

## UNHCR urgently requires **USD 35 million** to address the most acute and pressing needs of the newly displaced families in north-west Syria

12 February 2020

The humanitarian situation in northwest Syria continues to deteriorate. The UN is deeply concerned about the safety and protection of over four million civilians in Idlib and surrounding areas, over half of whom are internally displaced. Since 1 December 2019, more than 700,000<sup>1</sup> people have been displaced in northwest Syria, mainly from southern Idlib and western Aleppo governorates – the vast majority are women and children. With fighting ongoing, this number is likely to rise further.

This latest displacement compounds an already dire humanitarian situation. Over 400,000 people were displaced between April and August last year, many of them multiple times, and many are becoming increasingly desperate and at risk. The immediate absorption capacity of existing Internally Displaced Person (IDP) sites has been surpassed while towns and villages are overcrowded with new arrivals. Meanwhile, conditions on the ground have been further exacerbated by extreme winter weather, including flooding and sub-zero temperatures and a sharp devaluation of the Syrian Pound, which is reducing the affordability of basic commodities and services.

As part of the UN cross-border operation from Turkey, UNHCR, in conjunction with humanitarian partners, is providing emergency aid and protection services to those displaced in northwest Syria. UNHCR is increasing its capacity to respond. A release of UNHCR regional stock of non-food items (NFIs) and emergency tents has been made, and additional staff is being mobilized to support the response. Additional funding will enable UNHCR and partners to rapidly scale up activities across the shelter, NFI, camp coordination and camp management (CCCM), and protection sectors. UNHCR is regularly recalibrating its response as the crisis evolves. Should the situation require, UNHCR will further increase its budgetary requirements.

The critical needs outlined in this document fall within the inter-agency North-west Syria Humanitarian Readiness and Response Plan and will be reflected in the not yet released 2020 Syria Humanitarian Response Plan.

### Urgent funding needs – USD 35 million

	TOTAL (USD)
Core relief items provided	10,265,499
Emergency shelter provided	14,965,800
Protection services including legal assistance, psychosocial support, sexual and gender-based violence prevention and response, child protection	7,561,613
Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and coordination support	2,207,088



**35,000,000**

### UNHCR cross-border response in 2019



**358,600**

displaced and conflict-affected people assisted with NFI kits, emergency shelter material and housing rehabilitation



**153,200**

vulnerable individuals provided with protection services, such as counselling, psychosocial support, referrals to specialized service providers and case management of persons with specific vulnerabilities

## North-west Syria emergency response

### Inter-agency planning figures

**800,000 people** (OCHA)

520,000 people displaced

280,000 people at risk of displacement



*A displaced Syrian child from the south of Idlib province holds a piece of bread while sitting out in the open in the countryside west of the town of Dana in the northwestern Syrian region on December 23, 2019.*

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### Shelter response (USD 15 million)



**321,000**

persons provided with tents and/or other viable emergency shelter solutions

Shelter assistance continues to be critical. New and previous displacements continue to require the provision of emergency shelters as well as alternative shelter solutions where possible. The large number of displacements is severely exacerbating shelter and accommodation shortages across northwest Syria.

### Provision of core relief items (USD 10.3 million)



**400,000**

persons provided with core relief items

The need for humanitarian lifesaving and life-sustaining core and emergency assistance remains imperative as households are unable to meet their basic needs, especially during winter. Core relief items, such as thermal blankets, mattresses, jerrycans, and tarpaulins remain one of the key overall priorities in the response.

### Protection services (USD 7.6 million)



**531,000**

persons reached with protection services

Sustained support for existing protection programmes and services that address the immediate and longer-term needs of IDPs is critical. Additional funding is required to meet the protection needs of displaced people, including through individual legal assistance; legal counselling on Housing, Land and Property issues and legal identity (civil status documentation); psychosocial support; case management; and counselling on availability and access to essential services. Awareness raising sessions on child protection, gender-based violence prevention and response will be expanded.

### Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and coordination support (USD 2.2 million)

The timely dissemination of information on IDP movements remains essential for the overall inter-agency response. In addition, it is important to strengthen the capacity for camp management of the existing and newly established IDP sites.

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