

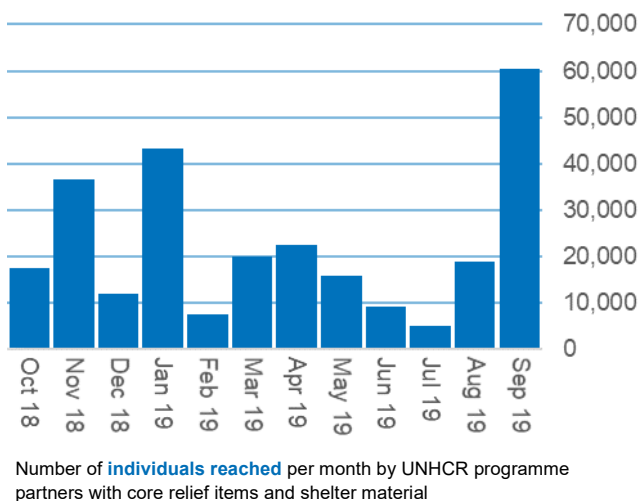
North-west Syria

September 2019

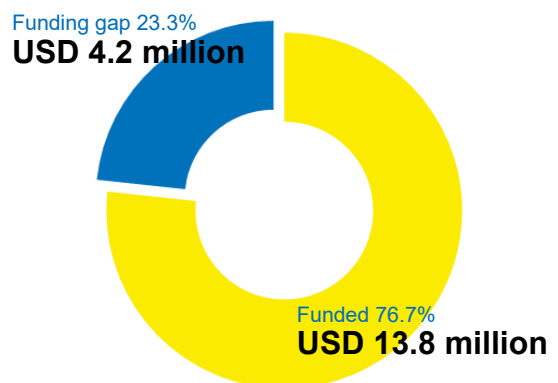
Through its partners, in 2019, UNHCR has assisted **37,540 households** (**193,240 individuals**) with core relief items and shelter material.

UNHCR has sent **198 trucks** across the border in 2019, carrying humanitarian supplies like blankets, hygiene kits, mattresses and tents.

In 2019, through its partners, UNHCR has reached **122,742 individuals** with protection services, such as information dissemination and referrals.



FUNDING AS OF SEPTEMBER 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

In 2019, escalating hostilities between the Government of Syria and non-state armed groups are affecting hundreds of thousands of people in north-west Syria. Intense violence that started in the last days of April and is continuing unabated has caused high numbers of casualties, destruction of civilian infrastructure and disruption in the provision of basic services in Idlib. As a result of this most recent offensive, the humanitarian situation is deteriorating. Between May and September, more than 750,000 displacements were tracked: people are being displaced, some multiple times, from southern Idlib and northern Hama and the majority of the displaced are concentrating in northern Idlib, close to the Turkish border, in areas that are now densely-populated.

In the beginning of the year, the situation was aggravated by heavy rains and floods in northern Syria at the end of December and beginning of January, and again in March. Major developments had taken place in north-west Syria already in 2018 and 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

UNHCR and its partners continued to provide basic assistance and protection services to IDPs and conflict-affected vulnerable host community members in north-west Syria under the cross-border operation from Gaziantep, Turkey. In September, **29,992 displaced people** were assisted with **4,310 emergency NFI kits** and **1,407 tents** in Idlib and Aleppo Governorates. This brings the total number of people assisted by UNHCR's partners to **87,560** since the start of the most recent offensive in northern Hama and southern Idlib (1 May-30 September). Throughout the month, **eight transshipments** took place through Reyhanli-Bab Al Hawa and Kilis-Bab Al Salam border crossings, carrying 8,500 emergency NFI kits and 3,000 tents to assist **60,500 newly displaced people**.



Distributions of emergency NFI kits in Jebel Saman, Aleppo and Maaret Tamsrin, Idlib © WATAN

Moreover, UNHCR's protection partners conducted awareness raising and psychosocial support sessions, identified cases and referred them to basic services in Idlib and Aleppo Governorates; such **community-based protection interventions reached 9,555 people**. In addition, 7,092 displaced and vulnerable people received protection services such as awareness raising on civil status documentation and housing, land and properties, legal counselling and assistance, case management and referrals. As a part of the emergency response, sessions on integrated protection awareness, protection risk awareness, information and psychosocial first aid are conducted by UNHCR's partners and people are referred to the needed internal and external services. Those interventions reached 1,020 newly displaced people from northern Hama and southern Idlib.

The displacement and protection monitoring initiatives proved to be essential during the large-scale displacements, providing ad hoc updates and conducting rapid needs assessment. The latest reports are published on the websites of the CCCM and Protection Clusters.



CCCM Cluster

The CCCM Cluster coordinates the efforts of **26 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 **388 IDP sites** hosting **629,284 IDPs/119,353 families** in north-west Syria (as of August 2019) and, on behalf of the humanitarian community, track IDP movements and coordinating the provision of multi-sectoral assistance in IDP settlements.

In September, the Cluster tracked **93,333 individual displacements*** in north-west Syria: 89 per cent of these were from Idlib Governorate and 8 per cent from Aleppo Governorate; movements were mainly to Dana and Atareb sub-districts. Out of this total, 10,262 displacements were to IDP sites, while 83,071 displacements were to out of IDP sites. In total, **766,694 individual displacements** were recorded between 1 May and 30 September 2019.

*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.



Shelter/NFI Cluster

The SNFI Cluster is led by UNHCR, coordinating the efforts of **40 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, the Cluster reached almost **30,000 people** and delivered shelter assistance; in particular, in Maaret Tamsrin and Dana sub-districts, two of the areas with the largest number of arrivals, 9,886 and 5,343 people respectively received shelter assistance. The Cluster assisted with NFIs more than **71,000 people**; Cluster members scaled up the NFI response in Salqin reaching 15,107 people, and 12,491 people were reached with NFIs in Dana.

The Cluster continued with the winterization plan; gaps were identified in Atmeh and Qah camps, where around 123,000 IDPs have moved since May 2019. There, implementation is challenging due to the large IDP population.



Protection Cluster

The Protection Cluster (co-led by UNHCR and IRC) brings together **68 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 (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 efforts.

In September, **10 Protection Cluster** members provided emergency response services for civilians recently displaced from northern Hama and southern Idleb due to the ongoing hostilities. Cluster members provided **17,522 protection services** to IDPs and affected host community members in **72 communities** within **16 sub-districts** in Idleb and Aleppo reaching **7,575 individuals (2,398 girls, 1,603 boys, 2,594 women and 980 men)**. The main services protection actors provided are psychological first aid, psychosocial support, dignity kits distribution and explosive hazard risk education. Cluster members also referred individuals to other services.

The **Protection Monitoring Task Force** conducted 630 interviews in 112 communities, in 25 sub-districts in Aleppo and Idleb Governorates.

External and Donor Relations

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

United States of America | Turkey Humanitarian Fund