HIGHLIGHTS

Displacement Updates in North-West Syria

Over 2.6 million IDPs are living in north-west Syria, including 960,000 people who were newly displaced since December as a consequence of the latest escalation in conflict.

According to HNAP, as of June 2020, almost half of the IDP population are now living in adequate housing. However, shelter options remain limited with 45% of IDPs using emergency shelter, predominantly tents; 5% are living in sub-standard buildings, most of which are unfinished buildings; and 1% 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. Over 1.5 million individuals*, both IDPs and host community members, were assisted with NFI and/or shelter from January to June 2020.

During the first half of the year, 1,335,682 individuals received NFI kits, which contain kitchen sets, mattresses and blankets, as well as winter items. Shelter needs of 676,509 people were addressed with activities including emergency shelter assistance and shelter rehabilitation. Especially towards the beginning of the year, emergency shelter and new arrival kit distribution were main priorities.

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. SNFI aims to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 during distributions, to improve the conditions of inadequate shelters and decongest overcrowded collective shelters. In contribution to the Health Cluster response plan, 316 tents were provided to be used as triage stations in the health facilities in north-west Syria, and soap and washing powder continue to be included in the NFI kits. A new recommendation from SNFI is to include cloth-masks in NFI kits to reduce the risk of transmission.

SNFI continues to update and widely share its recommendations to mitigate the risks related to the COVID-19 outbreak for shelter and NFI activities in both English and Arabic.

The SNFI Cluster team, together with HNAP, conducted two rounds of assessments on the Collective Shelter Conditions in north-west Syria in April and June 2020. The objective of the assessment is to support partners in designing and prioritizing interventions to improve living standards within collective shelters. In addition to sharing key recommendations, individual profiles on each collective shelter have been prepared to facilitate an effective response and operationalize the findings.

SNFI has supported partners with site planning expertise, in order to enhance shelter solutions in north-west Syria. Experienced site planners have helped Cluster members in the site selection, design, complying to sphere standards and software. In addition to direct coaching and training sessions, in late May and June the Cluster facilitated capacity building sessions, focusing on assessment, design as well as non-technical aspects of site planning in emergency contexts. A Site Planning Support Group has also been set-up to assist Cluster members designing new IDP settlements and settlement expansion.

The SNFI Cluster Team has updated the cluster strategy and, in coordination with OCHA, is preparing readiness and response planning in case any further mass displacement occurs.

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* Including IDPs and host community members

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KEY FIGURES

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<tr>
<th>Key Figure</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People</td>
<td>76 Cluster partners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>Total funding required: $150.1 M Funded: 66%</td>
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Key Dates

- Monthly SNFI Cluster Meetings: January - June 2020:

- SAG Meetings:
  - Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) meeting at least once every month, in addition to coordination and communication via email and skype as necessary.
  - Main discussions revolved around concrete block shelters, flood response in IDP sites, guidance development and fire incidents, as well as incident reasons and mitigation measures.

- Other Meetings:
  - HPC Guidance Session: Cluster support session in regard 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. Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) regular meetings, led by OCHA, are also attended by the Cluster Coordinator (lead and Co-chair) where multi-cluster issues and updates are discussed.

- 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 north-west Syria 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. In coordination with the Health Cluster, new recommendations and inputs on Covid-19 are updated in the guidance and published on the global cluster website to advise members on the best practices to mitigate the
risks and avoid virus transmission when delivering aid. The guidance is a living document, with the last updated version drafted in June 2020.

**TWIG Meetings:**
A Technical Working Group (TWiG) focused on Concrete Block Transitional Shelter Construction was activated by the Cluster, with regular meetings held on a weekly or fortnightly basis. The TWiG aims to compile and share best practices, with the aim of producing guidelines on the construction of concrete block shelters in camps or informal settlements within the context of north-west Syria, in order to improve the quality of shelter available to the vulnerable population. The Cluster aims through this group to provide technical guidance in response to the situation on the ground where some NGOs and IDPs themselves have started building similar shelters, and Housing Land and Property issues remain prevalent.

**HLP Meetings:**
Together with the Protection and CCCM Clusters, SNFI engaged in meetings on Housing, Land and Property (HLP). Key points from the discussion were related to difficulties in finding a place to rent, evictions from collective centres, the importance of conducting due diligence and ensuring the Do No Harm principle.

**SCHF 2020 First Standard Allocation:**
19 projects (including 12 SNFI single-sector and 7 multi-sector) have been approved for Syrian Cross-Border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF) first standard allocation fund targeting many locations in north-west Syria, mainly in Idlib and Aleppo. Three international NGOs, fourteen local NGOs and one UN agency have been recommended by the Cluster Review Committee (CRC). These projects target 255,357 individuals (50,170 households) from both IDP and host communities.

**KEY DOCUMENTS**
- Factsheet June 2020 North-West Syria
- snfi_emergencyoverview_25february2020_v1
- Shelter Repair and Rehabilitation Guidelines 2018
- Shelter Repair and Rehabilitation Guidelines 2018 (Arabic)
- Shelter NFI Cluster Technical Guidance (Updated, July 2018)
- HLP X B Turkey Due Diligence Guidelines FINAL
- HLP X B Turkey Due Diligence Guidelines (Arabic version)
- Flood Classifications and Effects on IDP Sites in NWS
- COVID19 - SNFI Cluster Recommendations for NW Syria - 20200729 Version 3
- نوصيties معدلة للأنشطة في إطار الفئات الأولوية والثانية للأفراد في مواجهة فيروس كورونا (كوفيد-19)
- Collective Shelter Conditions in NW Syria
- Collective Shelter Conditions in NW Syria

**KEY LINKS**
- Shelter&NFI Cluster NWS - Turkey Hub Dashboard
- Shelter&NFI cluster- 2019 - 2020 Winterization Plans Overview
- SNFI CCCM Emergency Response
- Photo Gallery - Improving IDP Settlements