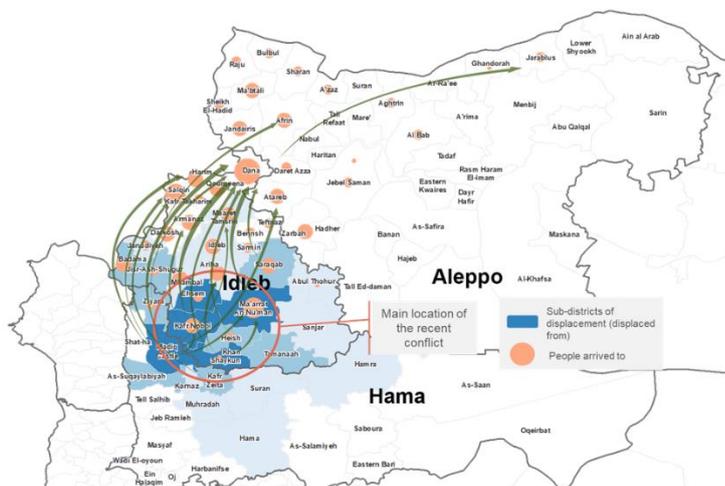


### HIGHLIGHTS

- Ongoing conflict in northwest Syria continues to impact civilians, civilian infrastructure, and humanitarian service provision in the de-escalation zone of northern Hama, southern Idlib governorates, and the countryside of Aleppo.
- More than 200,000 people were displaced between 1 and 16 May, while 20 health facilities, three IDP settlements, and one refugee camp were reportedly affected by hostilities. This number is in addition to those people displaced prior to that date. There are unconfirmed local reports that up to 25 schools have been affected since the beginning of May.
- The humanitarian response is ongoing with tens of thousands of people being provided food, protection, nutrition, health, shelter, education and WASH services, while critical gaps remain across sectors.



Source: CCCM Cluster  
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

<p><b>200,000</b></p> <p>Individuals recently displaced</p>	<p><b>70,000</b></p> <p>School-aged children are in need of education support</p>	<p><b>33,575</b></p> <p>individuals already assisted with NFI</p> <p><b>84,524</b></p> <p>individuals to be assisted in the coming weeks</p>	<p><b>3,485</b></p> <p>Children under five and pregnant and lactating women reached with preventative nutrition intervention</p>	<p><b>8,155</b></p> <p>Individuals reached with protection services from 14 to 20 May</p>	<p><b>137,216</b></p> <p>people reached with WASH assistance</p>
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### SITUATION OVERVIEW

Ongoing violence and hostilities continue to exact a heavy toll on civilians and civilian infrastructure in northwestern Syria. In the space of a little more than two weeks, more than 200,000 people are reported to have fled the conflict to seek safety. From 1 to 16 May, the majority of the newly displaced (173,000 people) fled to northern and eastern Idlib Governorate, while some 28,000 people fled to northern and western Aleppo Governorate. An estimated 90,000 individuals are currently in camps or reception centers, while about 110,000 people are living outside camps. This brings the total number of displacements from northern Hama and southern Idlib to 239,647 individuals between 1 April and 16 May.

Many of the people fleeing are moving to areas that are already densely populated, such as Dana sub-district in Idlib Governorate, which received more than half of the newly displaced individuals. A large influx of people moved into areas with high numbers of existing IDPs, creating a risk of overwhelming already overstretched services. While several communities are reportedly abandoned, some residents have stayed behind in areas affected by the conflict. According to a recently conducted REACH rapid needs assessment, safety and security concerns severely restricted freedom of movement while damage to civilian infrastructure prevented access to essential services. This exacerbates the vulnerability of communities, making the provision of humanitarian assistance in these areas even more critical.

On May 22, the Government of Syria and the Russian Federation announced the opening of two corridors for civilians to exit the demilitarization zone in Idlib: One in Souran in Hama Governorate and another in Abul Al-Thohur in Idlib Governorate. The UN has not been party to any specific discussions on such efforts and reiterates that any such movement of civilians must comply with international humanitarian law and human rights standards, including people's right to choose whether to stay or leave, and the destinations involved. The UN continues to remind all parties to the fighting of their obligations under international humanitarian law to ensure safe, unimpeded and sustained humanitarian access and to ensure the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure. Local sources have not yet confirmed the opening of the crossings.

The latest violence compounds an already fragile humanitarian situation. In the de-escalation area of Idlib and neighboring areas alone, there are some 3 million people, including 1.3 million internally displaced, many of whom have already been displaced multiple times. As a result, their ability to cope is significantly compromised.

The potential longer-term impact on the civilian population may be compounded as the violence is occurring during the harvest season. Several fires, triggered by airstrikes and shelling, destroyed staple crops like wheat and barley in northern Hama and southern Idlib. As the hot summer weather sets in, more fires can occur, further disrupting normal food production cycles and potentially reducing food security for months to come.

### **Impact on civilians, civilian infrastructure and humanitarian activities**

As the fighting between the Government of Syria (GoS) and allied forces and non-state armed groups (NSAGs) continues, the impact of the violence on civilians continues to worsen. While information is difficult to verify, unconfirmed reports indicate that at least some 200 civilians, including reports of 20 women and 20 children, have been killed, while many others have been injured. Some estimates are significantly higher than these.

The impact of the violence on civilian infrastructure and the provision of basic services is deeply worrying. Since 28 April, reports indicate that a total of 20 health facilities have been impacted by the conflict, two of which were affected more than once. Of those health facilities impacted, ten are in Hama Governorate, nine in Idlib and one in Aleppo Governorate, as well as one ambulance.

Many schools have been reportedly affected due to hostilities. Local sources report that up to 25 schools have been damaged due to hostilities in northern Hama and southern Idlib governorates. As of 23 May, 70,000 school-aged children are in immediate need of education services. The capacity of education services in camps and in receiving communities will be stretched due to the increased number of children in need of support. The exams of at least 400,000 students were postponed due to the impact of the violence.

Four Protection Cluster members reported direct impact and damage or destruction to their facilities from airstrikes and shelling in Madiq Castle, Ehsem, Heish and Kafr Nobol subdistricts.

Many humanitarian responders who provide food, nutrition, education, health, and humanitarian protection services to people have been forced to suspend their activities in the conflict area, which damages the civilian population's ability to cope at a time when needs are increasing. Some organizations suspended activities as their premises were damaged, destroyed or rendered unsafe by the violence. Others have suspended activities to keep their staff and beneficiaries safe, or because the beneficiary population, as well as service providers are displaced.

## **FUNDING**

The monitoring of the current response is ongoing and will continue as the situation unfolds. Some priority elements to address gaps in the response have been shared with the Turkey Humanitarian Fund for Syria Response. The Syria Humanitarian Fund is also setting aside \$US 5 million to respond to a potential emergency response. Donors are working with members to enable flexibility within existing programmes to ensure that additional caseloads of people are supported. Additional funding will be required to support the response, especially if the duration of the impact of the violence prolongs.

All humanitarian members, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: [fts@un.org](mailto:fts@un.org)

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The humanitarian community is implementing a readiness plan that was prepared in case of a large-scale escalation of conflict in northwest Syria. Humanitarian organisations are responding to the needs of the population through their existing interventions while identifying additional needs. For the affected communities in southern Idleb and northern Hama, healthcare, non-food items, and water, sanitation and hygiene are the top three most reported needs according to the REACH rapid needs assessment.

Humanitarian response efforts continue to be challenging to undertake due to the insecurity and the large-scale displacement that took place within the space of three weeks. The ability of humanitarian organizations to respond has been compromised by the violence, as staff are displaced themselves and infrastructure to deliver services has been damaged or destroyed. Donors have been requested to allow for flexibility in terms of reprogramming existing funding, allowing their humanitarian partners to respond more effectively. Such reprogramming to support newly arriving people is ongoing. Reprogramming of existing activities has risk and may result in gaps in existing programmes that will need to be funded urgently so as not to negatively impact on other vulnerable populations.



### Education

#### Needs:

- Of the 200,000 newly displaced individuals, the Education Cluster estimates that 70,000 are school-aged children in immediate need of education services. These include access to final exams, and non-formal education such as remedial education, catch-up classes, self-learning programs, recreational activities, and provision of learning supplies.
- Overstretched classroom capacity is expected in camp schooling in Dana to accommodate newly arrived crisis-affected children in the area.
- Approximately 250,000 school-aged children are affected by ongoing hostilities in Idleb.

**70,000**

School-aged children in immediate need of education services

#### Response:

- Education Cluster members supported the education of 11,224 children (6,301 females) in camps and host communities with the provision of non-formal education such as self-learning programs, catch-up classes and remedial education in Darkosh, Kafr Nobol, Maaret Tamsrin, Idleb, Dana sub-districts.
- Education Cluster members continue to carry out outreach and awareness-raising activities in Dana and other locations to enroll affected children in non-formal education in their learning centres.
- The Education Cluster is monitoring the situation on the ground continuously through its online reporting mechanism.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- **Schools used as shelter:** A total of 92 schools have been used as shelters by IDPs due to ongoing hostilities in Idleb.
- **Attacks on education facilities** continue in northwest Syria, resulting in loss of life and the destruction of learning facilities. The Education Cluster was informed that up to 25 schools may have been damaged or affected as a result of airstrikes and shelling in southern Idleb and northern Hama since the beginning of May. The Education Directorate suspended all learning activities in Ma'arrat An Nu'man.
- **Suspension of learning:** Eight members of the Education Cluster continue to suspend their education interventions due to safety and security, affecting approximately 5,521 children and 204 teachers in the sub-districts of Ma'arrat An Nu'man, Ehsem, Ariha, Saraqab of Idleb and Madiq Castle of Hama.
- **Cancellation of exams:** A total of 400,000 students from grade 1-12 were impacted who were registered to sit for final exams between the end of April and June in Idleb.



### Food Security

#### Needs:

- Approximately 200,000 newly displaced people from 1 to 16 May are estimated to require food assistance.

#### Response:

- Food security members continue to step up their response to meet emergency food needs of people affected by the crisis.

- First line response is provided through distribution of ready-to-eat rations (RTEs), dry rations of mainly canned food, sufficient for five days for a family of five, provision of cooked meals and distribution of emergency multi-purpose cash grants (MPCG) of 120 – 130 USD per household, including coverage of food needs.
- Food Security cluster members continue to assist displaced people. Since the beginning of May, more than 34,000 RTEs serving approximately 173,000 newly displaced people have been distributed. About 23,000 RTEs have been distributed in Dana sub-district, which has received 116,094 individuals according to CCCM figures. WFP has over 21,600 RTEs inside Syria and nearly 21,000 prepositioned in Turkey.
- In May, NGOs members (non-WFP) have assisted 7,619 households (HHs) through RTEs, 6,890 HHs through cooked meals, 10,640 through emergency food baskets, and 1,482 HHs through MPCGs.
- Emergency food assistance has been distributed in 35 sub-districts (20 in Idlib, 14 in Aleppo and 1 in Hama) and 173 communities (111 in Idlib, 61 in Aleppo and 1 in Hama).
- In terms of cumulative beneficiary reach of emergency food assistance to date, the top four main sub-districts are Dana (130,764 individuals), Ariha (88,695), Maaret Tamsrin (43,346) and Ma'arrat an Nu'man (41,346), and four top communities are Atma (61,186), Ariha (42,377), Qah (25,199) and Sarmada (15,760). As per reporting, 52% of beneficiaries are in camps and IDP sites, and 48% outside of camps.
- NGOs have increased the distribution of cooked meals reaching families in communities and spontaneous settlements, linked with the month of Ramadan. Over 12,000 families will reportedly be reached with cooked meals during May.
- Last week, an increasing number of families moved to Afrin district. Two members with ongoing THF-funded food rations distribution projects will assist 1,500 displaced people in Afrin district. Cluster members distributed 617 RTEs to 3,634 beneficiaries in May.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- The main concern expressed by members is related to their capacity to maintain response, if needs increase or remain at this level for several months, and capacity to integrate recently displaced people into targeted regular assistance.
- The trend of movement of displaced families to Afrin district and other NSAG-controlled parts of northern Aleppo area is assumed to continue in the coming weeks and additional capacity to respond to increased food needs is required.
- Several members reported the need of bread distribution for newly displaced households.
- On May 19, local media sources reported fires in agricultural fields across the de-escalation zone. The fires reportedly ignited in Tramla, Kafr Nobol subdistrict, Nqeir, Wadi El-Oyoun subdistrict, Zakat, Kafr Zeita subdistrict, Sehriyeh, Madiq Castle subdistrict, and Sarmaniya, Ziyara subdistrict due to shelling and airstrikes, burning wheat, cumin and barley crops. This is likely to further deteriorate the humanitarian situation in opposition-held areas and impact livelihoods in one of Syria's primary agricultural regions. Similar fires, both intentional and as a consequence of ongoing bombardment, may be expected as military operations continue and the drier hotter summer weather sets in. The impact on the crop availability needs to be assessed further.
- As displaced families have moved with their livestock, livestock support activities – such as animal feed and fodder distribution and vaccination and treatment- are increasingly required in areas of displacement.
- Based on the findings from the REACH rapid needs assessment in northern Hama and southern Idlib from 9 to 12 May, food security in the assessed communities is heavily impacted by conflict. The report stated that security issues reportedly restricted travel to markets in 41% of assessed communities in the week prior to the assessment. In an assessed area where key informants (KIs) in 89% of assessed communities reported that households travel outside the community to access markets, security-related travel risks leave residents and IDPs with limited options for purchasing food. Underscoring the challenges to accessing food in this area, KIs in 78% of assessed communities reported the use of coping strategies for lack of food, such as reducing meal size. Problems accessing markets and obtaining sufficient food were closely linked to reported conflict incidents. 60% of respondents reported lack of transportation and 47% far distance from markets. Meat (41%), chicken (31%) and fresh vegetables (24%) are the most reported food needs.
- The assessment findings noted that in terms of livelihoods, while daily waged labour was the most common source of livelihood for IDPs and residents, a higher proportion of IDPs relied on food aid to meet their needs. As access to the area becomes more difficult and fewer groups provide assistance, this will likely lead to an increase in vulnerability for IDPs.
- A rapid needs assessment conducted by a partner confirmed that IDPs are moving with their livestock, with estimates of over 100,000 livestock having moved to northern Idlib. The mixing of livestock from different communities increases the risk of infection transmission and disease outbreaks.
- IDPs report that most IDPs had to slaughter and eat their chickens because they have no means of feeding them. For the same reason a small number of IDPs sold all their chickens. Apparently, there are almost no chickens in the IDP camps.

**Needs:**

- Health needs and access to healthcare continues to be an essential need for the newly displaced individuals and for host communities. As identified by the REACH assessment, healthcare is reported to be among the top three priority needs by the communities in southern Idleb and northern Hama.
- Increased number of mobile clinic services to reach displaced population are needed.

**Response:**

- Health Cluster members continue to respond to address the needs of the recently displaced individuals and host communities. A WHO cross-border medicine and medical supply transfer took place last week through Bab el Salam and a second transfer of four truckloads of medicine and medical supplies to Idleb took place on 21 May.
- These supplies support 158 health facilities (124 primary health centres (PHC), 34 secondary health centres (SHC)). A total of 13 out of 22 in Harim, Dana (8 PHC, 5 SHC) and 2 out of 22 PHC facilities in Harim, Salqin, which are locations receiving displaced populations. A part of the supplies will also replenish the emergency stocks, provided in March.
- In total 322,430 treatment courses of essential medicines and supplies have been provided to be made available when needed by cluster members. This comprises among others: 97,500 treatment courses of essential medicines, 7 trauma kits corresponding to the needs of 700 trauma patients, six surgical supply kits covering the needs of 600 surgical patients and enough insulin to treat 33,260 insulin dependent diabetic patients for one month.
- The WHO supply line is a supply line of last resort intended to cover the most urgent gaps. It is estimated that this supply line addresses about 15 – 20% of the total needs in medicine and supply.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Given the evolving situation on the ground, the current needs as well as gaps are being assessed.
- Increased interaction of the ambulance networks between governorates and NGO-supported mechanism is a gap.

**Needs:**

- Screening of children under the age of five years, and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) for acute malnutrition and the treatment of acute malnutrition.
- Prevention of acute malnutrition among children under the age of five years through promotion of optimal infant feeding and caring practices.

**Response:**

- Five Nutrition Cluster members deployed 30 rapid response teams (RRTs) to provide curative and preventive nutrition activities to the newly displaced individuals in six sub-districts. The RRTs responded through mobile clinics deployed to Dana, Maar Tamsrin, Kafr Naha, Albara and Kafr Takharim to provide mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screening for children under five and pregnant and lactating women (PLW), to distribute supplies and to communicate infant young child feeding counselling messages.
- A total of 516 girls and boys aged six to 59 months and 150 PLW were screened for acute malnutrition using MUAC. Two children with severe acute malnutrition as well as five children and 19 PLWs with moderate acute malnutrition were identified and referred to a health facility for treatment.
- The RRTs reached a total of 3,485 children under five and PLWs with preventive nutrition intervention. A total of 245 children under the age of five years and PLWs received high energy biscuits, 2,627 children aged six to 24 months received Plumpy Doz, used to treat malnutrition, and 613 children under the age of five years and PLWs received micro-nutrient supplementation.
- 410 pregnant and lactating mothers received education on optimal infant feeding and caring practices.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Any security deterioration might limit the access of beneficiaries to life-saving nutrition services.
- Funding and resources available for scaling up life-saving nutrition interventions remains limited.

**3,485**

Children under five and pregnant and lactating women reached with preventative nutrition intervention

- Two Nutrition Cluster members reported suspension of services in three locations in Idleb Governorate.



## Protection

### Needs:

- The continued shelling and airstrikes in northwest Syria, particularly in civilian-populated areas, puts the lives of women, men, girls and boys at risk every day and has significantly impacted their psychosocial well-being with reportedly high levels of trauma. The past week saw a slight reduction of hostilities due to a ceasefire, which reportedly allowed some displaced families to temporarily return to their communities to collect belongings, attacks continued, with civilian casualties reported.
- Multiple displacements and the lack of access to basic services further exacerbate individuals' and communities' needs, increasing risks for death, injuries, disabilities, gender-based violence (GBV) and trauma, particularly among children. Additional displacements further strain already-stretched coping mechanisms of individuals and families, leading to desperate and risky decision-making that further exacerbate protection threats, such as exploitation, child labour, early marriage and children associating with armed groups. Cluster members reported that due to overcrowding and lack of appropriate shelter options, some recently displaced households reported that they planned to move to unsafe areas from which they fled, exposing civilians to major protection risks.
- Caregivers are barely able to care for their children, demonstrating extreme levels of distress, leading to physical abuse of their children and, in extreme cases, abandonment of their children. A significant number of unaccompanied and separated children have been identified, including one case of child abandonment. Unaccompanied and separated children need safe interim care, but such services remain extremely limited except for ad-hoc, unsustainable arrangements.
- Approximately 50,000 women and girls of reproductive age need dignity kits, of which the existing stock can only serve an estimated 17,000, leaving an approximate 33,000 displaced women and girls with no access to dignity kits. The dignity kits provide essential life-saving items for women and girls of reproductive age, such as menstrual pad sets, female underwear, cover and flash lights. Funds are needed to immediately cover this gap.

**8,155**

Individuals reached  
with protection  
services from 14 to 20  
May

### Response:

- From 14 through 20 May 2019, 15 Protection Cluster members provided emergency response services for civilians recently displaced due to the ongoing hostilities. Cluster members provided 17,263 protection services to IDPs and affected host community members (of which 5,625 targeted children) in 61 communities within 20 sub-districts in Idleb and Aleppo reaching 8,155 individuals (1,357 girls, 1,277 boys, 3,698 women, and 1,823 men). The main services protection actors provided are as follows:
  - Psychological first aid (PFA);
  - Psychosocial support (PSS);
  - Dignity kits distribution;
  - Explosive hazard risk education;
  - Family tracing and reunification.
- In addition, Cluster members are referring individuals to other services including health and specialized protection services. Cluster members are also initiating rapid needs assessments.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- Between 15-21 May, two Cluster members reported an additional two protection static service points closed with services suspended and additional mobile teams relocated due to conflict activity in Jisr-ash-Shugur, Badama and Kafr Nobol sub-districts. One of the centers which previously provided life-saving health and GBV services was destroyed by aerial bombardment/shelling.
- In total, since 29 April, 13 Protection Cluster and Sub-Cluster members reported the suspension/closure of programming due to the increase in conflict activity in southern Idleb, Aleppo and Hama. In total, 15 static service points, which include community centers, women and girls' safe spaces, child-friendly spaces and health facilities, are currently non-operational, with four members in Madiq Castle, Ehsem, Heish and Kafr Nobol sub-districts reporting direct impact, damage or destruction to their facilities from airstrikes and shelling.
- As highlighted by the Cluster in the northwest preparedness plan, the Cluster expects additional disruption to protection service delivery if the hostilities continue. Even with existing emergency response capacity and resources, the tempo of the conflict and the patterns of displacement may render response across sectors limited and insufficient.
- Recent intensification of violence and hostilities adds yet another layer of explosive contamination. Lack of access for survey and clearance puts the lives of the displaced population at risk. Further, it is estimated that the number

of survivors of explosive hazards incidents due to the escalation has increased and the ability to provide immediate response services is limited.

- Lack of multi-sectoral response hinders the delivery of protection services. Protection actors report challenges in the provision of PFA, PSS and referrals when these services are not accompanied with other basic services to meet IDPs' needs.



## Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI)

### Needs:

- Dana is by far the sub-district with the largest number of new IDPs. However, the people displacing have spread to more than 24 sub-districts since 29 April. Cluster members reported that the majority of the families are not moving with all their possessions, despite pictures on social media, and the NFI needs remain high.

### Response:

- 16 SNFI Cluster members have reported SNFI activities since 29 April. 13 members have requested NFIs from the contingency stock and are responding to the needs.
- Members have already assisted 33,575 individuals with NFI kits and plan to reach 84,524 additional people in need in the coming weeks (total NFI response 118,099 individuals). 24 sub-districts have been targeted, including Dana where members have planned to assist around 40% of IDPs so far. Members are still assessing the needs and requesting more NFIs to increase the response. Based on the cluster's request, all members are re-assessing the needs prior to distributions as many IDPs are still moving from one place to another.
- Since the beginning of May, 6,239 NFI kits and 3,183 tents have been released from the contingency stock in coordination with the SNFI and the CCCM clusters. Both clusters are able to support the cluster members with additional 17,091 NFI kits (including 8,000 in the pipeline) and 3,750 tents. Discussion to allocate funds for additional 5,000 tents are ongoing. The contingency stock is available to strengthen the cluster members' response. The SNFI cluster coordinators have requested the cluster members to provide information about their current stock. An update about the total NFI and shelter stock will be shared beginning of next week.

**33,575**

individuals already assisted with NFIs

**84,524**

individuals to be assisted in the coming weeks

### Gaps & Constraints:

- Many rapid needs assessments were shared with the cluster to inform decision on the contingency stock of tents, NFIs and response overall. The SNFI cluster is working on harmonized tools to respond more quickly and to analyze data collected by all members.
- Sufficient and available physical space to legally provide people living space remains a gap.



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

### Needs:

- WASH needs have increased substantially as more and more people are displaced. Approximately 200,000 people arrived at various IDP sites – formal and informal - which has increased pressure on the existing water supply, community latrines and solid waste management needs.
- There is a need to support displaced families with hygiene kits, jerry cans and water purifying tablets to ensure their basic hygiene practices are maintained, especially in the subdistricts of Dana, Atma, and Qah in northern Idlib Governorate, which are receiving high numbers of displaced people.

### Response:

- At least 11 WASH Cluster members reached out to 137,216 displaced people in 342 camps and informal settlements with various WASH assistance that includes water trucking, solid waste management, and maintenance and desludging of community latrines. Over 60,000 newly displaced individuals received hygiene kits. UNICEF, through its partners, is reaching about 38,000 people in 38 informal camps/settlements with water trucking and solid waste management and about 4,000 people with hygiene kits in 16 informal camps/settlements in Atareb, Daret Ezza, Dana, and Maaret Tamsrin.
- Apart from enhancing the management of existing WASH services, cluster members are building 150 latrines and installing 40 water tanks and 40 showers. At least 24 camps have received 164 additional water storage tanks as the demand increased with the arrival of new IDPs.

**137,216**

people reached with WASH assistance

- UNICEF is prepositioning WASH stocks in eight warehouses to enable WASH Cluster members support over 250,000 individuals. Critical supplies such as water purifying chemicals are available to support 500,000 people for over six months and hygiene/dignity kits are available to support 50,000 people. Additional hygiene kits are in the pipeline to meet the critical needs of newly displaced people.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Providing services to the displaced people along the displaced routes has been challenging because of the wider geographical spread and continuous movement of IDPs. Monitoring the situation to maintain the flexibility of the response is increasingly necessary.
- The cluster members have continued to suspend their operations in several locations in northern Hama and southern Idlib due to security concerns.
- The cluster members responding to the situation are looking for additional resources to enhance much needed WASH supplies and services, such as to procuring hygiene kits, carrying out water trucking, building new latrines, and supporting solid waste management.

## GENERAL COORDINATION

Cluster coordinators are rolling out the readiness plan with their members and clusters are implementing the plan through previously identified response activities as best they can, given the volatile context. However, the dynamics of the conflict impact the ability of humanitarians to respond to people's needs in the locations where they are. Some families are moving short distances for temporary periods, before moving onwards, while other people have chosen to stay in their areas of origin which are now near the frontline of conflict. A rapid needs assessment was carried out by REACH in some areas, with the results shared with the clusters for their use. Needs assessments are being carried out by individual organizations in areas into which people have moved. In some areas NGOs have created ad hoc groups on the ground to work together and coordinate response. The coordination of response is challenged by the high levels of violence and the remote management aspect of coordination mechanisms.

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