kafr Takharim sub- districts, while in Idlib district, cases were identified in Maaret Tamsrin.
- A total of 1,907 children (841 girls, and 1,066 boys) received psychosocial support (structured and sustained). In addition, 1,124 children (572 girls and 552 boys) received PSS kits. For both activities, 54% of children reached were in Idlib district and 46% in Harim district, in Idlib Governorate.
- 55 children (28 girls and 27 boys) were referred to specialized services in Harim district, in Idlib governorate. 58% of all children reached were located in Idlib and 42% in Harim district, in Idlib Governorate.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Access to services for people who moved back to areas in the vicinity of the M4 and M5 highway in northwest Syria remains limited due to several factors, including heavy damage to civilian infrastructure in arrival areas and suspension or relocation of humanitarian services due to the unstable security situation.
- Increased basic needs across the population due to the currency devaluation and economic downturn increases the risk of adoption of negative coping mechanisms, while acceptance of protection interventions may also reduce due to prioritizing of addressing basic needs by the affected population.
- Despite limitations in an increasingly restrictive operational environment and suspension of Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs), child protection partners have strived to continue delivering services while incorporating where possible COVID-19 prevention messages and messages on childcare in times of isolation and unpredictability. Child protection partners have continued to adapt key core interventions, such as psychosocial support, case management and child protection awareness raising.
- Although GBV prevention and response activities continue to be provided, safety measures related to COVID-19 have caused services to be accessible for a smaller number of beneficiaries (usage of online sessions, fewer beneficiaries per session) which is affecting the ability to report incidents of violence to which women and girls may be exposed, as well as reducing entry points to obtain the necessary services.
- Activities that continued with COVID-19 countermeasures included specialized services such as case management for high-risk and individual cases and referrals for child protection, GBV and mine action, individual protection assistance and physical rehabilitation. Where feasible, some PSS, and legal awareness and counseling on Housing, Land and Property, and civil documentation have also continued (in centres, via outreach, and in camps).

Shelter

Needs:

- Based on the latest assessments by HNAP, 44% of IDPs use tents as shelter, around 9% are staying in substandard shelter, most of which are unfinished buildings; and 3% of IDPs have found public buildings, like schools, to be the only shelter option, thereby disrupting the provision of public services.
- The Shelter/Non-Food Item (SNFI) Cluster, together with HNAP, have conducted two assessments on the collective shelter situation in northwest Syria. The results indicate that none of the assessed collective shelters to date achieve the minimum emergency standards across all relevant sectors. Few collective shelters provide suitable shelter solutions for their inhabitants and the most prevalent issues overall were overcrowding and WASH. However, the last assessment conducted in June shows that the population in those collective centers decrease significantly. Indeed 16,428 IDPs were forcibly evicted from 12 collective shelters to camps or tents.
- Reports from SNFI & CCCM Clusters members highlighted rapid needs for emergency shelters (tents) and NFIs in camps that were affected by floods resulted from a heavy rain storm on Friday, 19 June. With a total population of about 4,709 IDPs, more than 20 camps in Maaret Tamsrin sub-district have been negatively affected by floods. It has been reported that about 333 households have lost their shelters as their tents were destroyed in the storm/flood. There is also a need for NFIs to be delivered to those affected households to enable them to replenish their damaged and missed NFIs by floods. The drainage systems in these locations have also been reported as a gap and the rehabilitation and upgrade of infrastructures in these locations will avoid those resident IDPs being flooded again in future floods. Such incidents and emergencies require replenishment of NFIs and tents stocks to enable the humanitarian actors respond directly to the needs when emergencies and massive influxes occur.

Response:

- Shelter/Non-Food Item (SNFI) Cluster members continue to actively respond to the needs of the newly displaced population as well as protracted IDPs in north-west Syria.
- Around 201,694 individuals, both IDPs and host community members, were assisted with NFI and/or shelter in May.
- In May, more than 146,649 individuals received NFI assistance in form of NFI kits, kitchen sets, mattresses and blankets, as well as winter and other supplementary items. Shelter needs of around 55,000 people were addressed with activities including emergency and/or seasonal shelter assistance and shelter rehabilitation. Of those, more than 22,539 individuals were assisted with the provision of emergency shelter, which includes family tents or shelter kits.
- 593,031 people were reached in 2020 with rehabilitation of infrastructure; provision of emergency shelter; shelter rehabilitation, transitional shelters and seasonal assistance.
- 1,008,552 people were reached in 2020 with seasonal and/or supplementary NFI assistance, and core NFI distributions.
- The SNFI Cluster is actively coordinating with the Health and WASH Clusters to respond to the needs of the IDP population in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. SNFI aims to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 during distributions, to improve the conditions of inadequate shelters and decongest overcrowded collective shelters.

- The SNFI Cluster ensured that all the SCHF- 1st standard allocation 2020 proposals are in line with the SNFI guideline on COVID-19. SNFI Cluster is still supporting the SCHF team reviewing 1st standard allocation 2020 submissions/proposals. 19 proposals (11 single cluster and 8 multi cluster ones) are recommended for funding as they are in line with the SNFI priorities, and contribute to cover the shelter and NFI needs, including the winterization approach.
- In contribution to the Health Cluster response plan, 316 tents were provided to be used as triage stations in the health facilities in northwest Syria, and soap and washing powder continue to be included in the NFI kits. Hygiene measures, in line with recommended WASH practices specific for COVID-19, are promoted during assistance distributions to reduce the risk of transmission.
- In coordination with the WASH cluster and cluster lead agency, 2,360 posters and 48,010 stickers have been provided to 10 SNFI Cluster members to raise awareness in May. SNFI Cluster members also continue to provide awareness-raising sessions, either at an individual level or in small groups while maintaining social distancing, wearing protective equipment and avoiding the distribution of brochures. The Cluster supports the mapping of the gap of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), surveys have been conducted to monitor how much gap the members are reporting. Some Cluster members were able to provide protective equipment to their staff.
- The SNFI Cluster continues coordination with the CCCM Cluster and the cluster members following up on the flood response as many of reports mentioned damaged tents in some northwest Syria camps. The cluster also engages the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) when needed to cover the gap with tents and NFI kits to support those affected families. A coordination meeting was held on 23 June with the CCCM & SNFI clusters members (focal organization in flood response) to make sure that the gap is completely covered, and no overlap might occur when responding to the needs of the 20 affected camps.
- The Cluster is also providing technical support on site planning, focusing mainly on SCHF approved projects that include site establishment and expansion. The cluster has closely collaborated with organizations to review plans and share recommendations, before proceeding with the modifications & recommending releasing the tents from the contingency stock.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Difficulties to find a place to rent. While the availability of houses and apartments for rent has improved over the past month, IDPs reported that the rapid increase of prices as a result of the economic decline has meant that many cannot afford rent.
- Improving infrastructure in camps and IDPs sites to avoid future floods that happen regularly. These activities include drainage system upgrade and rehabilitating the infrastructure.
- In case of new emergencies resulting from deteriorated security situations, preparedness and response plans require additional funds as the Cluster members only obtained secured funding for 24,150 tents (44% funded) and 69,000 NFI kits (15% funded). The Cluster advocates for additional funding to cover the remaining gap in tents and NFIs.
- Shelter inadequacies require significant capacity and budget to address, specifically to respond to the inadequacies in collective shelters. There are still thousands of families seeking safe and adequate shelters in northwest Syria, in an area that has considerably shrunk in size.
- The COVID-19 outbreak created additional burdens on Cluster members to mitigate the risk of transmission. These specific procedures require additional time, staff, efforts and cost in order to ensure appropriate risk mitigations are applied.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Needs:

- Comprehensive life-saving water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services are still needed across all WASH services and supplies (including but not limited to hygiene kits, Jerry cans and water storage capacity) in northwest Syria.
- In both formal and informal settlements and camps, there is an important need to increase safe water supply and hygiene kits, including soap to mitigate against diarrheal and other communicable diseases, including COVID-19.
- Increase the operational support to existing piped water systems to handle additional population in communities and in surrounding informal/formal settlements and camps.
- As returnees continue to move back to their communities of origin, they require access to safe water and sanitation services in these areas.

Response:

- The ongoing WASH response has reached to 1.3 million recently displaced people in 1,176 locations through 29 Cluster members (82% of the locations responded to are camps, 13% are communities, 2% are collective centers and 3 % are other locations).

- 529,453 people have received and continue to receive water via water trucking.
- 631,722 people received solid waste management services.
- 250,158 people got access new latrines (most of the existing public/community latrines are overcrowded due to an inadequate number of latrines).
- 512,755 people benefited from hygiene kits (102,551 actual family hygiene kits, each kit being designed for a household of 5 people).
- 345,491 people benefited from water purifying agents (Aqua tablets).
- 456,740 people benefited with the distribution of jerry cans (91,348 jerry cans distributed, 2 x 10 liter Jerry cans per household).
- Cluster members are continuing the scale up of the response to support the 900,000 IDPs since December (including COVID 19 mitigation activities).
 - 83,784 additional people are expected to receive water trucking – as planned by cluster member organizations for IDPs.
 - 88,405 additional people are expected to receive solid waste management services – especially in locations with high number of IDPs and will also benefit host communities (approximately 50 %host community and 50% IDPs)
 - 54,568 additional people will get access to new latrines that are under construction.
 - 163,600 additional people are going to be benefit with the available hygiene kits (32,720 actual family hygiene kits).
 - 125,784 additional people are going to be benefit with available jerry cans (25,156 jerry cans available, each household usually receives 2 x 10-liter jerry cans).
- A SCHF Standard allocation has resulted in US\$ 10.2 million being allocated to WASH against reviewed and recommended projects. These projects should be commencing in early July.

COVID 19 Response:

- According to WASH COVID 19 reporting matrix – latest updated information: 24 partners, 110 Locations, 854 Inputs
 - 89% - Response changed because of COVID 19
 - 80% - Increased the amount of Water
 - 83% - Adapted Hygiene Promotion activities
 - 59% - Increased the amount of soap
 - 15% - Increased the amount of Laundry detergent
- 720,000 food parcels being distributed in northwest Syria between April and June include bar soap with 720,000 food parcels and stickers with COVID-19 prevention measures pasted on 420,000 of them.
- The Cluster lead agency will purchase 1,056,000 soap bars (over next 6 months) to be delivered to CAT (Corona Awareness Team), through a WASH Cluster member - activities related to this batch of soap will be implemented on the ground by a group of 1,600 Community Health Workers. The soap will be purchased inside Syria.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The WASH cluster is working with the CCCM and Shelter Clusters to ensure joint planning and installation of new camps with requisite WASH services. The immediate gaps in 21 sub-districts for some 172,000 IDPs are as below:
 - 142,747 IDPs lack water trucking (many more IDPs sharing existing water supply of host communities and other IDPs).
 - 137,434 people need public latrines rehab/construction.
 - 172,157 people need recurrent solid waste management.
 - 170,620 people need hygiene kits.
- No major challenges with transshipments, trucks crossing with planned hygiene kit quotas. As of last week, 19,000 jerry cans entered the warehouses inside Syria (to complement Hygiene kits); 34,000 jerry cans will have crossed on Friday, 26 June, including 14,500 family hygiene kits and 25,000 consumable hygiene kits.
- Syrian pound exchange rate to the US\$ has not been stable during the past two weeks. The huge reduction has led to closure of many shops, markets and stoppage of numerous services. Many service providers decided to stop their services until prices are more stable. With reference to the impact on WASH, contracts of many agencies in general have not been impacted as the signed agreements between NGOs and service providers are either in US\$ or equivalent to US\$ exchange – plus to Turkish lira. However, a few NGOs whose contracts with the vendor were in SYP have faced some difficulties. The additional impact that is relevant but not direct, is the additional challenge to food items as prices are rising rapidly by the hour, which could lead to a new approach of prioritizing food over other essential lifesaving requirements such as water and proper sanitation.

Logistics

Needs:

- 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.
- To manage the threat of COVID-19, coordination and timely information sharing with partners will be critical to assist with partner operational decision-making and to ensure bottlenecks and the duplication of efforts are avoided.
- Ensuring the safety and health of the staff working at the transshipment points by following WHO guidelines on mitigating COVID-19 risks at transshipment points.
- Logistics Cluster members including NGOs, donors and partners at the global level are expressing the need to establish a procurement working group.

Response:

- Between 1 and 24 June, the Logistics Cluster has coordinated the transshipment of 1,519 Syrian trucks: 1,136 through Bab al-Hawa and 382 through Bab al-Salam, facilitating the delivery of 32,702 metric tonnes of Food Security, Shelter, WASH, Health, Education and Nutrition sector items.
- Monitoring of customs regulations -with a particular focus on COVID-19 related items - and sharing lists of prohibited and restricted items for import as and when changes occur are ongoing.
- In accordance with WHO guidelines and local health authorities, the Logistics Cluster has put in place measures at the transshipment hubs to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 to the teams on the ground, including new handwashing facilities for drivers and workers, promoting social distancing, raising awareness through visibility items and a staff rotation system. The Logistics Cluster has delivered workshops to external partners on safe use and disposal of PPE and how to keep safe and protected against COVID-19 at the transshipment hubs.

Gaps/Challenges:

- Potential future increased lead time for in-transit goods and uncertainty over the availability of medical supplies at local and international markets due to COVID-19.

GENERAL COORDINATION

On 23 June, the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group had its regular monthly meeting, focusing on the operational aspects of the humanitarian response. The meetings of the Emergency Task Force have been discontinued and ICCG meetings are scheduled every two weeks.

For further information, please contact:

Markus Werne, Head of Office, UNOCHA Turkey, werne@un.org, Tel: (+90) 342 211 8601, Cell +90 535 413 8159

Annette Hearn, Deputy Head of Office, UNOCHA Turkey, hearns@un.org, Tel: (+90) 342 211 8604, Cell +90 535 021 9574

For more information, please visit www.unocha.org | www.reliefweb.int | <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/stima>