

Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster

Guidance Note:

Establishment of camps for the Internally Displaced Persons

CCCM Cluster, Southern Turkey/Syria
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The ongoing conflict in Syria is forcing hundreds of thousands of civilians to flee their homes towards “relatively” safer areas to become Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) within the border of the country. Many of these IDPs are settling in IDP camps and camp-like setups. As of July 2015, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster reported 246 IDP camps hosting more than 209,440 IDPsⁱ in the accessible parts of the northern governorates of Syria.

The majority of the existing IDP camps are informalⁱⁱ. They are managed either by camp land-owners or other individuals who don’t represent any humanitarian organization or *de facto* authority. These camps are established on arbitrary basis without prior site planning or security analyses. In addition to exposing IDPs to various risks, the absence a camp management that is accountable to the humanitarian principles combined with arbitrary nature of these camps remains a constant challenge for the humanitarian actors to support the IDPs living in these camps. Due to immense challenges related to the lack of access and remote management nature of the humanitarian response, very few humanitarian actors are able to provide direct camp management services inside Syria.

IDP camps remain the last-resort option in Syria. IDPs tend to exhaust all other available possibilities before they decide to IDP camps. This corresponds with the overall strategy of the CCCM Cluster that strives to avoid creating pull-factors in the camps. While it remains important to emphasize that IDPs and other vulnerable population should be assisted wherever they are, all cluster members willing to establish or support new IDP camps are requested to consider the Do No Harm principle and implement the minimum humanitarian standards by applying the below listed summary recommendations:

1. Ensure that establishing and an IDP camp remains the last option. This corresponds to the spontaneous choice of the IDPs themselves and the CCCM strategy to ensure that camps are not pull-factors.
2. Should the camps establishment became a *fait accompli*, undertake comprehensive security analyses and site planning prior to the establishment of any IDP camp. Camps should not be established in unsafe areas.



3. Ensure that land and property issues of the location where the camp will be established are addressed.
4. A management team that is accountable to the humanitarian principles must be in place and able to provide coherent and timely data and updates on IDPs must be in place.
5. Involve IDPs in decision making process and establish inclusive camp committees with appropriate gender balance and representatives from the vulnerable groups in the camp.
6. Ensure that IDPs have the full freedom to move to, within and out of the camp.
7. Ensure that all humanitarian actors are able to undertake all their humanitarian activities in the camp independently and without any interference.
8. Apply gender balance and vulnerability analysis at all stages of assistance provision.
9. Adhere to IDP Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

Due to the fluidity of the situation, the cluster members acknowledge that exception might occur and each exceptional situation will be discussed and agreed upon accordingly.

ⁱ CCCM ISIMM (IDPs Sites Integrated Monitoring Matrix), July 2015

ⁱⁱ The CCCM defines the informal settlements as a group of tented or other types of housing units established by the IDPs themselves or by non-experienced actors, constructed on land that the occupants have no legal claim to. Informal Camps are also called spontaneous settlements or self-established camps.