

North-west Syria

May 2019

21,740

Households assisted through UNHCR with core relief items and shelter material in 2019

108,940

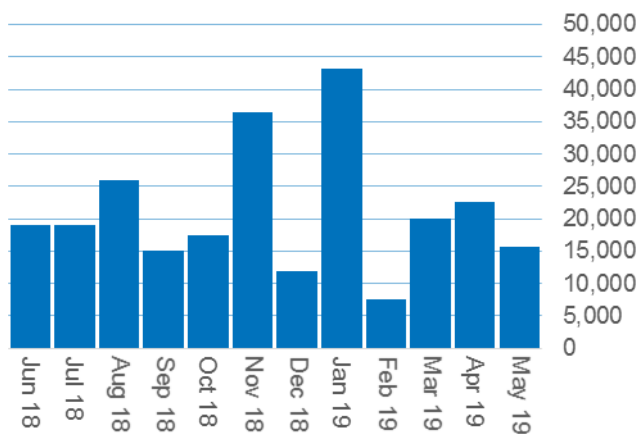
Individuals reached through UNHCR with core relief items and shelter material in 2019

119

Trucks with UNHCR humanitarian supplies sent across the border in 2019

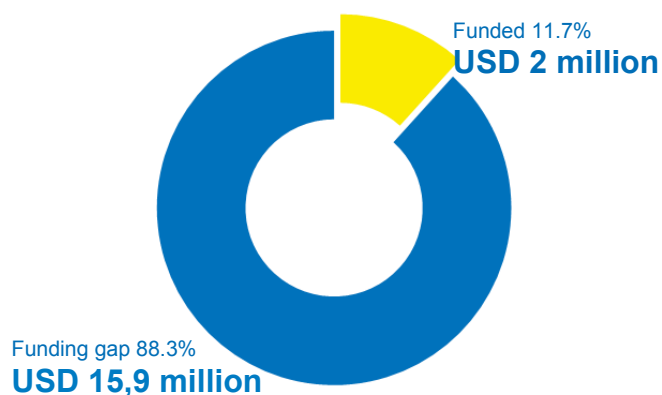
66,854

Individuals reached with protection services by UNHCR and partners in 2019



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

FUNDING AS OF 31 MAY 2019



Main objectives

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

The year 2019 is seeing intense hostilities between the Government of Syria and non-state armed groups, and among the latter that have affected thousands of people in northern Hama and southern Idlib, displacing many. The situation was further aggravated by heavy rains and floods in northern Syria at the end of December and beginning of January. More floods affected the area at the end of March, causing more displacements. An upsurge in violence in May caused additional large numbers of people to be displaced.

Major developments had taken place in north-west Syria already in 2018. As a result, more than 688,000 people were newly displaced within non-state armed group controlled areas.

A Readiness and Response Plan for north-west Syria is still in play and outlines 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 2019, through its own programme, UNHCR has partnerships with six organizations - IRC, ACTED-REACH, WATAN, Bir Dunya Cocuk Dernegi (Children of One World), SHAFAK and NRC - 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

While the conflict between Government of Syria and non-state armed groups intensified during May, causing a massive wave of displacements from northern Hama and southern Idlib, UNHCR and its partners continued to provide basic assistance and protection services to IDPs and vulnerable host community members in north-west Syria under the cross-border operation from Gaziantep, Turkey: **19,265 displaced people** were assisted with **3,853 emergency NFI kits** in Idlib and Aleppo Governorates. Additionally, upon the request of the CCCM Cluster, UNHCR donated 500 foam mattresses and 500 blankets to Maret Al Ekhwan reception centre (Al Mareh) to host more displaced people. **Five transshipments** took place through the Bab Al Hawa and Bab Al Salam border crossings, carrying 7,000 emergency NFI kits and 120 tents **to assist 35,720 newly displaced people**.

In addition, UNHCR's partners conducted awareness raising and psychosocial support (PSS) sessions, identified cases and referred them to the basic services in Idlib and Aleppo Governorates; such community-based **protection interventions reached 6,685 people**. In addition, 3,664 displaced and vulnerable people continued to receive protection services such as awareness raising on CSD and HLP, legal counselling and assistance, case management and referrals. The displacement and protection monitoring initiatives continued and the latest reports are published on the websites of the CCCM and Protection Clusters.



Distributions of emergency core relief item kits in northern Hama
© WATAN



CCCM Cluster

The CCCM Cluster coordinates the efforts of **35 active member organizations** providing cross-border assistance in north-west Syria. Activities focus on coordinating the joint efforts of the Cluster members to cover the multi-sectoral needs in **344 IDP sites** hosting around **522,000 IDPs in north-west Syria** and, on behalf of the humanitarian community, track IDP movements and coordinating the provision of multi-sectoral assistance in IDP settlements.

In early May, the situation in northern Hama and southern Idlib intensified and, until the end of May, **305,253 individuals were displaced** and moved north to sub-districts in central and northern Idlib. A few thousand of these movements were to Dana, Idlib and then into north-western Aleppo, especially Jandairis, Ma'btali and Afrin.

In response to the current displacement in northern Idlib, from 1 May to 13 June 2019, Cluster members released **11,156 family size tents** to some 56,000 IDPs. Eight organizations in total have provided tents during this displacement.

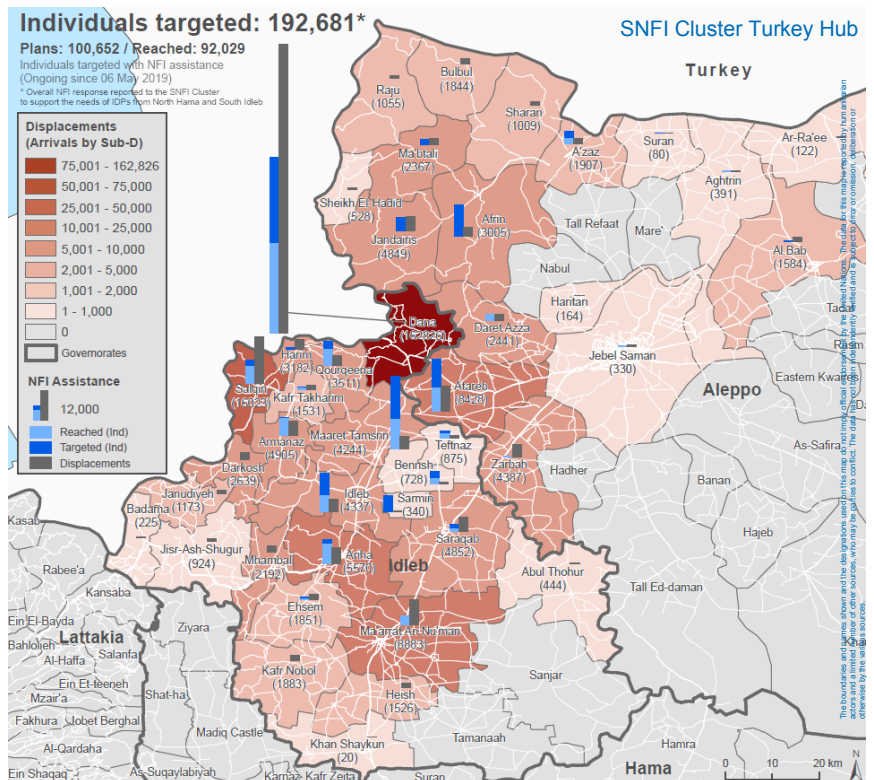
The Cluster updated its IDP Sites Integrated Monitoring Matrix (ISIMM) for May covering 344 sites with an approximate of 522,000 IDPs.



Shelter/NFI Cluster

The SNFI Cluster is led by UNHCR, coordinating the efforts of **47 active member organizations** in the cross-border 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.

The SNFI Cluster, in collaboration with the CCCM Cluster and its active members, responded to the affected populations with distributions of tents and non-food items (NFIs). Overall, as part of both regular and emergency response, SNFI Cluster members reached **180,747 individuals**, with 87 per cent being **NFI assistance** and 13 per cent **shelter assistance**, including tents, shelter kits and 310 rehabilitated housing units. Cluster members have planned to assist 76,276 additional individuals with NFI assistance in June.



This map is making use of the Displacement figures provided by CCCM Cluster from 01 - 22 May and overlaying them with the reported number of individuals targeted with NFI assistance. The planned response for individuals being targeted for NFI assistance is subject to change depending on the movement of IDPs. All Cluster Partners are re-assessing the situation on the ground before responding to the need and update the Cluster Coordination Team frequently about changes in their response plans and completed activities. The CCCM & SNFI Cluster are coordinating the response with their Cluster members and are responding to the needs as quickly as possible depending on the information available.

The number of displacement reported by the CCCM Cluster does not conditionally reflect the total number of IDPs. The situation is highly fluid in north-west Syria, IDPs are often displaced multiple-times (secondary displacements) and partners on the ground are not always able to ensure that there is no double counting.



Protection Cluster

The Protection Cluster (co-led by UNHCR and IRC) brings together **62 active members**, which include actors of the three Sub-Clusters: Child Protection (co-led by UNICEF and World Vision), Gender Based Violence (co-led by UNFPA and Global Communities) and Humanitarian Mine Action (led by UNMAS). The Cluster also convenes the Protection Monitoring Task Force (co-led by UNHCR and IRC) and a Housing, Land and Property Technical Working Group (HLP TWG) (co-led by UNHCR and NRC) on a regular basis. The Cluster continues to prioritize the provision of lifesaving emergency response services to newly displaced populations and to expand specialized protection services through a wider geographic coverage and outreach capacity, including through mobile teams. In addition, the Cluster seeks to inform the overall response through protection monitoring, while also supporting capacity building with humanitarian actors to strengthen information and advocacy on protection concerns, and Do No Harm (DNH) efforts.

In May, Cluster and Sub-Cluster members provided **220,029 interventions** to IDPs and affected host community members, in 302 communities in **six governorates** (Idlib, Aleppo, Hama, Ar-Raqqah, Deir Ez-Zor and Al-Hasakeh). The main services in May were: psychological first aid (PFA) for 2,463 girls, 2,063 boys, 8,041 women and 5,649 men; legal awareness raising sessions focusing on housing, land and properties (HLP) and/or civil status documentation (CSD) for 578 girls, 390 boys, 1,818 women and 1,642 men; integrated/comprehensive case management services for 17 girls, 29 boys, 29 women and 12 men; and referrals to other services for 269 girls, 280 boys, 243 women and 132 men. Sub-Cluster members also provided a range of specialized child protection and GBV services, as well as risk education to communities in northern Syria.

The **Protection Monitoring Task Force** members conducted 719 interviews with key informants (423 male and 296 female) in 121 communities, 24 Sub-districts in Idlib and Aleppo Governorates.

External and Donor Relations

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

Turkey Humanitarian Fund | United States of America