

The humanitarian impact of the Syria crisis remains deep and far-reaching, with the population exposed to significant protection risks. As per the 2018 HNO some 13.1 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, of whom 5.6 million are in acute need due to a convergence of vulnerabilities resulting from exposure to hostilities, limited access to basic goods and services as well as mass displacement, often affecting people multiples times. These new mass displacements are in addition to protracted displacement as well as deteriorating coping mechanisms and resilience in Syria. During the first quarter of 2018, the humanitarian situation for many civilians in Syria has further deteriorated, with a convergence of crises resulting in mass displacement and acute needs across multiple areas of the country,

particularly northwest Syria, Afrin and East Ghouta, requiring humanitarian actors to scale-up their response. At the same time, large-scale spontaneous returns of IDPs to Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor cities continue despite the extensive risks presented by explosive hazard contamination. Against this backdrop of increasing needs, and despite persistent challenges related to access, operational capacity and funding levels, humanitarian actors continue to prioritize the delivery of assistance and provision of services to those people facing the most severe needs. As of the 15 April 2018 the HRP was only 14.6 per cent funded (as per reported funding on FTS), with many humanitarian organizations reporting a rapid depletion of stocks and disruption to supply pipelines in the absence of required funding.

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES



13.1 million
people in need of humanitarian assistance

2.3 million
people in hard-to-reach, including militarily encircled locations and nearly **413,920** people in besieged locations*

8.2 million
people in areas potentially affected by explosive hazard contamination

5.6 million
people have fled the country and are registered as refugees, mainly in neighboring countries

6.6 million
people internally displaced, with **2.9 million** displacements recorded in 2017

840,000
IDPs (and some refugees) spontaneously returned to their areas of origin in 2017

More than 960
cases of boys and girls being recruited and/or use during the conflict were recorded during 2017.

During 2017 WHO reported 192
security incidents affecting health facilities, including **73** attacks on health facilities, a **42%** increase from 2016

6.3 million
people are food insecure, and another **4 million** are at risk of food insecurity

1 in 3
schools are damaged or destroyed

35%
of households rely on unsafe water sources to meet their water supply needs

5.3 million
live in inadequate shelters

83%
of assessed communities reported civil documentation as a concern, with **31%** reporting it as common or very common

In 69%
of communities assessed, early marriage was reported as a concern

KEY MESSAGES



As humanitarian needs remain staggering in terms of their scale, severity and complexity, no amount of humanitarian assistance and protection services can offset the lack of a political solution.



Against this backdrop, the overall conditions for safe, dignified, voluntary and sustainable returns are not yet in place in Syria, with the need for a coherent response to the needs of IDPs and returnees based on humanitarian and protection principles paramount.

With three new displacements reported for every one person who spontaneously returned, the first three months of 2018 have witnessed some of the highest levels of displacement since the beginning of the Syria crisis. Absorption capacity to host the newly displaced in areas of arrival such as Idlib is nearing exhaustion, with IDP sites in Idlib Governorate operating at approximately 400% beyond their capacity.



Protection considerations and principles need to remain central in the humanitarian response and actors providing protection services need to be supported throughout Syria, in addition to the lifting of access restrictions and other operational constraints.



Predictable and timely humanitarian funding is essential to the ability of humanitarian partners to reach those facing the most acute needs, with upfront financial support from member states crucial in enabling a scale-up in principled and coordinated humanitarian action.



As humanitarian presence, access and reach continue to face extraordinary barriers, the coherent and complementary use of all available response modalities will remain key to ensuring an effective, safe and timely response to people facing the most severe needs.



Rigorous and independent humanitarian needs analysis and prioritization remains essential in ensuring that limited resources are directed towards those people facing the most severe needs, wherever they may be.

* The figure for people in besieged locations is based on UN estimates as per 28 February and as reflected in the Secretary General's report to the UN Security Council covering 1-28 February. This number includes people living in East Ghouta, where subsequent changes in control and displacement have occurred.

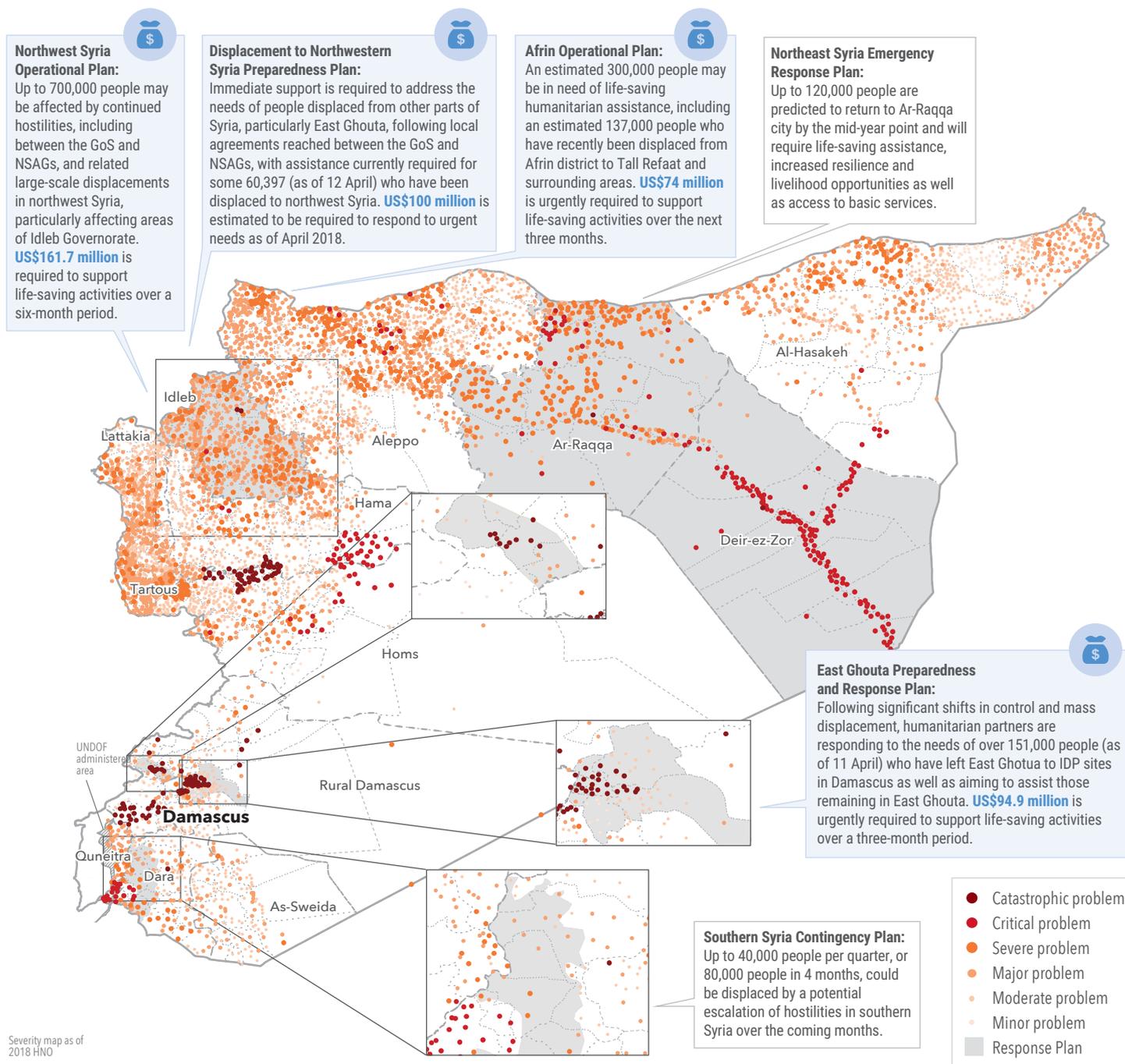
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

A CONVERGENCE OF CRISES

During the first few months of 2018 Syria has witnessed a convergence of crises, resulting in high levels of civilian casualties and injuries, the destruction of civilian infrastructure, mass displacement and compounding a dire humanitarian situation already characterized by widespread acute needs. Between 15 December 2017 and 10 February some 384,744 displacements were reported in northwest Syria following significant hostilities between the GoS and Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs). At the same time, the offensive by the Turkish Armed Forces (TAF) and allied Free Syrian Army (FSA) factions has resulted in an estimated 137,000 displacements from Afrin district, largely to other areas of Aleppo Governorate. In East Ghouta, an escalation of hostilities in the first three months of the year has resulted in mounting civilian casualties and injuries, while since March advances by the Government of Syria (GoS) have contributed to mass displacements. As of 11 April, 151,000 people are estimated to have fled, including 92,165 people who have transited through IDP sites in Rural Damascus of which 46,527 are estimated to remain in IDP sites. In addition, some 55,830 people have been displaced to northwest Syria, including more than 3,000 people to northern rural Aleppo.

In addition to these displacement crises, extensive explosive hazard contamination in Ar-Raqqa city continues to hamper the ability of humanitarian actors to respond to up to 100,000 people estimated to have returned to Ar-Raqqa city between October 2017 and March 2018. At the same time, humanitarian partners are providing critical assistance to some 94,000 people in IDP sites in northeast Syria, many of whom would otherwise be pushed to return to Ar-Raqqa city in unsafe circumstances. Deir-ez-Zor also continues to witness significant population movements due to hostilities as well as spontaneous returns. In the south of Syria, the humanitarian community remains concerned by the potential impact of a significant escalation in hostilities on the civilian population during 2018. To support preparedness and response to these exceptional developments, including across hubs, humanitarian partners have developed multiple area-based preparedness and response plans to facilitate strengthened coordination and collaboration. This both supports a scaled-up response, and helps to enhance complementarities across response modalities and provide a common risk analysis to underpin principled humanitarian action.

KEY HOTSPOTS IN SYRIA: PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE EFFORTS*



* Area-based response plans are developed within the parameters of the HRP and the financial requirements outlined under the HRP appeal, while tailoring the response- usually life-saving activities- to a specific situation/area for a limited period of time.

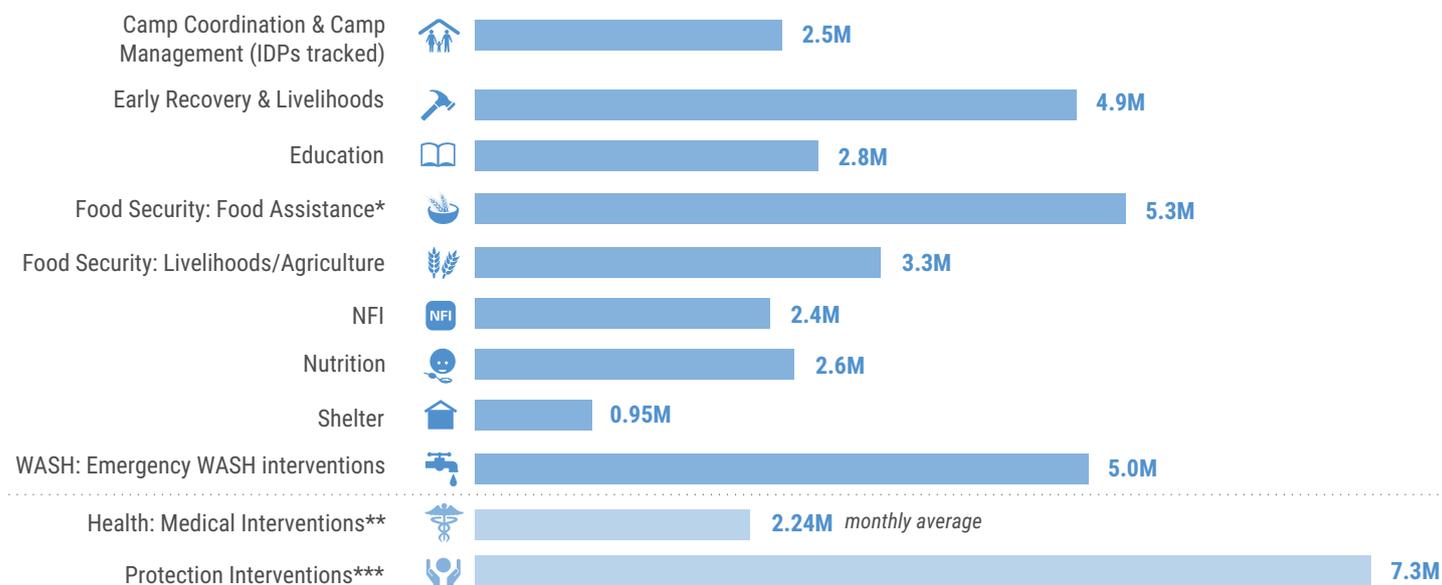
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RESPONSE EFFORTS

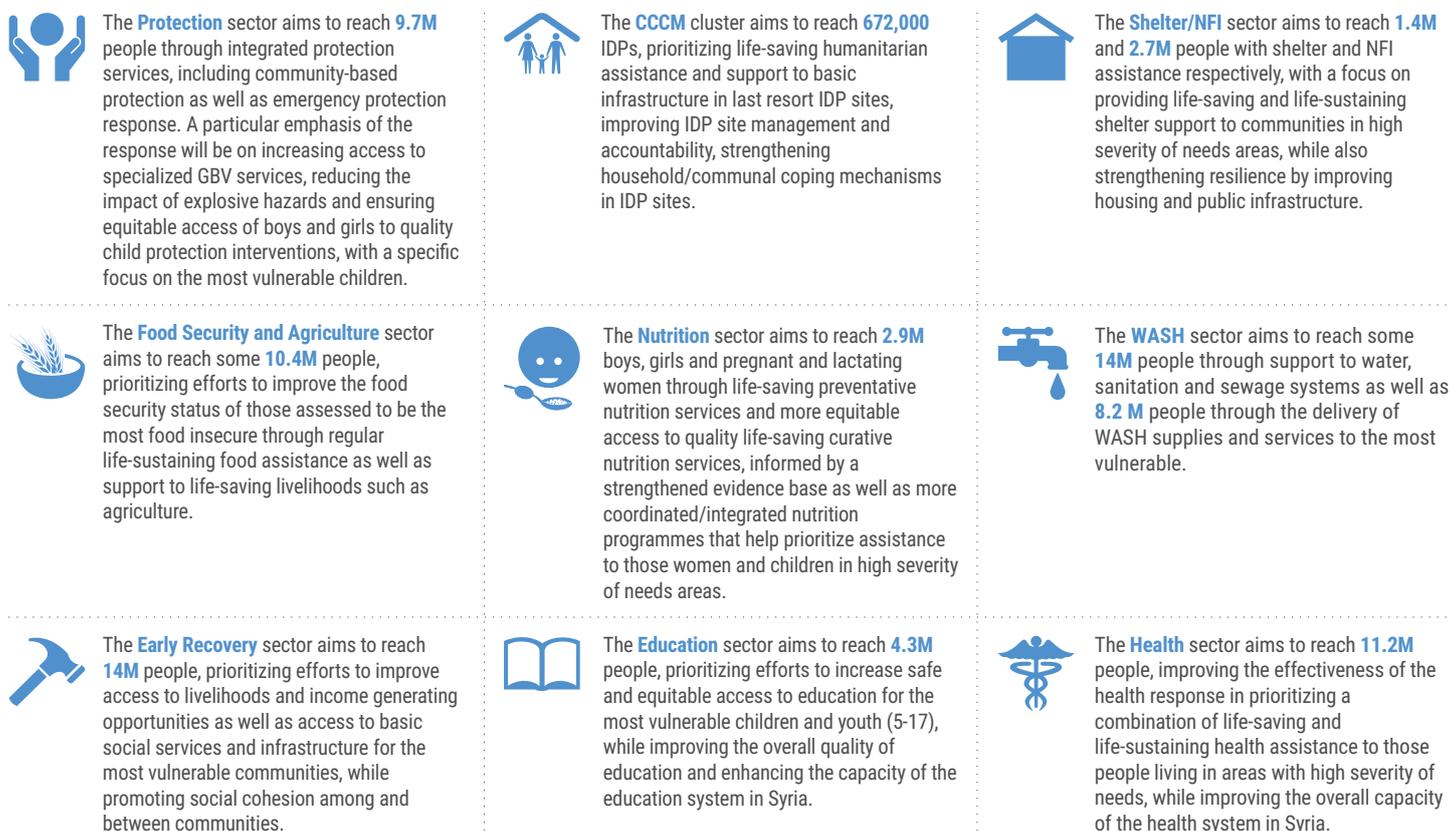
During 2017 humanitarian partners provided humanitarian life-saving and life-sustaining assistance and services to a monthly average of 7.8 million people, including 3.5 million people reached with some form of assistance on average per month in areas witnessing a high severity of needs. Despite the staggering scale and scope of the response, the convergence of crises in Syria during the first three months of 2018 have put the capacity of partners to respond under considerable strain. As a result, humanitarian partners are struggling to scale-up of assistance to high severity of need areas such as

East Ghouta, Afrin and northwest Syria which have witnessed prolonged high-intensity hostilities as well as massive levels of displacement. These needs are in addition to existing acute needs, with 5.6 million people living in high severity of needs areas according to the 2018 HNO. Immediate funding under the 2018 HRP is needed to ensure response efforts can be maintained across the country both to respond to those most in need and to facilitate the scale-up of operations in the various hotspots that have emerged in 2018.

PEOPLE REACHED BY SECTOR (JAN-DEC 2017)



KEY RESPONSE PRIORITIES BY SECTOR IN 2018



*Average food baskets and cumulative emergency food rations

**Given the challenges the sector faces in measuring individual beneficiaries, the indicator for the number of medical procedures is used as an aggregate indicator that serves as a proxy measure for overall progress in health service delivery in Syria (medical procedures are an aggregate indicator that includes outpatient consultations at primary health care units and hospitals, a number of referral cases, mental health consultations, trauma cases, persons with disabilities supported and deliveries by a skilled birth attendant).

***Protection figures represent the total number of distinct protection interventions conducted through the sector's prevention, response and capacity building activities. The figures in this product include achievements from child protection (CP), gender-based violence (GBV) and mine action areas of responsibilities (AoRs).

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Creation date: 15 April 2018

Sources: OCHA, Whole of Syria sectors, Financial Tracking System (FTS)

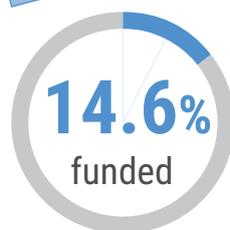
Feedback: Regional Office for the Syria Crisis (ocharosyr@un.org)

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Despite the significant increase in the scale, scope and severity of humanitarian needs in Syria during the first three months of 2018, the HRP was only 14.6 per cent funded as of mid-April. In order to respond to the multiple crises that have emerged in recent months, humanitarian partners have had to reprioritize their overall response inside Syria to enable the scale-up of life-saving assistance and basic services to affected areas. As a result, humanitarian partners have all but exhausted the resources initially allocated for regular programming.



HRP FUNDING STATUS as of 15 APRIL 2018



3.51 billion funding requirements

513.0 million funding received

3.00 billion unmet requirements

CONSEQUENCES OF UNDERFUNDING BY SECTOR (US\$)

funding received unmet requirement



Food security

1.3 billion

funding requirements

7.2%

91.7 million

1.208 billion

- Underfunding will have drastic consequences on food consumption patterns, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable groups who will not have access to sufficient food supplies, micronutrients and dietary diversity.
- A lack of funding and subsequent assistance will also result in an increased prevalence of harmful coping strategies, directly impacting household living conditions and diminishing self-reliance, thereby perpetuating the cycle of poverty.



Shelter/NFI

532.7 million

funding requirements

1.3%

7 million

525.7 million

- With only 1.3% of funding received, sector partners face significant challenges in replenishing stocks and maintaining the provision of assistance to the most vulnerable, with people in Syria continuing to face a potentially catastrophic situation as displacement and destruction of housing continues.
- Without continued funding, emergency activities will not be maintained, resulting in many hundreds of thousands of people not receiving the life-saving and life-sustaining NFI and shelter assistance that they need, placing them in a situation of extreme vulnerability. This is at a critical moment in the conflict when thousands of forced evacuations and voluntary displacements are occurring, with more anticipated.



Health

441.9 million

funding requirements

8.2%

36.3 million

405.6 million

- If the Health sector appeal is not fully funded during 2018, up to 193,770 people living with injuries and trauma will not receive essential phased trauma and rehabilitation care.
- Without an immediate injection of US\$580,000 and US\$895,000, health partners will be unable to temporarily deploy mobile medical teams and clinics to address critical health needs arising in East Ghouta and Afrin respectively.



Protection

333.8 million

funding requirements

3.7%

12.5 million

321.3 million

- Underfunding will limit the geographic coverage and scope of the protection response, constraining the ability of the sector to reach 83,000 people in collective shelters in Damascus and over 550,000 who have been displaced in northwest Syria (including Afrin) in recent months, many of whom live in last resort IDP sites.
- Over 1.5 million people, almost 40 per cent of whom are children, will not be reached through community-based and mobile integrated protection services, including individual assistance including psychological first aid (PFA), legal assistance, specialised case management for GBV and CP and referral pathways.



Education

281.2 million

funding requirements

1.9%

5.3 million

275.9 million

- Underfunding continues to limit the geographic scope of the Education sector response, particularly affecting the ability of partners to scale-up assistance in areas where control has recently changed.
- Longer-term programmes aimed at strengthening the capacity of the education system in Syria will be jeopardized, undermining the ultimate value of education investments.



WASH

279.5 million

funding requirements

7.2%

20.1 million

259.4 million

- Over half of the people living in Idleb Governorate are in critical need of water, of which 460,304 people are receiving less than 4 litres of water per day from the water network. Without additional funding, a scaled-up response to repair and operate water systems as well as to expand the supply of water disinfectants, many more people will be in critical need of water over the coming weeks and months.
- With actual displacement levels, particularly in northwest Syria, exceeding planning assumptions, the WASH sector needs an immediate injection of resources to be able to scale up assistance and meet water, sanitation and hygiene demands.



Early Recovery & Livelihoods

178.7 million

funding requirements

8.1%

15.2 million

172.5 million

- Planned livelihood assistance through support to small businesses, vocational training, the provision of start-up kits and short-term jobs through cash-for-work will all have to be sufficiently scaled back as a result of underfunding.
- Overall, underfunding will impact activities aimed at improving the resilience and self-reliance of people in Syria and their capacity to cope with shocks and stresses.



Nutrition

70.7 million

funding requirements

0.6%

0.4 million

70.3 million

- The Nutrition sector's ability to scale-up the presence of Rapid Response Teams (currently numbering 18 teams) to respond to the influx of IDPs in Idleb Governorate is jeopardized.
- Extremely low levels of funding during the beginning of 2018 have resulted in significant disruptions to the supply pipeline, with a subsequent detrimental impact on the ability of nutrition partners to provide assistance to malnourished children and PLW, including 34,750 children under five and 35,800 PLW.



CCCM

43.2 million

funding requirements

3%

1.3 million

12.3 million

- IDP sites and shelter capacity, particularly in Idleb Governorate, are reaching saturation point with limited prospects of providing immediate assistance as well as more durable solutions for IDPs living in these sites without additional funding.
- Underfunding will disproportionately impact the most vulnerable IDPs in sites, exposing them to heightened risks of disease outbreaks, malnutrition and potentially result to onward displacements as people seek better living conditions.



Logistics

12.3 million

funding requirements

0%

0 million

12.3 million

- Underfunding will affect the ability of the sector to provide free-to-user services which will have to be reduced or suspended, including transshipment services for cross-border operations from Jordan, Turkey and Iraq.