

North-west Syria


September-October 2022


In 2022, UNHCR has sent across the border core relief items, winter items and shelter materials to assist more than **78,000 households**.


UNHCR and its partners scaled up activities after the renewal of the UN Security Council Resolution for the cross-border humanitarian response.

In 2022, through its partners, UNHCR has provided protection services, such as psychosocial support and referrals, to more than **300,000 individuals**.

Humanitarian assistance trans-shipped in 2022

391,500  individuals targeted with the humanitarian assistance trans-shipped

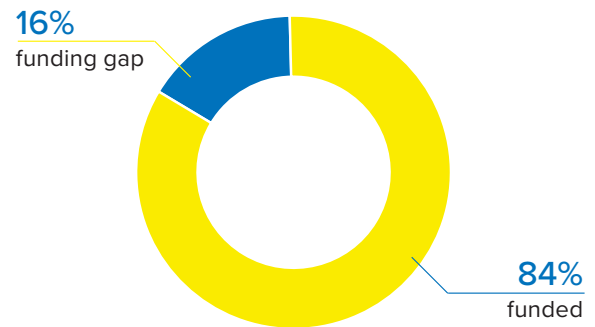
78,000  households benefitting from items trans-shipped across the border from Türkiye to north-west Syria

299  trucks used to transport the items

Funding requirements for 2022

US\$ 18.2 million

requested for the UNHCR cross-border humanitarian response



as of 24 November 2022

Main objectives of the cross-border operation

Support the coordination of the cross-border humanitarian response through the Cluster system

Identify protection risks and assistance needs and inform the overall response

Provide protection services and emergency assistance with core relief items and shelter solutions

Build capacity of (local) humanitarian organizations

Fill critical gaps in the basic needs of IDPs where required and feasible

Situation overview

Around 4.1 million people in north-west Syria are estimated as people in need of humanitarian assistance; of these, 2.8 million are internally displaced persons (IDPs). New and protracted IDPs share the same urgent needs, in an area that has limited shelter options and where the fighting has caused the destruction of civilian infrastructure, including health facilities, schools, bakeries, and has disrupted the provision of basic services. With an increase in hostilities, a deteriorating economic situation and harsh weather conditions that have been severely damaging IDPs' shelter and properties, the population continues to face challenges in addressing their basic needs. New displacements continue to be tracked and, at the same time, weather and fire-related incidents continue to affect the displaced population. Moreover, in mid-September, the first case of cholera was detected.

The UN Security Council Resolution 2642 (2022) allowing for the cross-border humanitarian response that was extended in July 2022 will expire on 10 January 2023.

While access to basic needs, particularly food, shelter, core relief items and protection, in the context of continuous displacement remains limited across the region, the humanitarian community is actively operating to deliver lifesaving assistance while ensuring the safety of the people.

Background

Following the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2165, UNHCR established its cross-border interventions from southern Türkiye in July 2014. In October 2022, through its own programme, UNHCR has partnerships with five organizations – ACTED, MUZUN, SHAFAK, SRD and WATAN – to assist displaced people through the provision of core relief items (CRIs), shelter support, camp management and protection services. In addition, UNHCR is co-leading the Protection, Shelter/Non-Food Items (Shelter/NFI) and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Clusters. All Clusters closely follow-up the humanitarian developments in the conflict affected areas in north-west Syria and contribute to emergency preparedness and response plans.

Response updates

UNHCR Programme

In 2022, in coordination with its partners and other humanitarian actors, UNHCR continues 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, Türkiye. The response serves the urgent humanitarian needs of the population in the region, who has been severely affected by ongoing hostilities, inadequate shelter conditions and a deteriorating economic situation. These critical interventions continue despite the limitation of having only one border crossing (Bab Al Hawa) through which the humanitarian assistance is delivered and shorter extension of the SCR (only six months).

In October, one transshipment carrying 300 family tents, 900 CRI kits and 52 Refugee Housing Units took place through Bab Al Hawa border crossing to assist 6,260 displaced people in north-west Syria.

In September and October, UNHCR's partners distributed 58 family tents for around 290 individuals in Idlib and Aleppo Governorates. In addition, in October, 4,410 conflict-affected people were assisted with 882 CRI kits in Idlib.

During the course of the two months, UNHCR's protection partners conducted awareness raising

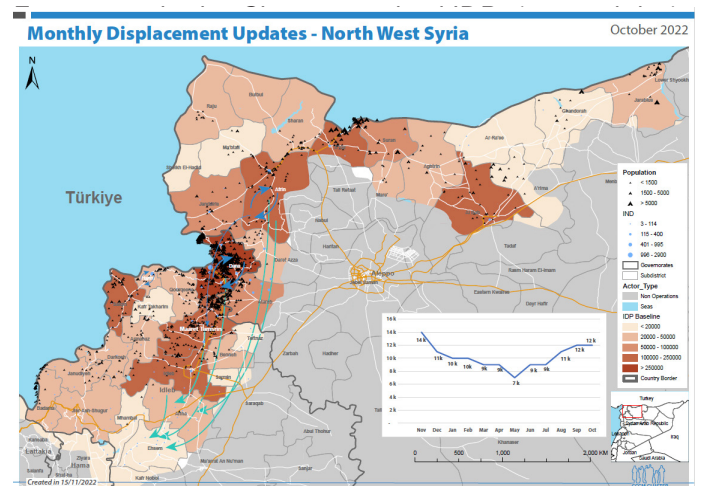
and psychosocial support sessions, identified cases and referred them to basic services in Idlib and Aleppo; such community-based protection interventions reached 69,002 people. Additionally, 2,831 displaced and vulnerable people received protection services such as awareness raising on civil status documentation and housing, land and properties, legal consultation and assistance.



Awareness-raising session for children. ©SHAFAK



The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, led by UNHCR and co-led by Global Communities, coordinates the efforts of 58 member organizations providing cross border assistance in north-west Syria. Activities focus on coordinating and monitoring the Cluster members to cover the multi-sectoral needs in 1,430 IDP sites that host 1,859,651 IDPs or 354,655 families (as of October) and, on behalf of the humanitarian community, track IDP movements. Close to 75,000 IDPs are persons with specific needs, while 80% are women and children. Most sites are concentrated in the Dana sub-district. Most of these sites are self-settled and lack camp management systems. To identify gaps and facilitate the coordination of multi-sectoral services, the Cluster is prioritizing monitoring and collecting information as part of its coordination response, which is particularly important in the implementation of the humanitarian response.



Map produced by the CCCM Cluster.

The total displaced population in north-west Syria is 2,588,488 IDPs. The Cluster recorded more than 12,300 displacements during September 2022. Displacements were principally from Dana, Idleb and Atareb with the main locations of arrival including Dana, Maaret Tamsrin and Idleb. Some individuals may have been exposed to multiple displacements and reasons for moving vary. A third of the newly displaced indicated shelter as one of their priority

needs. During the same period, over 3,500 IDPs were reported as having returned to their place of origin in north-west Syria.

In October, more than 12,400 displacements were tracked, mostly from Dana, Afrin and Harim, and to Dana, Harim and Maaret Tamsrin. 1,162 IDPs returned to their place of origin within north-west Syria.



Shelter/NFI Cluster

The Shelter/NFI Cluster, co-led by UNHCR and CARE, is coordinating the efforts of 80 member organizations in the Cross-Border operation who are implementing shelter and/or NFI activities in 2022. The Cluster addresses shelter and NFI needs of vulnerable people by providing in-kind assistance, as well as cash and voucher assistance.

Cluster members continue to actively respond to the needs of the newly displaced population, as well as protracted IDPs in north-west Syria. In September, more than 5,300 individuals received NFI assistance, in the form of NFI kits, kitchen sets, mattresses, jerry cans, carpets, solar lamps, tarpaulins, and blankets. In October, more than 76,000 individuals received NFI assistance, that majority being seasonal assistance in the form of winter cash for fuel. Shelter needs of over 17,000 people were addressed during September, including mainly the installation of dignified shelters. Moreover, some 12,000 individuals were reached with infrastructure improvements in IDP sites. The shelter support in October was mainly

related to improvement of infrastructure in IDP sites and the provision of emergency shelter. As part of a complementarity approach, some sites and IDPs benefited from more than one SNFI activity.

One of the top priorities for the Shelter/NFI Cluster is the coordination of the 2022-2023 winterization response. Long, extremely cold and unpredictable winters in north-west Syria cause acute suffering for 2 million people living without adequate shelter. As of October, Cluster members have secured US\$ 31.6 million out of the US\$ 66 million needed to support the people in need with the minimum survival level of support. With the current funding, the Cluster is able to reach some 976,000 individuals.

The Cluster keeps advocating for more dignified shelter and living conditions in IDP sites. Since March 2022 when the Dignified Shelter Action Plan was launched, cluster members have been able to reach some 6,100 families with dignified shelter. Another 16,800 families living in old tents are currently targeted by ongoing projects.



Protection Cluster

The Protection Cluster (co-led by UNHCR and IRC) brings together 63 member organizations, which include actors of the three Sub-Clusters: Child Protection (led by UNICEF and World Vision), Gender Based Violence (led by UNFPA and Global Communities) and Humanitarian Mine Action (led by UNMAS and Halo Trust). The Cluster also convenes regularly the Protection Monitoring Task Force (led by UNHCR and Shafak) and a Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Technical Working Group (co-led by UNHCR and NRC), as well as a Technical Working Group on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (ITWG, co-led by UNHCR and Humanity and Inclusion). The Cluster continues to prioritize the provision of lifesaving emergency protection services to newly displaced populations and to deliver specialized protection services to communities and individuals in need and at risk, including using outreach capacity and mobile teams.

In September and October, Cluster members pro-

vided 330,413 and 298,882 protection interventions respectively to IDPs and affected host community members in Aleppo and Idleb governorates. Displaced and vulnerable people received protection services such as awareness raising on civil status documentation and housing, land and properties, legal consultation and assistance but also psychological first aid, integrated/comprehensive case management services, community-based protection initiatives and referrals to other services.

In September, Protection Monitoring Task Force members conducted 855 Key Informant Interviews in 148 communities of Aleppo and Idleb Governorates. In October, the interviews were 877 across 156 communities. A variety of protection related issues, such as access to humanitarian assistance, child protection issues, access to civil documentation, witnessing any new displacement or arrival of returnee and access to healthcare, education, but also GBV and freedom of movement, were addressed.

UNHCR is grateful for the support of:

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