

North-west Syria

December 2018

54,900

Households assisted through UNCHR with core relief items and shelter material in 2018

284,520

Beneficiaries reached through UNHCR with core relief items and shelter material in 2018

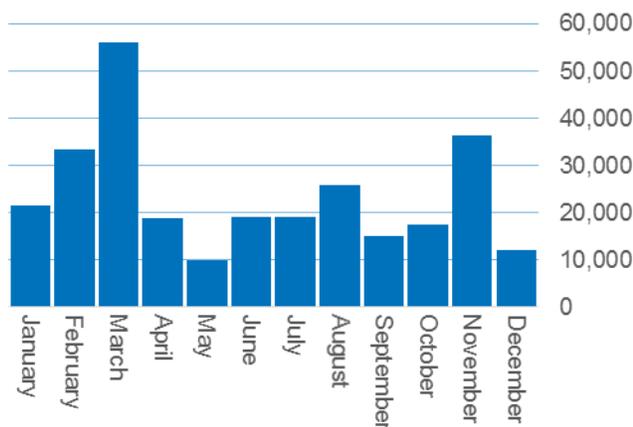
276

Trucks with UNHCR humanitarian supplies sent across the border in 2018

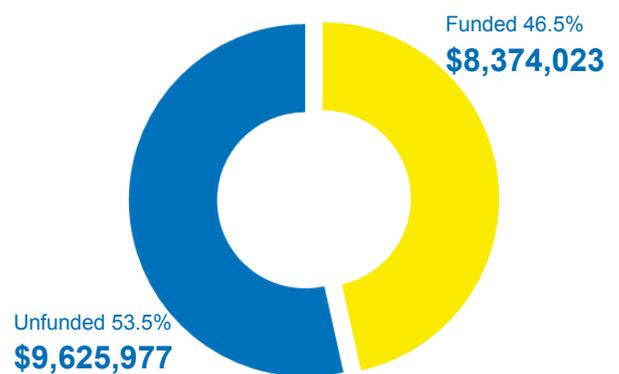
157,520

Beneficiaries reached with protection activities by UNHCR and partners in 2018

of individuals reached per month in 2018 by UNHCR programme partners with core relief items and shelter material



FUNDING AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2018



Main objectives

1. Support the coordination of the cross-border humanitarian response through the Cluster system
2. Identify protection risks and protection 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

In 2018, major developments took place in north-west Syria in regards to inter-factional conflicts and shifting frontlines, military and political control, and local agreements on formerly opposition-held enclaves (e.g. eastern Ghouta, northern Homs). As a result, more than 550,000 people were newly displaced within non-state armed group controlled areas in Idlib, Aleppo, and Hama Governorates.

This has resulted in an unprecedented concentration of people in a very limited space. Over the last nine months, some shelter facilities have been saturated, with an occupancy rate of 120%. This concentration exacerbates tensions and make people live in very dire conditions. An

estimated 3,868,228 people are currently living in north-west Syria including 2,987,916 in non-state armed group controlled areas in Idlib, western Aleppo, northern Hama and eastern Latakia. Among 1,9 million people are IDPs of whom 417,501 are staying in 336 IDP settlements.

Intense hostilities between non-state armed groups affected thousands of people, including IDPs. The situation was further aggravated by heavy rains and floods at the end of December.

A Readiness and Response Plan for north-west Syria is still in play and outline 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 2018, through its own programme, UNHCR has partnerships with seven organizations - IRC, ACTED, WATAN, GHIRAS, SHAFAK, NRC and SPIRIT- 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 plans accordingly.

UNHCR Programme

Over November and December, people were displaced within Idleb to northern parts of the Governorate due to the heavy airstrikes and shelling in Jarjanaz community. In response, UNHCR's partners coordinated with the SNFI and CCCM Clusters to identify the needs of the displaced. In the second half of the month, UNHCR's partners assisted 3,045 people with 609 emergency kits in Idleb and Al Mara district.

At least 23,000 people lost their belongings to the heavy rains and floods that affected IDP sites in northern Syria. Upon the CCCM Cluster's request for urgent support, UNHCR's partner identified the needs of people who had to move from those sites and carried out physical verification of the locations indicated by the CCCM Cluster.

Basic needs

UNHCR and its partners continued to provide basic assistance to IDPs and conflict-affected vulnerable host community members: 12,935 individuals received 2,587 winter kits and 16,512 individuals received 2,752 shelter kits in Idleb and Aleppo Governorates. Two trans-shipments of 2,000 winterized NFI kits and 2,000 shelter kits took place through Reyhanli-Bab Al Hawa border crossing. By the end of year, UNHCR's partners assisted a total of **281,651 people** with basic needs items, such as NFI kits, shelter kits and tents and basic shelter repairs.

Protection interventions

UNHCR's protection partners provided information sessions and legal counselling on housing, land and property (HLP) and Civil Status Documentation (CSD) to 4,621 people and carried out community-based protection interventions for 7,032 people. In 2018, under its cross-border operation from Gaziantep, Turkey, UNHCR and its partners provided protection services to **157,520 people** and produced 14 analyses and briefing/guidance notes on protection to inform the overall cross-border operation.



Distribution of winter NFI kits in north-west Syria © SHAFAK and WATAN



Protection Cluster

The Protection Cluster (co-led by UNHCR and IRC) brings together **56 active members**. The three Sub-Clusters include Child Protection (co-led by UNICEF and World Vision), Gender Based Violence (co-led by UNFPA and Global Communities) and Mine Action (led by UNMAS). It also covers a 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). The Protection Cluster is working to: (1) expand the provision of protection services and protection monitoring inside Syria; (2) ensure a protection lens is applied to overall humanitarian response; (3) mainstream protection into all cross-border humanitarian aid activities; and (4) build the capacity of national actors on protection.

Protection response services

In December, Protection Cluster and Sub-Cluster members provided **226,805 interventions** to IDPs and affected host community members, in **285 communities** in **eight** Governorates (Idleb, Aleppo, Hama, Ar-Raqqa, As-Sweida, Dar'a, Rural Damascus and Al-Hasakeh), reaching 72,664 girls, 68,653 boys, 51,920 women and 33,668 men. The main services protection actors provided are as follows: psychological first aid for 213 girls, 413 boys, 273 women and 44 men; legal awareness raising sessions including HLP, CSD for 926 girls, 599 boys, 3000 women and 2644 men; integrated/comprehensive case management services for 11 girls, 13 women and 16 men; and referrals of 249 girls, 260 boys, 344 women and 56 men to other services.

The **Protection Monitoring Task Force** members conducted 193 interviews (75 female and 118 male) with key informants in 45 communities. Sub-Cluster members also provided a range of child protection and GBV services, as well as risk education to communities in northern Syria.



Shelter/NFI Cluster

The SNFI Cluster is led by UNHCR, coordinating the efforts of 53 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.

In December, **213,495** individuals were assisted (NFI: 180,839; Shelter: 32,656) in three Governorates (14 districts and 42 sub-districts). In 2018, the total number of beneficiaries was **1,592,798** (NFI: 1,106,537; Shelter: 486,261) in ten Governorates. The Cluster has also been working on the winterization planning since July 2018, advocating for more funding and access. So far, the winterization plan has secured funding up to \$25,732,685 and should reach through 38 Cluster members 644,660 individuals within 37 sub-districts (239 communities). By the end of the year, 455,451 individuals were assisted with winterization (70.6% of the target). Winterization activities continue in January 2019.



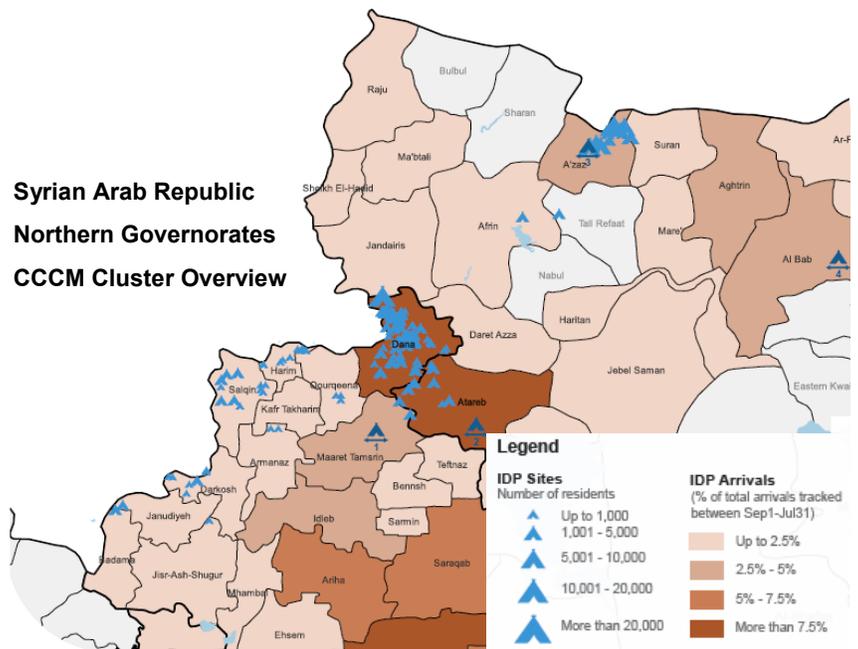
CCCM Cluster

The Cluster coordinates the efforts of **71 active member organizations** providing cross-border assistance in north-west Syria. Activities focus on informing humanitarian partners on the needs in the settlements, tracking IDP movements and coordinating the provision of multi-sectorial assistance in IDP settlements.

The Cluster tracked **17,969 displacements** from Idlib (61%), Aleppo (29%) and Hama (10%) Governorates, marking a decrease from the previous month due to different factors, including a reduction in airstrikes.

Heavy rains and floods caused major damages in several IDP sites in late December: as of early January, this affected 6,079 IDP families and destroyed or damaged 4,983 tents. The Cluster and its member agencies distributed **21,161 different items and services in 128 IDPs sites**.

As of 31 December, 976 IDPs were being hosted in the Azaz Reception Centre (RC), 693 in the Mezanaz RC, and 295 in the Maaret Elekhwan RC. **Available spaces** in settlements and other locations are **extremely limited**. The Cluster, in collaboration with member agencies and the SNFI Cluster, continues to respond to new displacements. Planned and current available spaces for new IDPs are estimated at 33,000.



External and Donor Relations

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

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