**HIGHLIGHTS**

**Major Developments in North-West Syria**
Over 2.8 million IDPs are living in north-west Syria, including 960,000 people who have who been newly displaced since December as a consequence of the latest escalation in conflict.

**Shelter options are extremely limited** and many IDPs resort to inadequate types of shelter. According to HNAP, 44% of IDPs use tents as shelter, around 9% are staying in substandard shelter, most of which are unfinished buildings; and 3% of IDPs have found public buildings, like schools, to be the only shelter option, thereby disrupting the provision of public services.

**Response**
Shelter/Non-Food Item (SNFI) Cluster members continue to actively respond to the needs of the newly displaced population as well as protracted IDPs in north-west Syria. Around 355,000 individuals, both IDPs and host community members, were assisted with NFI and/or shelter in March. In coordination with the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster, SNFI Cluster members are trying to identify more land to extend the perimeter of existing camps.

In March, almost 200,000 individuals received NFI kits, which contain kitchen sets, mattresses and blankets, as well as winter items. Shelter needs of around 159,000 people were addressed with activities including emergency and/or seasonal shelter assistance and shelter rehabilitation. Of those, more than 86,000 individuals were assisted with the provision of emergency shelter, which includes family tents or shelter kits. Between October 2019 and March 2020, the SNFI Cluster reached close to 818,000 IDPs with winterization activities, almost two months earlier than last year.

The SNFI Cluster is actively coordinating with the Health and WASH Clusters to respond to the needs of the IDP population in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Hygiene measures, in line with recommended WASH practices specific for COVID-19, are promoted during assistance distributions to reduce the risk of transmission. The SNFI Cluster has encouraged its members to provide hygiene kits together with NFI kits and has recommended to add soap. In addition, the SNFI Cluster identified tents to be used as isolation units.

The SNFI Cluster has also developed and widely shared its recommendations to mitigate the risks related to the COVID-19 outbreak for shelter and NFI activities.

**KEY FIGURES**

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<th>People</th>
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<td>51 Cluster partners</td>
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<th>Funding</th>
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<td>Total funding required: $150.1 M</td>
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<td>Funded: 35%</td>
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**KEY DATES**

- **Monthly SNFI Cluster Meetings:** January - March 2020: 08 January 2020; 12 February 2020; 08 March 2020
- **SAG Meetings:** Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) met in person at least once every month, in addition to coordination and communication via email and skype as necessary.
- **Other Meetings:**
  - **HPC Guidance Session:** Cluster support session in regards to the HRP 2020 SCHF Allocation: Discussion about Shelter and NFI priorities for the Emergency Reserve Allocation Cash vs In-kind discussion with Cluster members and Donors.
  - **Covid-19 Meetings:** At the end of March 2020, the recommendation was made to avoid meetings that gathers a large amount of people. Shortly after all meetings of the SNFI Cluster in the NWS hub were moved to online meetings, which was followed by the general recommendation for Teleworking due to the global health crisis. The Cluster used various applications in order to cope with the new situation and not affect the coordination and communication with cluster members via Skype, Microsoft Teams, Webex and Zoom.

**KEY DOCUMENTS**

- COVID19 - SNFI Cluster recommendations for NW Syria_20200420 Version 2
- Factsheet March 2020 North-West Syria
- snfi_emergencyoverview_25February2020_v1
- Shelter Repair and Rehabilitation Guidelines 2018
- Shelter Repair and Rehabilitation Guidelines 2018 (Arabic)