

KEY FIGURES

3.4 M

people in need
in northwest Syria

25,890

confirmed
COVID-19 cases (as of 6
July 2021)

**Some
40,000**

Trucks of UN assistance
provided through the Bab Al
Hawa crossing since 2014

1,160

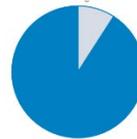
trucks of UN assistance
transhipped in June

FUNDING

(towards the Whole-of-Syria
coordinated humanitarian
response)

\$628 million

15%



of estimated required
financial requirements
under the 2021 Syria HRP
(not yet published)

HIGHLIGHTS

- People in northwest Syria continue to rely on UN aid deliveries enabled through Security Council Resolution 2533 (2020), which will expire on 10 July 2021. Millions of people in need will lose access to essential humanitarian assistance in case of non-renewal.
- Hostilities in southern Idlib region escalated in June and early July, causing displacement and civilian casualties, including of humanitarian and healthcare workers.
- Increased funding is required, as humanitarian partners in northwest Syria have received 39 per cent of the funding required to sustain the response between July and September 2021.

UN SECURITY COUNCIL VOTING ON EXTENSION OF UNSCR 2533

UNSCR 2533 (2020) will expire on 10 July 2021, as humanitarian needs in northwest Syria are increasing

Under Resolution 2533 (2020), the Security Council approved the delivery of United Nations aid through the Bab al-Hawa crossing until 10 July 2021. As the date for the UN Security Council decision on the extension of SCR 2533 approaches, humanitarian partners, civil society organizations and the international/donor community are raising the alarm of the potential implications of a non-renewal of the Resolution, which would cut this lifeline for millions of people in need in the area. In a [statement on 18 June](#) by Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) Mark Lowcock and heads of humanitarian UN agencies, they called for the renewal of Security Council authorization for UN cross-border operations from Turkey to north-west Syria, They stressed that a failure to do so would immediately stop UN delivery of food, COVID-19 vaccines, critical medical supplies, shelter, protection, clean water and sanitation, and other life-saving assistance to 3.4 million people, including 1 million children.

In July 2021, the humanitarian situation in northwest Syria is more dire than in 2020, when the issue was last reviewed by the Security Council. Similarly, the levels of food insecurity in Syria are the worst since the start of the conflict. Today, an estimated 12.4 million Syrians are food insecure, an increase of 4.5 million people since last year. This means that nearly 60 per cent of the population do not know what they will eat the next day. In northwest Syria alone, 3.3 million people are food insecure, representing about 80 per cent of the total population in the area. Across the country, the number of people who are severely food insecure – a level of need that means people cannot survive without food assistance – has doubled in one year reaching 1.3 million people.

At the same time, food prices continue to rise and have increased by a staggering 247 per cent in the last year. A recent survey by the World Food Programme found that 73 per cent of families reported in May 2021 that they bought food on credit, further adding to the burden of debt that many families are accumulating due to rising prices and a lack of economic opportunities. Cross-border humanitarian assistance reaches two million people through bread and bakery assistance

on a monthly basis, and one million people with emergency food assistance – a discontinuation of which would leave millions of people without basic food supplies to feed their families.

The Regional Humanitarian Coordinator travelled to Gaziantep on 29 – 30 June, to meet humanitarian partners working on cross-border assistance. He met the Government of Turkey and continued to highlight the importance of the extension of the Security Council Resolution for the people of northwest Syria. UN member states, such as the United States of America, the Netherlands, Norway, the European Union, and the United Kingdom have also sent high level diplomatic representatives in recent weeks to better understand the situation on the ground and to voice their support for the extension of the Resolution.

Assistance sent by the United Nations from Turkey through the Bab Al Hawa crossing reaches 2.4 million Syrians on a monthly basis. Concretely, this means that more than eight out of ten people in need in northwest Syria are reached through cross-border aid. Since the beginning of cross-border assistance in 2014, the United Nations has sent some 45,000 trucks from Turkey through the Bab al-Hawa and the Bab al-Salam crossings, carrying much needed food, nutrition, health and protection assistance. The Bab Al Salam crossing was removed as an authorised crossing for UN assistance by the Security Council in 2020, significantly impacting access to the northern Aleppo area. From the remaining Bab Al Hawa crossing, some 1,000 trucks of UN aid have crossed the border each month in 2020 and 2021. The Resolution also enables other forms of support, such as programs that do not require the shipment of supplies – for example, providing salaries for teachers or doctors, or funding case management for survivors of gender-based violence. The Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund is also enabled by the Resolution and would cease if the Resolution is not renewed, which provided \$180 million of humanitarian funding in 2020 and more than \$100 million in 2021. Most of this goes directly to NGOs, who may not otherwise be able to obtain such funding.

ESCALATION OF HOSTILITIES IN SOUTHERN IDLEB

Largest escalation of hostilities since the cease-fire in March 2020 causes civilian casualties and displacement

Communities continue to suffer from the impact of hostilities across northwest Syria and in the Ras al-Ain and Tell Abiad (RAATA) area, especially south of the M4 highway and around the M5 highway. June has seen the largest escalation of hostilities since the establishment of the cease-fire in March 2020, leading to a wave of new displacement as people are leaving their homes in search for safety. OHCHR has reported that airstrikes and shelling killed at least 24 civilians (including nine women and six children) and injured 75 civilians (including 23 women and nine children) in June.

In addition, eleven improvised explosive devices (IED) and unexploded ordnance (UXO) incidents killed at least five civilians and the injured at least seven. During the reporting period, 21 humanitarian or medical workers were killed, including five women, were injured as a result of shelling in northwest Syria and the Ras al-Ain and Tell Abiad areas.

On 12 June, an attack on the Al-Shifaa hospital in Afrin city in northern Syria killed at least 19 civilians, including 3 children and four medical personnel, and injured 40, including 12 medical personnel. The incident also destroyed the emergency and the delivery rooms completely, and destroyed parts of the outpatient department. Humanitarian partners working in the hospital have suspended their work until further notice. The Al-Shifaa hospital is one of the largest medical facilities in northern Syria. It provides an average of 15,000 medical services each month, including 350 newborn deliveries and 250 specialized surgeries. The hospital has been impacted by hostilities three times since 2019.

While the last days of June were relatively calm, hostilities resumed in early July, resulting in high numbers of civilian casualties. Bombardment in southern Idleb on 3 July was reported to have killed at least ten people, including six children, with a similar number of injuries. This included a humanitarian worker, his wife and three kids, whose house was hit by bombardment. In addition, airstrikes reportedly hit the northern Roj water station and adjacent buildings near the village of

Sheikh Yousef, which is also housing an office of local responders, damaging the local responders' equipment and the water station and injuring five people.

Hostilities also led to further displacement, in addition to the casualties and material damage caused. As per the CCCM Cluster, 11,566 people fled their homes in Jebel Alzawiya between 10 and 22 June, generating extensive need for cash and food assistance, in addition to shelter and non-food items (NFI) needs. Dana district received the most IDPs (3,752), followed by Atareb (2,515 IDPs), Ariha (1,047 IDPs), Daret Azza (928 IDPs), and Maaret Tamsrin (853 IDPs).

In addition, the water situation in some areas is an increasing concern as the summer proceeds. Preliminary reports indicate water shortages in the Ras Al Ain – Tel Abiad area, as well as in the Al Bab area. Humanitarian partners are following up on these reports to try and ensure adequate water supplies for people throughout the summer months.

COVID-19

Increase in confirmed cases is slowing down, while the vaccination campaign enters its third phase despite funding and other constraints

While the number of new COVID-19 cases has remained low in the last month, the recently observed upward trend of cases is only marginally declining. As of 8 July, 157,878 tests had been conducted in northwest Syria, with a test positivity rate of 16.4 per cent. Since the beginning of the pandemic, 25,890 cases have been confirmed – 13,807 in the Idleb area and 12,756 in northern Aleppo governorate. 714 COVID-19 associated deaths had been reported as of 8 July.

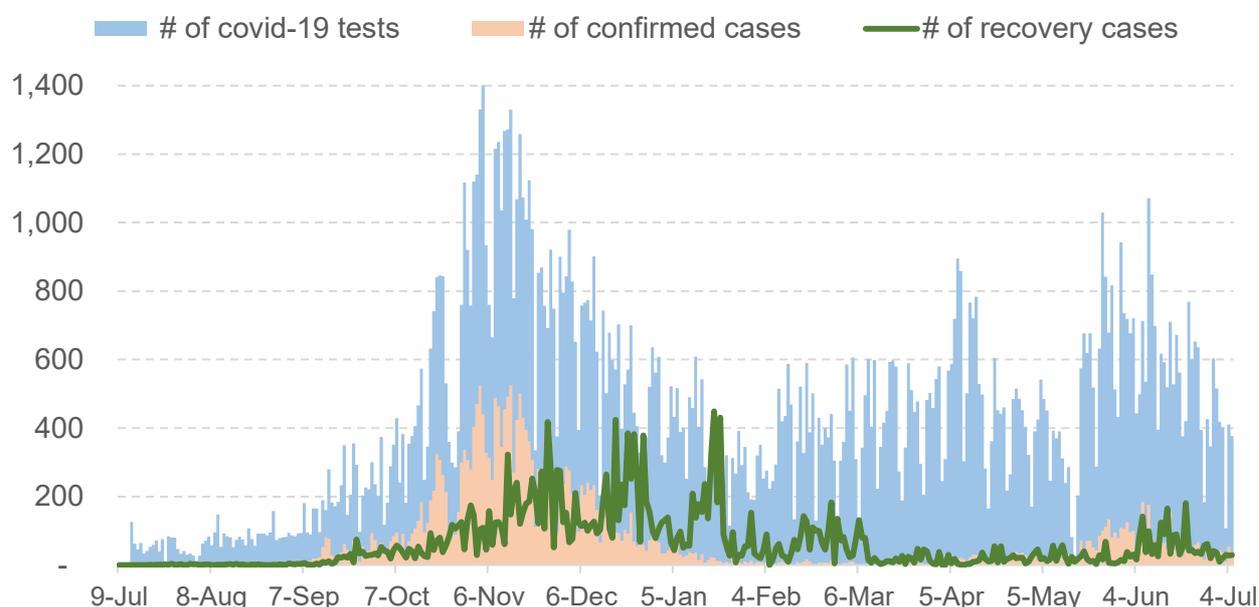
The percentage of current cases among healthcare workers is 7.9 per cent, encompassing nurses, doctors and midwives, while a further 5.4 per cent are auxiliary workers in the health sector. Some 16.1 per cent of all COVID-19 cases are in IDP camps. In the Ras Al-Ain and Tell-Abiad area, 631 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in June, including five deaths.

The COVAX-supported vaccination campaign in Aleppo and Idleb continues. Overall, 93 vaccination teams were contracted for the campaign, reaching 39,668 healthcare and social workers, people with non-communicable diseases, and people above 60 years of age with no-comorbidities. The first phase of the campaign started on 1 May, targeting healthcare and social workers. The second phase, initiated on 7 June, also included people with non-communicable diseases. As of 1 July, the third phase of the campaign is expanding the coverage to people over 60 years of age. Social mobilization continues to be essential, to ensure people have access to full and transparent information to understand the importance of the vaccination for their own protection, as well as for their patients and communities.

The first shipment of COVAX-sponsored Astra-Zeneca vaccines was brought into northwest Syria through the Bab Al Hawa crossing. It is important, however, not to underestimate the burden of disease in Syria. The first COVAX delivery is only sufficient for about 0.5 per cent of Syria's people. The total delivery from the COVAX Facility is expected to cover only 30 per cent of the entire population. Critical funding gaps remain in the COVID-19 response as well as the vaccination campaign, which depends on sustained cross-border access for supplies.

As of 6 July, 38,763 healthcare and social workers have been vaccinated against COVID-19, enabled through the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access initiative (COVAX). The first shipment of COVAX-sponsored Astra-Zeneca vaccines was transported into northwest Syria through the Bab Al Hawa crossing. Critical funding gaps remain in the COVID-19 response as well as the vaccination campaign, which depends on sustained cross-border access for supplies.

NUMBER OF COVID-19 TESTS, RECOVERY AND CONFIRMED CASES as of 5 July 2021



*2,396 COVID-19 has been conducted prior to daily record keeping

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Critical funding gaps remain for partners operating in northwest Syria

As the 2021 Syria Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) is being finalized, initial funding for related activities is already being received,. By 5 July, humanitarian partners received an estimated \$628 million USD for all of Syria, which amounts to just over 15 percent of the estimated overall requirements of the HRP (\$4.2 billion USD). In order to fully meet the needs of millions of people throughout Syria, significantly more funding will be required.

Humanitarian partners in northwest Syria carried out a funding gap analysis for the period of July to September 2021. As per cluster calculations, \$403 million USD will be required to sustain the current response and to reach all 3.4 million people in need throughout the northwest. To date, \$158 million USD has been received, leaving a gap of \$243 million USD, or 60 per cent, severely constraining partners' ability to respond. Funding gaps are forcing clusters to re-prioritize their activities, thus delaying, reducing, or even suspending much needed assistance to people in need. As per the funding gap analysis, up to 2.9 million people could be affected by these re-prioritizations in the WASH cluster alone, as well as 1.8 million people requiring of nutrition assistance. As of 30 June, the most severe funding shortages are in health, education, and nutrition, putting their programmes at great risk. Without additional funding, programmes will have to be adjusted in the last quarter of the year, leaving an even larger number of people without the urgently needed assistance.

For further information, please visit:

www.unocha.org
www.reliefweb.int
www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/stima

Contacts

Suzanna Tkalec, Head of Office
suzanna.tkalec@un.org Cell:(+90) 539 2207377

Michael Kreeft, Head of Coordination Unit
kreeft@un.org Cell:(+90) 530 9156287