

# North-west Syria

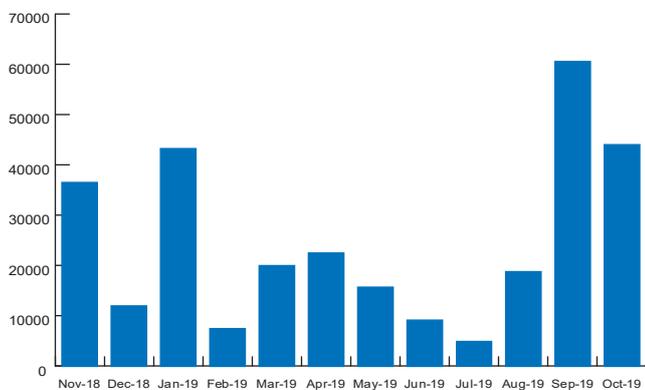
November 2019

Through its partners, in 2019, UNHCR has assisted **53,540 households (281,781 individuals)** with core relief items and shelter material.

UNHCR has sent **287 trucks** across the border in 2019, carrying humanitarian supplies like blankets, hygiene kits, mattresses and tents.

In 2019, through its partners, UNHCR has reached **139,650 individuals** with protection services, such as information dissemination and referrals.

## CRI AND EMERGENCY SHELTER ASSISTANCE

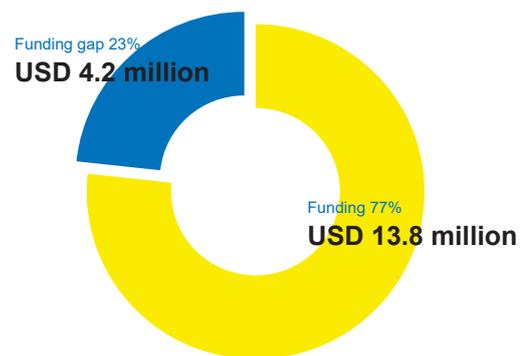


Number of **individuals reached** per month by UNHCR programme partners with core relief items and emergency shelter assistance in the last 12 months

## FUNDING LEVEL AS OF NOVEMBER 2019

**USD 18 million**

requested for the UNHCR cross-border humanitarian response



## MAIN OBJECTIVES

1. Support the coordination of the cross-border humanitarian response through the Cluster system
2. Identify protection risks and assistance needs and inform the overall response
3. Provide protection services and emergency assistance with core relief items and shelter material
4. Build capacity of (local) humanitarian organizations
5. Fill critical gaps in the basic needs of IDPs where required and feasible

## MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Escalating hostilities between the Government of Syria and non-state armed groups are affecting hundreds of thousands of people in north-west Syria. Intense violence that started in the last days of April 2019 and is continuing unabated has caused high numbers of casualties, destruction of civilian infrastructure and disruption in the provision of basic services in Idlib. As a result of this most recent offensive, the humanitarian situation is deteriorating; in November, worsening weather and a further surge in violence aggravated the already dire living conditions of IDPs.

More than a million displacements have been recorded so far in 2019, with the majority having occurred between May and November, during which time more than 860,000 displacements were tracked: people are being displaced, some multiple times, from southern Idlib and northern Hama and the majority of the displaced are concentrating in northern Idlib, close to the Turkish border, in areas that are now densely populated.

A Readiness and Response Plan for north-west Syria is still in play and outlines the planned response to the cross-border team in Turkey.

## BACKGROUND

Following the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2165, UNHCR established its cross-border activities from southern Turkey in July 2014. In 2019, through its own programme, UNHCR has partnerships with seven organizations - IRC, ACTED-REACH, WATAN, Bir Dunya Cocuk Dernegi (Children of One World), SHAFAK, NRC and Maram Foundation - to assist displaced people by providing core relief items (CRIs), shelter support, and protection services. In addition, UNHCR is leading the Protection, Shelter/NFI (SNFI) and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Clusters. All Clusters closely follow the humanitarian developments in the conflict areas in north-west Syria and contribute to emergency preparedness response plans accordingly.

## UNHCR Programme

UNHCR and its partners continued to provide basic assistance and protection services to IDPs and conflict-affected vulnerable host community members in north-west Syria under the cross-border operation from Gaziantep, Turkey. In November, **42,722 displaced people were assisted with 6,028 emergency and winter NFI kits and 2,097 tents** in Idlib and Aleppo Governorates. Throughout the month, **four transshipments** carrying 4,500 emergency NFI kits and 3,000 tents took place through Reyhanli - Bab Al Hawa border crossing to assist 40,500 newly displaced people. In coordination with the SNFI Cluster, and in addition to the NFI and emergency shelter assistance, UNHCR aims to assist 10,000 households (approximately 50,000 people) with **winterized NFI kits** during the 2019-2020 winter period; by the end of November, 74 per cent of the target was reached. The winter NFI kit consists of high thermal blankets, foam mattresses, solar lamps, plastic tarpaulins and certain hygiene/sanitary items.

Moreover, UNHCR's protection partners conducted awareness raising and psychosocial support sessions, identified cases and referred them to basic services in Idlib and Aleppo Governorates; such **community-based protection interventions reached 6,105 people**. In addition, **4,606 displaced and vulnerable people received protection services** such as awareness raising on civil status documentation and housing, land and properties, legal counselling and assistance, case management and referrals. As a part of the emergency response, sessions on integrated protection awareness, protection risk awareness, information and psychosocial first aid are conducted by UNHCR's partners and people are referred to the needed internal and external services.

The displacement and protection monitoring initiatives proved to be essential during the large-scale displacements, providing ad hoc updates and conducting rapid needs assessment. The latest reports are published on the websites of the CCCM and Protection Clusters.



Distributions of tents and winter NFI kits in Aleppo and Idlib  
© WATAN and Maram Foundation



CCCM Cluster

The CCCM Cluster coordinates the efforts of **17 active member organizations** providing cross-border assistance in north-west Syria. Activities focus on coordinating the joint efforts of the Cluster members to cover the multi-sectoral needs in **483 IDP sites** hosting **868,486 individuals / 158,634 families** in north-west Syria and, on behalf of the humanitarian community, track IDP movements and coordinating the provision of multi-sectoral assistance in IDP settlements.

In November, the Cluster tracked **69,667 individual displacements** in north-west Syria, more than double compared to the previous month; 87 per cent of these were from Idlib Governorate and 13 per cent from Aleppo Governorate; movements were mainly to the north of Idlib and Aleppo near the Turkish border. Of those movements, the large majority were displacements to areas out of IDP sites. In total, **more than 866,000 individual displacements** were recorded between 1 May and 30 November 2019.



## Shelter/NFI Cluster

The SNFI Cluster is led by UNHCR, coordinating the efforts of **42 active member organizations** in the cross-border operation. The Cluster addresses emergency shelter and NFI needs by providing in-kind assistance as well as cash or voucher assistance. It promotes household and community resilience. The Cluster also raises awareness and provides technical guidance on housing, land and property rights relevant for humanitarian shelter activities.

Temperatures dropped considerably in November. Cluster members carried out the winterization plan throughout the month. By the end of November, the Cluster delivered **winter NFI assistance to more than 195,000 people**. The procurement of fuel posed a challenge for its scarcity and rising prices. In addition, the Cluster reached around 17,000 people with new shelter assistance to respond to the recent displacements and 39,000 people with shelter rehabilitation.

The Cluster has consolidated its preparedness plan: there is NFI stock to assist more than 260,000 people and tents/shelter kits for 130,000 people who might be affected by displacement or floods. Considering the recent substantial increase of displacements, deteriorating weather conditions and the timeline to replenish stock, the Cluster is advocating for additional funding to replace or upgrade damaged tents but also to anticipate the replenishment of stock. Moreover, even if the Cluster members are targeting 835,000 people with winter assistance, there are still some sub-districts without winter assistance such as Suran, Jandairis, Aghtarın and Sarmin.



## Protection Cluster

The Protection Cluster (co-led by UNHCR and IRC) brings together **56 active members**, which include actors of the three Sub-Clusters: Child Protection (co-led by UNICEF and World Vision), Gender Based Violence (co-led by UNFPA and Global Communities) and Humanitarian Mine Action (led by UNMAS). The Cluster also convenes the Protection Monitoring Task Force (co-led by UNHCR and IRC) and a Housing, Land and Property Technical Working Group (co-led by UNHCR and NRC) on a regular basis. The Cluster continues to prioritize the provision of lifesaving emergency response services to newly displaced populations and to expand specialized protection services through a wider geographic coverage and outreach capacity, including through mobile teams. In addition, the Cluster seeks to inform the overall response through protection monitoring, while also supporting capacity building with humanitarian actors to strengthen information and advocacy on protection concerns, and Do No Harm efforts.

In November, Cluster and Sub-Cluster members provided **175,068 interventions to IDPs and affected host community members** in 273 communities in four governorates (Idleb, Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa). The main services were: psychological first aid for 129 girls, 120 boys, 230 women and 146 men; legal awareness raising sessions focusing on housing, land and properties and/or civil status documentation for 629 girls, 545 boys, 2,294 women and 1,822 men; integrated/comprehensive case management services for 88 girls, 85 boys, 203 women and 43 men; and referrals to other services for 391 girls, 395 boys, 995 women and 741 men. Sub-Cluster members also provided a range of specialized child protection and GBV services, as well as risk education to communities in northern Syria.

The **Protection Monitoring Task-Force** conducted in November a total of 863 key informants interviews (473 males, 390 females) in Idleb and Aleppo Governorates reaching 26 Sub-districts within 163 communities.

### External and Donor Relations

**Thanks to UNHCR's donors for supporting the humanitarian response in north-west Syria:**

United States of America | Turkey Humanitarian Fund