

# Flash Update on the Response to Floods in North-West Syria

3 February 2021

This update provides a summary of the response to the recent floods in north-west Syria by the UNHCR co-led Clusters of Protection, Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and Shelter/Non-Food Items (SNFI).

## HIGHLIGHTS



Almost 123,000 IDPs across 310 IDP sites in north-west Syria were reportedly affected by recent floods. Over 22,000 tents were either destroyed or damaged. The flooding has resulted in one death and three injuries.



The UNHCR co-led Protection, CCCM, and Shelter/NFI Clusters are coordinating the response to the urgent needs of the affected population. As floods are a regular occurrence in this season, the Clusters had developed contingency plans that enabled them to effectively respond. The response is ongoing, and the Clusters continue to monitor the development of the crisis, adjusting their plans accordingly.



The Shelter/NFI cluster has already distributed close to 2,000 NFI kits and another 6,000 kits will be distributed in the coming days.



*Almost 123,000 IDPs in Idlib, north-west Syria, were affected by flooding in January 2021.  
Photo by UNHCR/Bakr Alkasem*

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

There are some 2.7 million internally displaced people (IDPs) living in north-west Syria, with some 1.6 million people living in 1,302 IDP sites. Between 14 and 31 January 2021, 122,953 IDPs across 310 IDP sites in north-west Syria were affected by torrential rain and strong winds, according to information verified by the CCCM Cluster. So far, the flooding has resulted in one death and three injuries, and in the destruction or damage of close to 22,000 tents. The majority of the devastated shelters are in informal sites where IDPs spontaneously settled. These sites are more prone to floods and the drainage of water remains challenging. Most of the affected IDPs have chosen to stay close to their relatives and friends residing in the same IDP sites, while a few families who did not have this option are being relocated temporarily or accommodated in reception centres.

The harsh weather conditions have exacerbated the already dire needs of the IDP population, including food, shelter and non-food items (NFIs). As floods are a regular occurrence in this season, all UNHCR co-led clusters – Protection, CCCM and SNFI – developed emergency response plans to minimize the impact, and all three clusters are currently coordinating to quickly respond to the urgent needs of the population affected by the flooding. Meanwhile, as part of its regular 2020-2021 winterization programme, UNHCR has trans-shipped all the planned 10,000 winter core relief item (CRI) kits, most of which have already been distributed to almost all the targeted 10,000 IDP families in north-west Syria.

## UNHCR CO-LED CLUSTER UPDATES

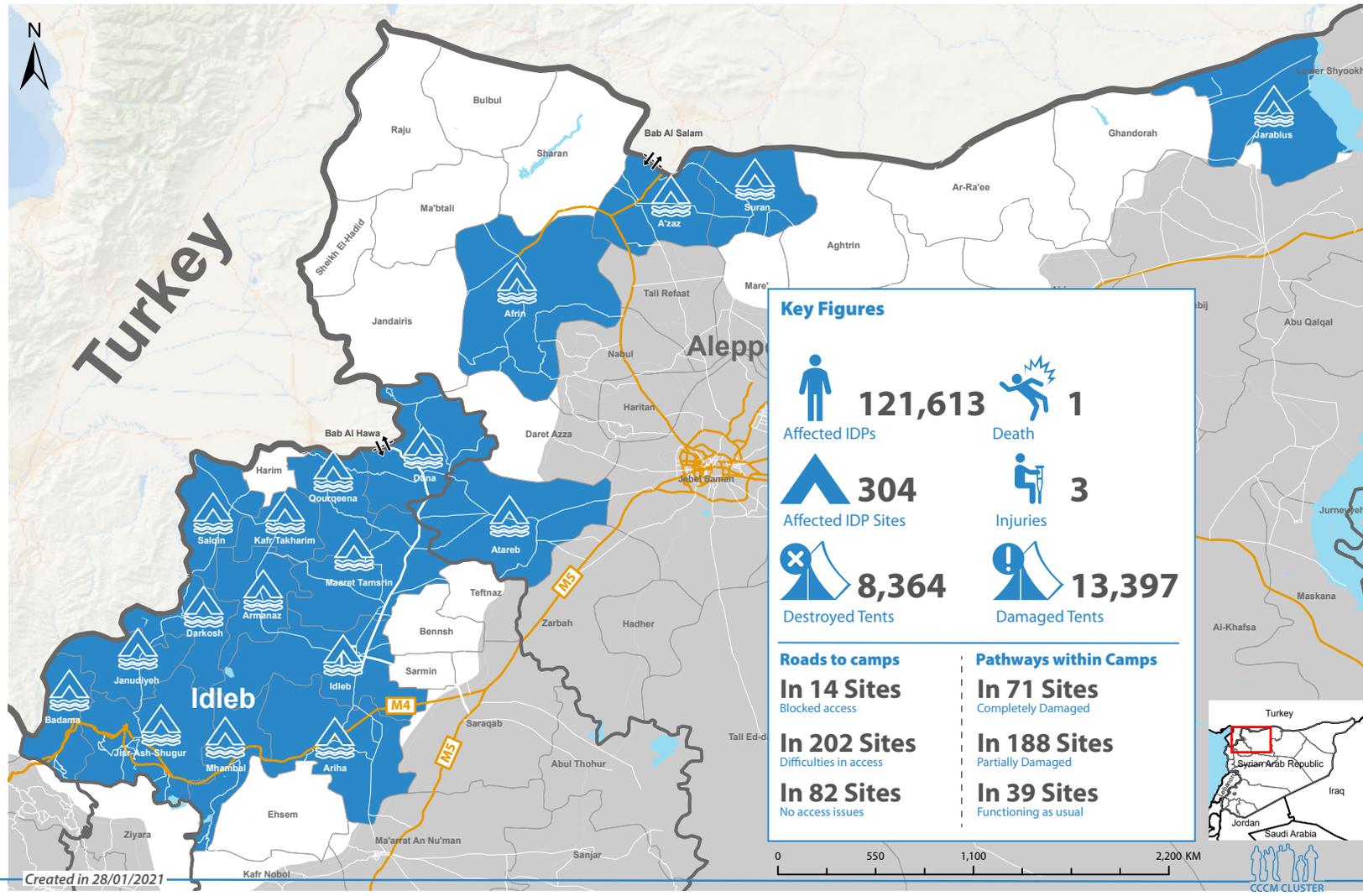
**CCCM:** The CCCM Cluster is assessing the situation based on information that is received from partners in the various IDP sites. The Cluster is compiling and cross-checking reports of incidents, gathering accurate and reliable information on affected sites, damages and most urgent needs, and coordinating the initial response. To ensure consistency in reporting and that information is verifiable, the Cluster encourages organizations to report on incidents in its [Incident Reporting Tool](#), which is also used by other clusters as a basis for their sectoral response.

**Protection:** The Protection Cluster is coordinating with members to assist with the relocation of those families who have expressed their willingness to be moved to reception centres. A Cluster member has been conducting a verification and registration exercise to identify those households, but no estimate is available yet. As of 2 February 2021, no major protection impact on families as a consequence of the flooding, such as family separation, has been reported. The Protection Cluster continues to monitor for potential protection issues derived from an extended stay of impacted households at relatives' and friends' if weather conditions do not improve. The Cluster has alerted its members on the provision of individual protection assistance (IPA) to affected families if needed in the context of weather-prone emergencies.

**SNFI:** Cluster members are actively responding to the needs of the population that has been affected by the floods. So far, close to 2,000 NFI kits have been distributed across many IDP sites and another 6,000 will be distributed in the coming days. Some partners have already distributed multi-purpose cash, ready-to-eat meals and new arrivals kits. With regard to tents, some Cluster members have stock availability, and distributions will start as soon as the weather improves, and the sites are dry. Improving infrastructure in camps and IDP sites is essential to avoiding future flooding that happens regularly especially during winter.

# Floods Affecting NW Syria - Update5

14 - 27 January 2021



Source: CCCM Cluster

This map does not include IDPs affected by the floods after 27 January 2021.