

Northwest Syria

September 2018

41,980

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

218,880

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

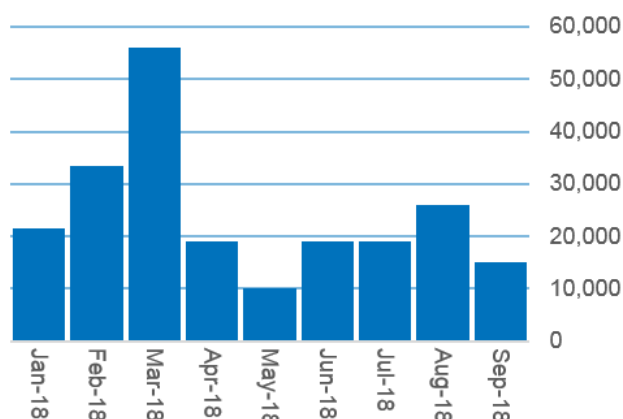
199

Trucks with UNHCR humanitarian supplies sent across the border in 2018

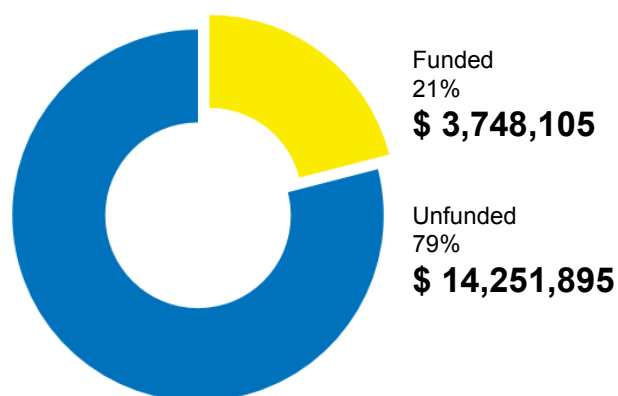
117,119

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 September 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 northwest 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 Idleb, 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 northwest Syria including 2,987,916 in non-state armed group controlled areas in Idleb, 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 Idleb province. The agreement has temporarily halted any major offensive in the area.

A Readiness and Response Plan for northwest 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 northwest Syria and contribute to emergency preparedness plans accordingly.

UNHCR Programme

In September 2018, UNHCR transhipped **2,500 shelter kits** on 4 and 6 September in response to new internal displacements in northwest Syria. **8,695 people** were assisted with **1,739 NFI kits** and **12,354 people** were assisted with **2,059 shelter kits** in Aleppo and Idlib governorates.

Moreover, UNHCR has been updating its preparedness in line with the Readiness and Response Plan for northwest Syria to be able to provide assistance and protection to newly displaced people. UNHCR is working to ensure geographic coverage and attention to Duty of Care.

As of September 2018, **13,785 individuals** were assisted with information sessions on housing, land and property (HLP) and civil status documentation. Over **1,088 individuals** received legal counselling on HLP and civil status documentation, while over **5,502 individuals** were reached by UNHCR and partners with community-based protection interventions including awareness sessions on legal assistance, psychosocial support and vocational training activities. Particularly vulnerable IDPs were identified and assisted.



Transshipment of shelter kits © Alexis De Herde/UNHCR



Protection Cluster

The Protection Cluster (co-led by UNHCR and IRC) brings together **55 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.

Emergency response

In September, Protection Cluster members provided emergency response services for civilians that were recently displaced due to an uptake in hostilities in northern Syria. Ten Cluster members provided **18,770 interventions to IDPs** and affected host community members, in **58 communities** within 22 sub-districts in Idlib and Aleppo, reaching **12,222 individuals** (3,583 girls, 3,075 boys, 3,943 women, and 1,621 men). The main services protection actors provided during September are as follows: psychological first aid for 465 girls, 420 boys, 728 women, and 343 men; psychosocial support for 2,720 girls, 2,415 boys, 1,369 women, and 788 men; dignity kit distribution for 170 girls and 1,371 women; and risk education for 886 girls, 751 boys, 725 women, and 542 men.

Child protection and GBV case management

Protection Cluster members also identified child protection and GBV cases and referred and assisted to specialized services, legal assistance, and family tracing. The Cluster's emergency response mechanism relies on district-level focal points to support with field coordination and response through provision of key protection services, identification of gaps, and information sharing with the Cluster.



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 September 2018, **49,235 individuals** were assisted (NFI: 33,021; Shelter: 16,223) in two governorates (6 districts and 13 sub-districts), bringing the 2018 total of beneficiaries to **1,223,809** (NFI: 812,917; Shelter: 410,892) 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 25,732,000 USD and should reach through 38 cluster members 606,000 individuals within 37 sub-districts (166 communities).



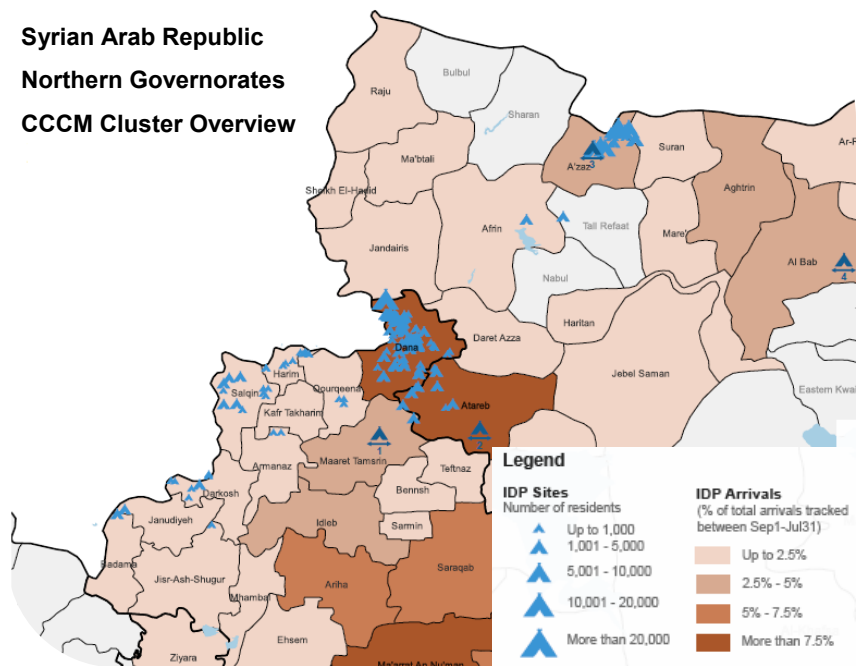
CCCM Cluster

The CCCM Cluster coordinates the efforts of **71 active member organizations** providing cross-border assistance in northwest 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 northwest Syria.

In September 2018, the CCCM Cluster tracked **44,272 displacements** in northwest Syria. Of those, 33,592 displacements were to Idleb and 10,680 were to Aleppo governorates.

As at 30 September 2018, a total of 787 IDPs were being hosted in the Azaz Reception Centre (RC), 573 in the Mezanaz RC, and 404 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.

Syrian Arab Republic Northern Governorates CCCM Cluster Overview



External and Donor Relations

Thanks to UNHCR's donors for supporting the humanitarian response in northwest Syria:

European Union | Japan | United States



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