

North-west Syria

November 2018

52,480

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

272,880

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

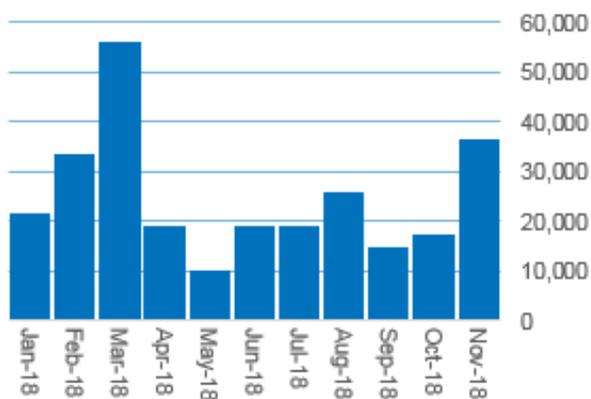
257

Trucks with UNHCR humanitarian supplies sent across the border in 2018

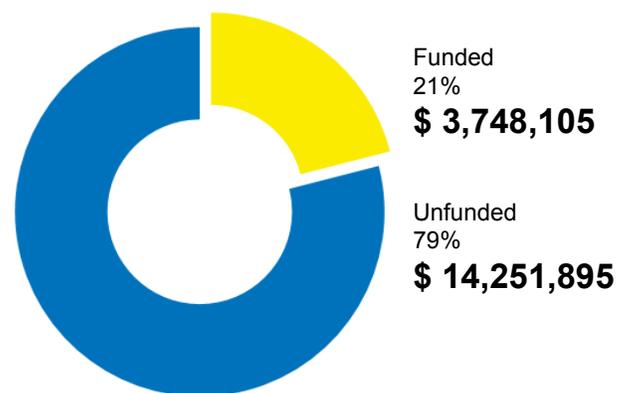
144,680

Beneficiaries reached with protection activities by UNHCR and partners in 2018

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



Funding as at 30 November 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.

On 17 September, Iran, Russia and Turkey agreed to establish a demilitarized zone on the perimeter of Idlib province. The agreement has temporarily halted any major offensive in the area.

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 7 organizations - IRC, ACTED, WATAN, GHIRAS, SHAFK, 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 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

In November, UNHCR and its partners provided basic assistance to IDPs and conflict affected vulnerable host community members in north-west Syria. **22,230 individuals** were assisted with **4,446 winter NFI kits** and **11,574 individuals** with **1,929 shelter kits** in Idlib and Aleppo Governorates. Five trans-shipments of **5,500 winterized NFI kits** and **1,500 shelter kits**, took place through Reyhanli - Bab Al Hawa and Kilis - Bab Al Salam border crossings on 01-06-07-08-13 November, 2018. In total, **36,500 individuals** will be assisted with these kits.

As a result of the recent displacements from southern Idlib to the border areas with Turkey, and as part of the broader Idlib preparedness plan, UNHCR has extended its protection interventions in northern Aleppo. Two of UNHCR's community-based protection partners have started to implement protection outreach activities in Al Bab and A'zaz.

During November, UNHCR partners conducted awareness raising and psychosocial support sessions, identified cases and referred them to the basic services in the area. Additionally, in November 2018, **4,031 individuals** were assisted with information sessions on Housing, Land and Property (HLP) and Civil Status Documentation (CSD) and **625 individuals** with legal counselling on HLP and CSD by UNHCR's protection partners. Also, **6,033 individuals** have been reached by UNHCR and its partners with community-based protection interventions in north-west Syria.



Distribution of winter NFI kits in north-west Syria © SHAFK 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 November 2018, Protection Cluster and Sub-Cluster members provided **272,300 interventions** to IDPs and affected host community members, in **261 communities** in five Governorates: Idlib, Aleppo, Hama, Deir-ez-Zor and Al-Hasakeh, reaching 105,924 girls, 89,756 boys, 51,168 women, and 25,401 men. The main services protection actors provided are as follows: psychological first aid for 9,136 girls, 6,185 boys, 1,336 women, and 520 men; legal awareness raising sessions including HLP, CSD for 493 girls, 240 boys, 3474 women, and 3173 men; Integrated/comprehensive case management services for 8 girls, 6 boys, 24 women, and 30 men; and referrals of 422 girls, 370 boys, 442 women, 158 men to other services.

The **Protection Monitoring Task Force** members conducted 164 interviews with key informants in 47 communities. Sub-Cluster members also provided a range of child protection and GBV services, as well as risk education to communities in northern Syria.

Finally, in November, the Syria Protection Cluster (Turkey) conducted a **training session** called, “Centrality of Protection in Humanitarian Action” aiming to introduce basic protection concepts and principles relevant to the humanitarian response in Syria; explain the role of non-protection actors in protection mainstreaming; and review the mandate and function of the Syria Protection Cluster. 17 participants from 16 organizations attended this session.



Shelter/NFI Cluster

The Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster in southern Turkey is led by UNHCR, coordinating the efforts of **59 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.

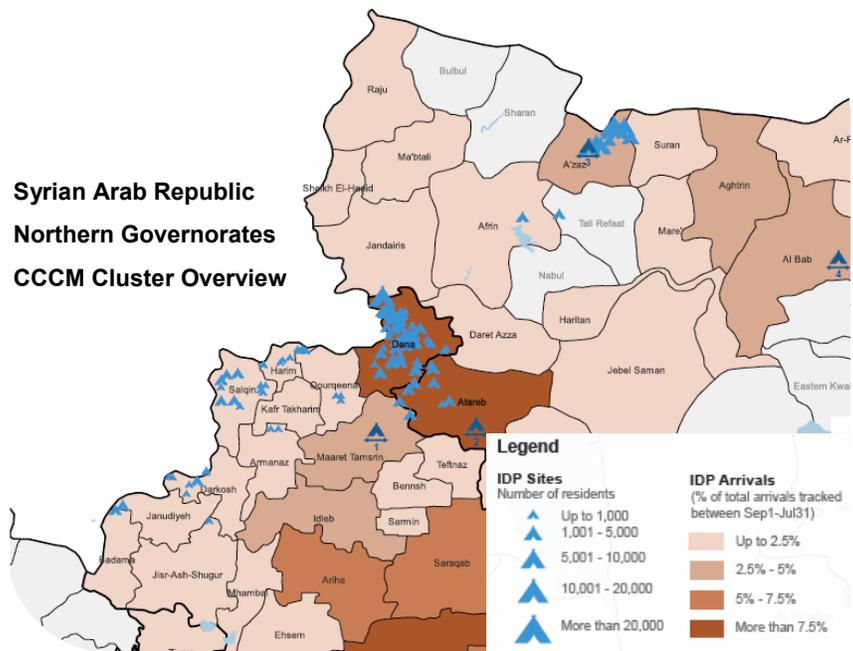
In November 2018, **102,077 individuals** were assisted (NFI: 77,741; Shelter: 24,336) in three Governorates (14 districts and 44 sub-districts), bringing the 2018 total of beneficiaries to **1,379,303** (NFI: 925,698; Shelter: 453,605) in ten Governorates. The SNFI cluster has also been working on the winterization planning since July 2018 advocating for more funding and access. So far, the winterization plan has secured funding up to 25,732,685 USD and should reach through 38 cluster members 634,814 individuals within 35 sub-districts (235 communities).



CCCM Cluster

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

In November, the CCCM Cluster tracked **5,177 displacements** in north-west Syria. Movements decreased by 60% from the previous month, due to a reduction in the number of airstrikes and violent conflict. Displacements were from Idlib (52%) and Aleppo (48%) Governorates.



As at 30 November 2018, a total of 500 **IDPs** were being hosted in the Azaz Reception Centre (RC), 633 in the Mezanaz RC, and 333 in the Maaret Elekhwan RC. **Available spaces** in settlements and other locations are **extremely limited**. The Cluster, in collaboration with member agencies and the Shelter/NFI Cluster, continues to respond to new displacements. Planned and current available spaces for new IDPs are estimated at 29,000.

External and Donor Relations

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

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