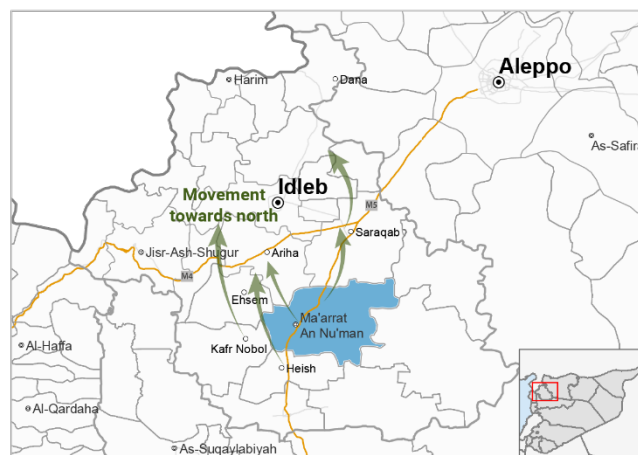


## HIGHLIGHTS

- Since 16 December, tens of thousands of civilians fled from southern Idleb governorate, moving further north due to renewed hostilities. Ma'arrat An Nu'man and its countryside are reportedly almost empty, more and more people from Saraqab and its eastern countryside are fleeing in anticipation of hostilities extending to their area.
- A volatile security situation along the access routes north and the shortage of fuel in Idleb area are limiting the movement of civilians fleeing the hostilities. Most of the recently displaced people are going to urban centres such as Idleb city and Ariha, and to the IDP camps in northwestern Idleb. Others are reportedly moving to areas such as Afrin and A'zaz in northern Aleppo governorate seeking safety and access to services.
- Displacement during winter is further exacerbating the vulnerability of those affected. Many who fled are in urgent need of humanitarian support, particularly shelter, food, health, non-food and winterization assistance.



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

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

With the latest escalation of violence in northwest Syria, civilians in Idleb governorate are again suffering from the devastating consequences of hostilities. Since 16 December, aerial bombardment again intensified in southern Idleb, affecting large population centres such as Ma'arrat An-Nu'man and Saraqab as well as towns and villages in their countryside, which further accelerated displacement from the area that began in November. Ground fighting between NSAGs and GoS forces resumed on 19 December along the frontlines in southern Idleb governorate, amplifying this wave of displacement as civilians. While Ma'arrat An Nu'man town and its countryside are now almost empty of civilians, people from Saraqab and its eastern countryside are now fleeing in anticipation of fighting directly affecting their communities next. On 24 December, local sources reported an airstrike on a gathering site near Jobas village located south of Saraqab town. Reports indicate that some 12 people died, of whom at least four were children and two were women, while numerous people were injured. Moreover, fighting between GoS forces and NSAGs continue in northwest Hama with shelling injuring tens of civilians including women and children, damaging residential areas, and resulting in civilians restricting their movement.

As a result of hostilities, tens of thousands of families fled their homes in an effort to reach safety. Between 12 and 25 December, more than 235,000 people have been displaced in northwest Syria. Many of these have moved out of Ma'arrat An Nu'man and other towns and villages in the area. People fled in early December as the airstrikes increasingly affected their communities. The newly displaced populations are predominantly moving north to urban centers such as Ariha, Saraqab and Idleb city, to IDP camps in northwest Idleb governorate along the Turkish-Syrian border, although thousands are also moving to Afrin, A'zaz, and Al Bab areas in northern Aleppo governorate. Some who fled from Ma'arrat An Nu'man area and sought safety in Saraqab are once again fleeing further north in anticipation of intensified fighting affecting Saraqab and its vicinity. In addition, tens of families have reportedly fled to GoS-held areas in Aleppo due to the intensification of hostilities.

The immediate humanitarian assistance including food, shelter, winterization as well as health and psychosocial support is essential to support displaced individuals. In particular, ready-to-eat rations and cooked meals are a priority as people move, given that many of the newly displaced have no means to cook. Of note, residents of Ma'arrat An Nu'man area are predominantly an urban population who are seeking shelter in other urban areas such as Ariha and Idleb city rather than IDP camps. As a result, public buildings such as mosques, garages, wedding halls and schools are being used to host

newly displaced families, however, the capacity to absorb people in need may surpass available places given the scale of displacement. Many of those who are displaced as a result of the most recent intensification of hostilities had been displaced previously, some of them multiple times. Being forced to move in winter months exacerbates existing vulnerabilities, particularly of the women, children, elderly, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

Thousands of families in southeastern Idlib who want to move north are reported to be frightened to move, fearing the risk of airstrikes and shelling along the routes. The situation is further compounded by severe shortage of fuel for private vehicles and the limited number of drivers who are willing to take the risk. Efforts by local communities and NGOs are ongoing to assist civilians fleeing, while those who remain in the area, waiting to secure transportation, are likely the most vulnerable among the population with little resources. Internet and phone services are subject to frequent disruptions, leading to communication gaps with the remaining population who would like to move as well as with the humanitarian workers remaining on the ground.

Many humanitarian actors in southeastern Idlib have been forced to suspend their operations in the areas, with many of them moving their services to areas further north where high numbers of IDPs are arriving. This new wave of displacement is compounding on the ongoing emergency situation in northwest Syria that resulted in the displacement of an estimated 400,000 people between late-April and late-August 2019.

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

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Humanitarian partners in areas receiving newly displaced people are responding to the immediate needs of the IDPs as they arrive. Based on the operational humanitarian readiness planning, humanitarian responders activated their expanded activities. Humanitarian organizations on the ground activated coordination mechanisms to provide essential assistance such as distribution of ready-to-eat rations, water and blankets, as well as protection interventions. Humanitarian organisations continue to work around the clock to provide support to the people displacing, in addition to the existing population in need.

Many humanitarian workers are now among the affected population as they have been displaced with their communities. The staff care/ self-care network has been activated to support humanitarian workers who are responding to the emergency.

## FUNDING

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The escalation of violence has a serious impact on the humanitarian response in North West Syria and humanitarian interventions funded in the targeted areas. While activities were interrupted for the most part in the South, they are being relocated as much as possible to support primarily the scale-up of emergency response activities in areas of arrival IDPs. This drastic change requires partners to reprogram their current activities and associated funding, within the given flexibility. However, this will be insufficient and more funding is required to face the massive new needs. The Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund reserve has been triggered to contribute to these emergency related efforts.

Information sharing on reprogramming is critical to best organize the response. For SCHF funded projects, partners should contact [info-schf@un.org](mailto:info-schf@un.org) to report any issues related to project implementation due to the escalation of violence, with copy to the relevant cluster.

### Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

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#### Needs:

- Identifying locations for camp extension/establishment in order to shelter the most vulnerable newly displaced families.
- Part of the preparedness plan for a new wave of displacement is the expansion of two existing reception centers (Marat Al-Ekhwan & Mezanaz) in order to temporarily accommodate 500 more families in each.

#### Response:

- CCCM in coordination with partners and active Cluster members provided the tents for 1,812 families in 17 locations. 16 of these are existing camps and one camp have been relocated due to the airstrike (Al-Wafaa Camp).
- CCCM is closely monitoring the situation in coordination with the active members. Incidents report and flash updates issued systematically for the displacements.
- CCCM is monitoring contingency tent stocks prepositioned in Syria, stocked in Turkey or in the pipelines.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Conflicting information provided by many cross-border members requires data cleaning, and verification before circulating and before the preparation of rapid response plan.
- The need to communicate with the IDPs and host community representatives to enhance and speed up the response plan through exchanging thoughts, and to express their own views and to identify their urgent needs.
- Weather conditions and continuous rain is one of the biggest challenges.

**Education****Needs:**

- As of 26 December, there are 48,500 school aged children are in urgent need of education support.
- In terms of immediate response, the education cluster aims to:
  - Establish temporary learning spaces (tents or caravans) in Dana, Salqin, Maaret Tamsrin, Afrin, Al Bab, Atareb, Jisr Ash Shugur, Harim, A'zaz (establishment of tents and caravans);
  - Coordinate with the Child Protection Sub Cluster for the provision of psychosocial support (PSS) and psychological first aid (PFA) activities;
  - Teaching and learning materials, textbooks and students bags for children and teachers in order to be able to continue to their education;
  - Ensure that there are 1955 teachers and education personnel in classrooms;
  - Support all school aged children who are displaced to take their mid-year exams by 14 January 2020 to enable them to continue their education;
  - Provide heating in schools for 1778 classrooms;
  - School furniture support for established tents and caravans.

**4238**

school-aged children are reached with education services

**Response:**

- Overall education support during the reporting period reached 4,238 school aged children with PSS, PFA, formal and non-formal education and winter clothes in order to support children's continuity to their education.
  - 2607 children supported with PSS and PFA in Idlib, Harim, Dana and Atareb;
  - 500 children supported with Home School Education in Ariha;
  - 1171 children supported with formal and non-formal education in Idlib, Harim, Dana and Atareb;
  - 500 children supported with winter clothes in Maaret Tamsrin.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Education sector can only reach 12 percent of total displaced school aged children in six districts due to lack of funding, overcrowded classrooms in areas that received IDPs and not knowing exactly where these children will be residing.
- Out of 8,894.705 USD required for education activities, only 1,251.700 USD is funded. Therefore, the current funding gap is 7,643.005 USD.

**Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL)****Needs:**

- From 1 to 25 December, FSL partners reported that the total newly IDPs from Ma'arrat An Nu'man, Kafr Nobol, Heish, Ehsem, Saraqab, and Khan Shaykun to Atareb, Daret Azza, Dana, Ariha, Idleb, Saraqab reached to 46,184 HHs.
- A primary need for people displacing is emergency food assistance, cooked meals, ready-to-Eat rations (RTE) (canned food) and cash support for the first two to four weeks for displaced households.
- After four weeks, newly displaced people will be integrated into the monthly food assistance once they settle down.
- After the initial displacement, the following options need to be considered to support the displaced individuals and host communities: provision of appropriate life-saving livelihoods, support to affected communities and households by increasing agricultural production, support to small scale food production, protection of productive assets, and restoring or creating income generating activities to prevent negative or irreversible coping mechanisms.
- Provision of animal feed to limit unsustainable sales of livestock by displaced and impoverished households. Due to transport cost, feed distributions are expensive and hence extremely limited in scope. Voucher schemes for provision of animal feed involving local suppliers are cost-efficient and much more sustainable.

**Response:**

- The Food Security Cluster continues to coordinate the emergency response through an online group, an online emergency tracker tool, communication through phones and ad hoc SAG and cluster meetings.
- First line response is provided through the distribution of ready to eat rations (RTERs), dry rations of mainly canned food sufficient on average for one week for a family of five, repeated as per needs, and the provision of cooked meals and distribution of emergency multi-purpose cash grants (MPCG) of 120 – 130 USD per household that includes coverage of food needs.
- The response from FSL Cluster members from 1 December to 25 is:
  - 4 FSL members distributed 1,943 Emergency Food Basket (one-off) to reach 10,831 people;
  - 5 FSL members distributed 9,735 RTERs to assist 52,462 people;
  - 3 FSL members distributed 815,750 USD MPCGs to assist 32,375 people;
  - 2 FSL members distributed 2,877 Cooked Meals to assist 14,475 people; and
  - Provided RTEs to some 92,200 newly displaced people across northwestern Syria to date in December.
- By the end of this year, other FSL partners are have plan to response the 34,100 HHs of newly IDPs as following:
  - 4,500 families with cash,
  - 600 families with cash for food,
  - 12,100 families with cooked meals,
  - 4,400 families with emergency food baskets,
  - 12,500 families with ready to eat rations.
- Prepositioning of stocks:
  - 105,963 RTERs are already pre-positioned in northwest Syria and Turkey.
  - 91,163 of these RTERs are already in northwest Syria and are sufficient to support 456,000 people for five days. The remaining 14,800 RTERs are in Turkey, ready to be transferred to northwest Syria.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- According to the figures that FSL Cluster received from members, the number of IDPs reached to 46,184 families who need cash, cooked meals, cash for food, food vouchers and ready to eat rations. FSL members have plans to cover around 34,100 families until the end of this year. The current gap is for 12,084 families who need to be supported immediately with cash, cooked meals, ready to eat rations as first line of response until the end of January 2020. All these figures will be updated in the coming days in line with further displacement.
- The main constraints are security, transportations, and access to safe locations while the fuel shortage and prices complicates the response.



## Health

### Needs:

- Mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) are an essential support and need for the affected population. Some health cluster members are providing such support for people as they move, given that these specialist staff are moving as part of the affected population. The Psycho-Social Workers (PSWs) and Community Health Workers (CHWs) are themselves displacing, and they continued supporting people who need MHPSS services.
- Some cluster members flagged the need to support mobile clinics with drugs and running costs as well for essential medications, especially those for common chronic illnesses, which are reported to be in shortage.
- Haemodialysis is a life-saving service and needs lot of logistics to move/relocate the machines and the service. One cluster member tracked more than 20 patients who need hemodialysis in Salqin alone and see a need to activate a dialysis unit there with equipment and supplies, however there is need to support operational cost.

### Response:

- One cluster member is running four mobile clinics in Maaret Tamsrin, Idleb city, Ariha countryside and Sharan in Afrin. Another cluster member began three mobile clinics in Ariha Maaret Tamsrin and Idleb and added one mobile clinic given people's movement toward the northern Aleppo countryside. As of 24 December, 607 cases (404 general diseases and 203 pediatric diseases) were served through those mobile clinics. The CHWs of one cluster member provided 400 services (295 children under 5 & 105 PLWs) including individual and group sessions and MUAC screening;
- Another cluster member's ambulance system assisted people in Al Ma'ra during the last five days.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- Two hospitals, Al salam (Maternity Hospital) and Al Ma'ra National Hospital (General Hospital) are fully suspended by the NGO who has been supporting due to the security situation. Saraqab PHC was fully suspended.

- The cluster lead confirmed suspension of 13 EPI centers affecting the vaccination of 1555 children under 1 year old. Of these, two EPI centers (Mara center 1 and Mara center 2) from Ma'arrat An Nu'man city and EPI center in Saraqab PHC were stopped this week. All the vaccines-related cold chain equipment and vaccines has been removed and secured to Dana city.
- Despite all efforts and services provided, there is need for chronic diseases medicine and MHPSS. The main challenge is related to fund availability.

## Logistics

### Response:

- Increased daily truck capacity at both hubs is up to 60 trucks in Reyhanli (for Bab al Hawa) and 12 trucks in Kilis (for Bab al Salama).
- Made available four Mobile Storage Units (320 m<sup>2</sup>) ready to be dispatched to northwest Syria.

# 72

Trucks as daily transshipment capacity at Kilis and Reyhanli hubs

## Nutrition

### Needs:

- Urgent need is to replenish the Lipid-based Nutrient Supplement and High Energy Biscuit pipelines for preventing acute malnutrition.
- Need to scale up nutrition response to reach all displaced mothers and children within the accessible geographic areas.

# 10,548

Children under the age of 5 years, pregnant and lactating mothers

### Response:

- Overall life-saving nutrition services reached 10,548 children and mothers in 43 communities in 19 sub-districts in Idlib through 51 rapid response teams and mobile teams by 14 Cluster members.
- 43,17 children and mothers received high energy biscuits for preventing acute malnutrition among IDP mothers and children. 6,190 pregnant and lactating mothers received micro-nutrient supplementation while additional 3,049 children (6-36 months of age) received high calories lipid-based nutrition supplements for prevention of acute malnutrition. Out of the reached mothers and children, 69 cases of severe acute malnutrition and 276 cases of moderate acute malnutrition were identified and referred to the appropriate treatment sites. 276 mothers were also found to be acutely malnourished and received the appropriate treatment. Some 5,417 mothers and care givers were reached with infant feeding and caring practices messages and counselling.
- Even through malnutrition rates remained within normal rates, community nutrition surveillance reports show an increase in global acute malnutrition, moderate acute malnutrition among children and mothers compared to last week. Levels of severe acute malnutrition remains stable for the time being.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- Nutrition sector reaches around 32 percent of the total displaced mothers and children due to security and the need to increase the number of rapid response teams
- Work ongoing to expedite front line life-saving nutrition stocks, which will take at least two weeks. Hence, there might be a break in HEB and LNS pipeline if commodities are not received within the next week.

## Protection

### Needs:

- The protection situation of IDPs and civilian population remains critical given the evolving conditions and increasing displacement from Ma'arrat An Nu'man towards the north of Idlib.
- The continued shelling and airstrikes in the south of Idlib, particularly in civilian populated areas, puts the lives of women, men, girls and boys at risk and has resulted in significant numbers of deaths and injuries, including of children, and significantly impacting children's and caregivers' psychosocial well-being.

# 12,324

People reached with protection services from 16 to 23 December

- According to UNICEF, children are bearing the brunt of intensifying violence in northwest Syria. More than 500 children were injured or killed in the first nine months of 2019, and at least 65 children have been killed or injured in the month of December 2019 alone.
- Safety and security concerns severely restrict civilians' freedom of movement, meanwhile, displaced people remain particularly vulnerable, and access for IDPs from Idleb to North of Aleppo for physical safety and shelter remains restricted.
- Immediate protection needs identified include family tracing and reunification, psychological first aid, dignity kits, civil documentation information, and support to persons with specific needs, including older persons and persons with disabilities and serious medical conditions.
- Multiple displacements and the lack of access to basic services further exacerbate individual and community needs, increasing risks for death, injuries, disabilities, gender-based violence (GBV) trauma, particularly among children.
- Grave violations against children rights continue. Children continue to pay the highest toll of this emergency. Child protection concerns particularly for unaccompanied and separated children are increasing due to displacement, death of caregivers and disrupted transportation.
- Case management emergency funds targeting children are insufficient. These are usually reserved for most critical interventions. Displaced children and their caregivers see their most basic needs not covered.
- Donor flexibility is urgently needed to redirect the funds for the new emergency in order to avoid long-term consequences to children and their caregivers.
- Child protection case management is critically needed as the displaced children and their caregivers are facing a severe shortage of their basic needs.
- Individual protection assistant for the newly displaced people is needed and more flexibility needed to redirect the funds for more emergency allocated activities.

#### Response:

- From 23 December until 26 December, 20 Protection Cluster members provided emergency response services for civilians recently displaced from Southern Idleb due to the ongoing hostilities. Cluster members provided 18,282 protection services to IDPs and affected host community members in 64 communities within 25 sub-districts in Idleb and Aleppo reaching 12,324 individuals (4,009 girls, 3,468 boys, 2,573 women, and 2,274 men). The main services protection actors provided are as follows:
  - Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Psychosocial Support (PSS)
  - Information about other services
  - Dignity kits distribution
- Cluster members also referred individuals to other basic services and provided CP Case management. In addition to, Individual Protection Assistance. Finally, The Protection Cluster analysed some of the comments that were reported to the emergency response tool and the top comments were the following;
  - Many people lack shelters and they are staying in streets;
  - Water leakage in some shelters
  - More than one family staying in one tent
- GBV Sub Cluster (SC) Members through their field emergency response teams are responding to the needs of the IDPs. During the provision of necessary information and Psychosocial First Aid they collected information from the population for their needs and they were mostly related to basic needs with focus on safe accommodation and transportation to safe locations. Needs for dignity kits that contain essential and lifesaving items to women and girls of reproductive age have been identified by many GBV SC members. The GBV SC through 6 members have provided 6213 DKs in response to this ongoing emergency response since the beginning of Dec.
- 37 unaccompanied and separated children identified since the last week. All of these separation cases happened when moving from Ma'arrat An Nu'man to the North. It has been a temporary separation for three children from their parents/caregivers. To date all cases identified under these circumstances have been reunified with their caregivers.
- Emergency focal points lists designed and shared with all protection members, other sectors, ICCG group in order to facilitate referrals for non-protection actors. The list includes and highlights many points related to protection concerns that might take place during the emergency i.e. child separation as well as caring of people with disabilities.
- Two child protection organizations distributed 4,200 winterization kits for children and 15,940 blankets through child protection mobile teams while providing PFA, PSS and specialized services.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- Two Cluster members in Saraqab reported the closure of protection static and mobile service points, with services suspended due to active conflict and leaving a huge population living in these areas without access to the services. These suspensions include partners implementing specialized and non-specialized protection services.

- All protection organizations in Ma'arrat An Nu'man reported losing communication with their staff as they fled from the city due to the heavy bombardment and clashes.
- 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 by other basic services to meet IDPs' needs.
- Donors are recommended to increase funding for all basic needs services in order for humanitarian organizations to help meet the survival needs of rapidly growing IDP populations and to exercise, as mentioned above, flexibility in the re-allotment of funds to emergency response.
- Gaps related to cross sectoral coordination: Rapid Response teams to include child protection and protection team specialized /teams when assessing/distributing food/NFIs, shelter and other sectors to displaced population.

## Shelter / Non-Food Items (NFI)

### Needs:

- Shelter / Non-Food Items (SNFI) Cluster members have identified 46,000 people in need of NFI and/or shelter assistance. The NFI Cluster is coordinating with the partners to reach them as soon as possible.
- Seven organizations have requested NFI from the contingency stocks.
- Thousands of families are seeking shelter solutions across a wide geographic area. The cold winter weather and consecutive days of rain are exacerbating the situation for the affected population.

### Response:

- Needs assessments collected and shared with Cluster members that have the capacity to respond.
- Cluster members have assisted 21,000 people with NFI and/or shelter. The response is ongoing. The Cluster members are assisting at least 63,000 people with NFI and 17,000 with shelters.
- At the same time, SNFI members are targeting 405,000 people with winter assistance in December only.
- CCCM and SNFI Cluster is working with their members to identify lands suitable to extend camps.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- Housing, land and property rights will remain a critical issue for legal access to land for people to settle.
- SNFI Cluster is anticipating the replenishment of the tent and NFI stocks and will need additional funding.
- SNFI Cluster is advocating for additional funding to start replenishing the NFI and Tent stock immediately.
- Additional funding is needed to provide winter assistance to the new IDPs.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

### Needs:

- WASH cluster members report high needs with regards to life-saving WASH supplies and services for over 181,000 displaced people to Afrin, A'zaz and Jarablus districts of Aleppo governorate and Ariha, Harim, Idleb, Jebel Saman, Jisr Ash Shugur and Harim districts of Idleb governorate. The demand is for WASH services including domestic water, solid waste management, community latrines and wastewater management. The need for increased desludging of septic tanks, water purification, supply of hygiene kits and jerry cans has proportionately increased.
- In both formal and informal camps there is a huge need to increase the water supply and manage drinking water safety to ensure the displaced people stay away from potential diarrheal diseases. Similarly, there is an increasing need for desludging, as the septic tanks and pit latrines are flooding causing contamination to nearby water sources.
- Since the displacement is ongoing and IDPs are prioritizing communities to settle in, there is a need to increase the operational support to existing piped water systems to handle additional population in communities and in surrounding informal/formal settlements and camps.

### Response:

- During last week, ongoing WASH response has outreached an additional 56,000 displaced people in 91 locations through 11 Cluster members (57% of the locations responded to are camps, 35% in communities and 8% in collective centers).
- The water supply arrangements through existing pipe water systems and water trucking were able to respond to the increased number of displaced people. However, the water supply per capita has reduced in the locations that received new wave of displaced population, especially where the member organization don't have the flexible funding. This is also constrained by the unequipped private sector that find difficulty to increase supply overnight in sporadic locations.

- Cluster members are preparing to increase the response to meet at least the need of additional 350,000 displaced people in their areas of operation in anticipation of availability of additional funding and supplies. The available supplies and services such as: water distribution via water trucking, provision of hygiene kits, construction and maintenance of latrines, provision of Jerry cans is currently limited.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- Inadequate space in existing shelters complicates the response, as recently displaced people keep moving from one location to another. The recently displaced people are constantly aspiring for potential shelters with existing services or where it is promising to receive services from the humanitarian agencies
- Challenges in access to many locations especially camps due to muddy roads as a result of rains and security risks as a result of ongoing military operations, which is preventing the service providers from entering the camps and targeted locations. Activities such as water trucking, desludging, provision of hygiene items and Solid waste collection are either delayed or stopped. Some WASH cluster members reported that they had to use motor cycles to deliver some WASH items into camps.
- Fuel prices remain a constraint for many organizations as the prices of service delivery is constantly increasing. It has been reported by WASH cluster members that several vendors stopped service provision, until the contractual arrangements around the prices are revisited and increased.
- In order to ensure a timely and effective WASH response to the increasing needs and to mitigate against the potential outbreak of communicable diseases, additional financial resources are urgently required for the aforementioned activities.
- While the funding gap in HRP 2019 remained about US\$25M for NW Syria, this recent wave of IDPs in formal/ informal camps and settlements adds to further constraints, as these IDPs are fully dependent on humanitarian assistance. WASH cluster estimates an additional need for US\$12.5M to support this wave of displacement that is expected to rise to 350,000.

## GENERAL COORDINATION

Coordination of response efforts on the ground are ongoing by humanitarian actors and local initiatives guided by the cluster coordination mechanism. Local initiatives in areas close to the frontlines have emerged to support the movement of civilians out of areas heavily affected by hostilities. Participants of these initiatives are cluster members.

On 23 December, an ad hoc meeting of the Inter-Cluster Coordination was convened to discuss the needs and gaps in the emergency response to the evolving situation. Cluster reported the activation of their internal emergency coordination mechanisms. Most of the Clusters have now convened ad hoc meetings with their members to coordinate response efforts while inter-cluster initiatives are being taken forward to facilitate a timely response to urgent needs of newly displaced IDPs including shelter.

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