

# North-west Syria

April 2019

**18,620**

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

**93,220**

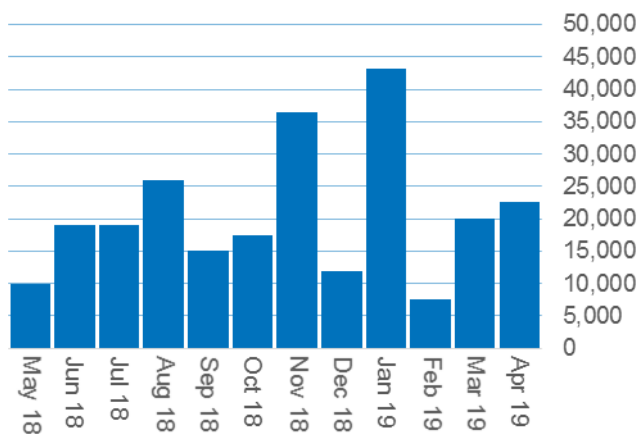
Individuals reached through UNHCR with core relief items and shelter material in 2019

**93**

Trucks with UNHCR humanitarian supplies sent across the border in 2019

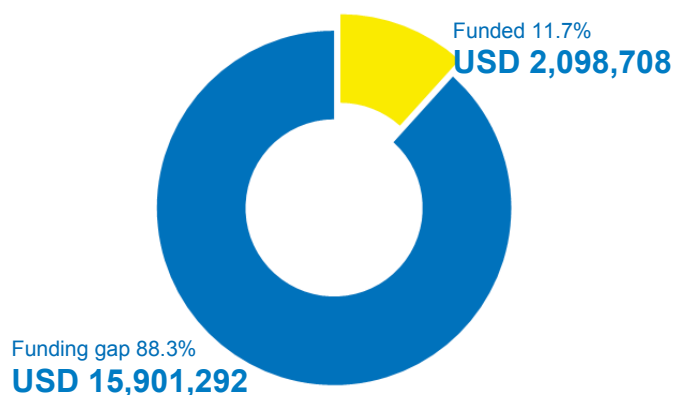
**56,505**

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 30 APRIL 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 2018, major developments took place in north-west Syria in regard to inter-factional conflicts and shifting frontlines, military and political control and local agreements on formerly opposition-held enclaves (e.g. eastern Ghouta, northern Homs). As a result, more than 688,000 people were newly displaced within non-state armed group controlled areas in north-west Syria in 2018. People continued to be displaced in 2019.

In 2019, intense hostilities between the Government of Syria and non-state armed groups, and among the latter have affected thousands of people in northern Hama and southern Idlib, causing a large number of people to be displaced. 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 further displacements.

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 April, 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. In April, **16,885 displaced and vulnerable people**, of which 5,925 individuals were affected by the March floods, were assisted with 3,377 emergency non-food item (NFI) kits in Idleb and Aleppo Governorates. Two transshipments of 2,500 emergency NFI kits took place through the Reyhanli-Bab Al Hawa and Kilis-Bab Al Salam border crossings on 4 and 25 April to assist 12,500 newly displaced people. In total, 12 trucks were used to carry out the shipments.

UNHCR's partners conducted awareness raising and psychosocial support (PSS) sessions, identified and supported cases, and referred people to appropriate services in Idleb and Aleppo Governorates; such community-based protection interventions reached **7,492 people**. In addition, 4,587 displaced and vulnerable people received protection services such as awareness raising sessions on civil status documentation (CSD) and housing, land and properties (HLP), legal counselling and advice, case management and referrals. In support to the coordination of the overall humanitarian response in north-west Syria, the displacement and protection monitoring initiatives under the UNHCR-led CCCM and Protection Clusters continued to inform the humanitarian community and the latest reports are available on their websites.



Distributions in north-west Syria  
© SHAFAK and WATAN



## Protection Cluster

The Protection Cluster (co-led by UNHCR and IRC) brings together **55 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.

### **Protection response services**

In April, Cluster and Sub-Cluster members provided **231,263 interventions** to IDPs and affected host community members, in 298 communities in **seven governorates** (Idleb, Aleppo, Hama, Ar-Raqqa, Lattakia, Deir Ez-Zor and Al-Hasakeh). A total of **860,844 interventions** were provided since January 2019. The main services in April were: psychological first aid for 3,152 girls, 2,857 boys, 622 women and 236 men; legal awareness raising sessions focusing on HLP and/or CSD for 750 girls, 405 boys, 2,951 women and 1,763 men; integrated/comprehensive case management services for 31 girls, 17 boys and 15 women; and referrals to other services for 282 girls, 217 boys, 428 women and 127 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 523 interviews with key informants (294 male and 229 female) in 118 communities.



### Shelter/NFI Cluster

The SNFI Cluster is led by UNHCR, coordinating the efforts of **50 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 April, over 150 sites were affected by floods in north-west Syria. The SNFI Cluster, in collaboration with the CCCM Cluster and its active members, responded to the affected populations with distributions of tents and NFIs. Overall, the SNFI Cluster members reached **40,583 individuals** as part of emergency response activities (including the floods as well as other displacements) during April. Out of those, 38,551 individuals were reached with NFI assistance and 2,032 individuals with shelter assistance, mostly with provision of emergency or transitional shelter due to the flood.

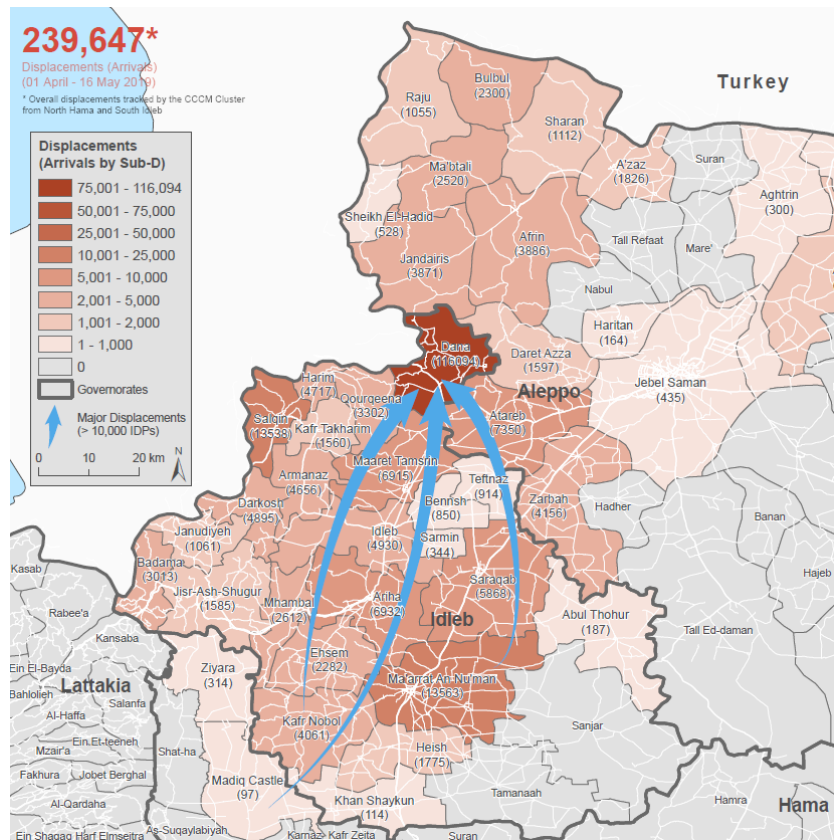


### CCCM Cluster

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 **325 IDP sites** hosting around **474,000 IDPs in north-west Syria** and, on behalf of the humanitarian community, track IDP movements and coordinating the provision of multi-sectorial assistance in IDP settlements.

The Cluster continued to provide weekly flash updates on displacements from northern Hama and southern Idlib due to the intensified clashes near conflict lines: the Cluster tracked **61,914 displacements** from Idlib (59 per cent), Hama (23 per cent) and Aleppo (18 per cent) Governorates; of those, **37,510 movements** were from northern Hama and southern Idlib towards different communities in Aleppo, Idlib and Hama Governorates.

The Cluster updated its IDP Sites Integrated Monitoring Matrix (ISIMM) for April covering 325 sites with 474,462 IDPs.



Northern Hama and southern Idlib displacements, 1 April to 16 May 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.

### 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