# IOM RESPONSE TO SYRIA CRISIS



CROSS BORDER PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

OCT - DEC 2018





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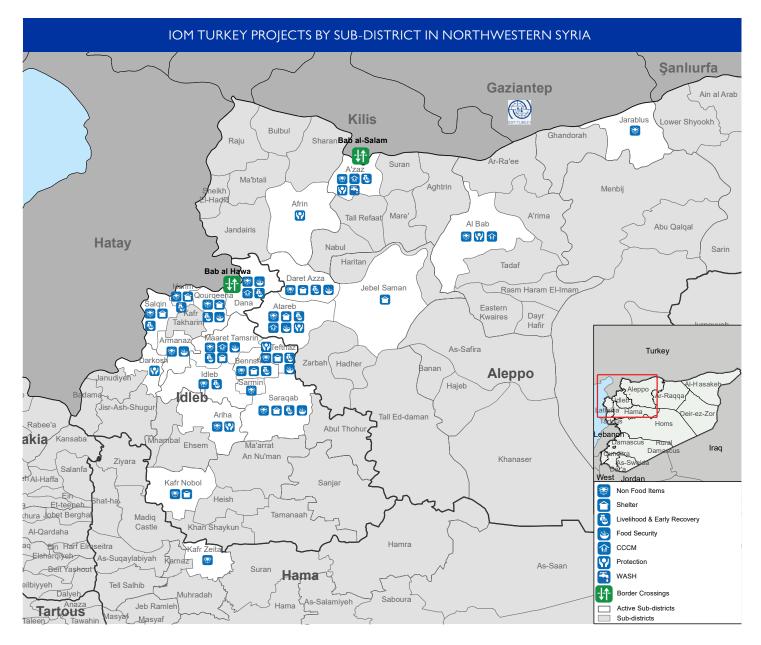
# INTRODUCTION

By the end of December 2018, Humanitarian Needs and Assessment Programme (HNAP) reported that the number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) had reached 1,075,731 in Idleb and 862,897 in Aleppo. Despite the announcement of a demilitarized zone (DMZ), violent clashes continued, causing new displacements and limiting returns. Airstrikes continued in northern Hama and most frequently in southern Idleb, driving increased displacement. The rise in displacement resulted in the deterioration of already dire living conditions and demands a more substantial response in all sectors of humanitarian support. 80 per cent of communities were reported to be in need of winterization support in December 2018.

From late November onwards, most IDP sites were significantly

affected by flooding and harsh winter conditions. In collaboration with OCHA, HNAP and REACH and relevant clusters, joint field research found an estimated 81,805 people were impacted by the flooding across 128 IDP sites. Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster data also found that a total of 4,983 tents were completely destroyed or damaged.

With the support of our donors, the UN Migration Agency (IOM) has succeeded in providing assistance to almost 1.5 million beneficiaries through the cross border programme since operations began. This programme overview provides information on the projects and the assistance provided in various sectors in the last quarter.





18



# NON – FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

## TOTAL BENEFICIARIES REACHED

BENEFICIARIES 110,088

## ITEMS DELIVERED

WINTER 110,088
CLOTHING KITS

| <b>**</b> | NFI KITS | 18,348 |
|-----------|----------|--------|
|-----------|----------|--------|

## REACH AND PARTNERS

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

LOCATIONS
60

IOM began winterization activity in the last quarter of 2018, as well as management of the S/NFI and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) cluster contingency stock and the single source procurement pipeline (SSP) for NGOs operating in northwestern Syria. As of December 2018, a total of 18,348 comprehensive NFI kits, 5,000 heaters and around 110,088 winter clothing kits were handed over to the implementing partners in Syria for immediate distribution.

IOM partnered with over 20 local NGOs for the winterization programme. Activities included procurement, warehousing, delivery and distribution monitoring of NFIs, Hygiene kits, winter clothing kits, heaters, family tents and large tents (rub halls). IOM Turkey is one of the leading agencies working with the S/NFI Cluster, aiming to cover 40 per cent of targeted activity.

During the final quarter of 2019, IOM's new Commodity Tracking System (CTS) was piloted, designed to monitor NFI activity from deployment at the warehouse, unloading in Syria and all the way to the beneficiary. Using a standard smartphone and scanning codes attached to all items sent, CTS safeguards



18,384 non-food item kits were distributed this quarter, which include bedding, water containers, hygiene items and kitchen utensils.

against tampering and the redirection of humanitarian goods, allowing for much more specific information to be relayed back to the sender. <u>Click here</u> to watch video on IOM Turkey's new commodity tracking system in use for cross border operations.



# EARLY RECOVERY AND LIVELIHOODS

| TOTAL BENEFICIARIES REACHED / TRAINED |                          |     |  |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----|--|
| ήή                                    | BENEFICIARIES<br>REACHED | 168 |  |
| † † †                                 | BENEFICIARIES<br>TRAINED | 16  |  |

Early Recovery: Business support packages were provided for 99 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in A'zaz city

| REACH AND FARTINERS |                       |   |  |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---|--|
| ы                   | IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS | 3 |  |
| Ŷ                   | LOCATIONS             | 3 |  |

operating in public transportation, water trucking, carpentry and blacksmithing. The project was designed to support and enhance  $\frac{1}{2}$ 



#### IOM RESPONSE TO SYRIA CRISIS

the capacity of SMEs in A'zaz for both the host community and IDPs. Training sessions on Business Development Services (BDS) were delivered for SME owners with the aim of enhancing their entrepreneurships skills. Training sessions included Strength Weakness Opportunity and Threat (SWOT) Analysis, the '4 Ps' of marketing (Price, Product, Place, and Promotion), book-keeping, issuing invoices, principles of depreciation, and general sales skills. Each beneficiary created a business development plan that included the actions needed to move forward with their business.

Livelihoods: Needs, market and area assessments were conducted in the final quarter of 2018, featuring additional focus group discussions to identify the most suitable early recovery activities in northern Syria. Food production, construction and maintenance, welding, electrical repair work, carpentry and transportation were all highlighted as areas with potential. Community Representative Boards (CRB) were also established, made up of IDPs and host community members, including women. New staff and CRB members were trained in project management and community mobilization techniques in preparation for project implementation.





| TOTAL | BENEFICIA | ARIFS   | REACHED |
|-------|-----------|---------|---------|
|       |           | VI VIES |         |

BENEFICIARIES 3,732

### ITEMS DISTRIBUTED

FOOD BASKETS

8,165

# **REACH AND PARTNERS**

IMPLEMENTING 2
PARTNERS

LOCATIONS 62

IOM continued with implementation of emergency food and NFIs in northwestern Syria. The goal of the project is to improve access for a total of 3,833 conflict-affected IDP families to immediate and

lifesaving assistance, reducing their vulnerability to food insecurity and malnutrition. In this period, a total of 8,165 food baskets were delivered to 62 locations in Idleb and northwestern Aleppo.



Children wait for a family meal, prepared using ingredients from an IOM food basket in northwestern Syria.



2





### TOTAL BENEFICIARIES REACHED

# # BENEFICIARIES

9,007

#### **REACH AND PARTNERS**

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

LOCATIONS 2

Over 350 shelter units, fit to accommodate 547 households of displaced people were refurbished in northwestern Syria this quarter. The units, which used to belong to host community members, were handed over based on an agreement made with IOM to grant free of charge leases for up to nine months to IDPs, empowering the host community in the process of finding suitable shelter solutions. Additionally, 3,012 IDPs received shelter repair assistance in rural Aleppo with a specific focus on sealing against external weather conditions. The rehabilitation was carried out by 163 workers as part of a cash for work initiative. In Idleb, the local council and Syrian NGOs referred 2,038 IDPs to receive shelter units in 40 rehabilitated buildings. Transportation to the new shelters was also provided. Shelter rehabilitation was also underway in collective centres and reception centres in Idleb, benefitting 2,300 IDPs. This activity was also part of a cash for work initiative, providing short term employment for 405 workers.



Unused building, newly refurbished by IOM and ready to house IDP families in northern Syria.



IOM provided shelter solutions to the benefit of over 9,000 people between October and December of 2018.





# PROTECTION

#### TOTAL BENEFICIARIES REACHED

\* \* \*

**BENEFICIARIES** 

10,003

# REACH AND PARTNERS IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS 5 LOCATIONS 5

IOM Community Centre projects have been ongoing this quarter. Implementing partners provided psychosocial support (PSS) and psychological first aid (PFA) as well as Gender Based Violence (GBV) and child case management support to an overall of 3,360 beneficiaries at the Reception Centre in Al Bab. In Darkoush Community Centre in Idleb, integrated protection services were provided, including GBV, Child Protection case management, information and legal support on Civil Status Documentation (CSD) and Housing Land and Property (HLP) serving 1,832 beneficiaries. In A'zaz and Atareb Reception Centres, IOM undertook independent protection monitoring services, also covering nearby NFI activity. 825 IDPs and Reception Centre staff took part in the surveys, including integrated awareness raising and protection training. In Ariha and Taftanaz, IOM supports two child-friendly spaces to provide children with protected environments in which to play, socialize, learn, and freely express themselves as they deal with displacement. Services provided by the team included psychosocial support and recreational and learning activities through play. Parenting workshop sessions were held to discuss child protection concepts and contribute to reducing the risks of child abuse. An overall of 3,422 beneficiaries accessed support.

As part of protection services, IOM is also working with the Urban Research Centre (URC) in Afrin to better understand the ramifications of the conflict on the housing, land and property (HLP) rights of IDPs and returnees. 555 research participants (239 men and 316 women) took part in surveys, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions. Findings will inform the design of a legal protection programme in the area. Additionally, together with the HLP Technical Working Group, the protection team finalized a position paper outlining key legal HLP challenges among conflict-affected persons in northwestern Syria, including destruction, damage and secondary occupation of property and the exacerbated difficulties of displaced women to access their HLP rights.

The IOM-coordinated, 25-member strong Gender Focal Point Network continues to provide support to all clusters of the XB Syrian humanitarian response in incorporating gender equality measures into their respective programming. Activities during the final quarter of 2018 included the formulation and dissemination of key gender messages tailored to the context of each cluster.



Activities for children carried out by IOM's implementing partners at Mizanaz Reception Centre.





# PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (PSEA)

| TOTAL BENEFICIARIES TRAINED | REACH         |  |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--|
| ††† BENEFICIARIES 37        | • LOCATIONS 1 |  |

The interagency PSEA network in Gaziantep for the Turkey cross border operation is co-chaired by WHO and Hand in Hand for Syria. At the end of the last quarter of 2018, the network had grown to a total of 79 focal points from 45 organizations.

One of the global commitments - and proven effective techniques - on the prevention of and response to SEA is for organizations to install joint community-based complaint mechanisms (CBCM) that are accessible to the affected population. In the Turkey cross-border operation, a CBCM has been established and represents a major milestone achieved after considerable interagency deliberations and consultations. An inter-agency Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on joint SEA referrals has been developed by organizations of the Turkey cross border PSEA Network as a final step in creating the inter-agency communitybased complaints mechanism for the cross-border response. It details how a SEA complaint received by any existing complaint mechanism managed by any organizations will be referred to the appropriate organization/unit in a standardized, consistent and coherent manner. This development is significant for enabling an effective response. The SOP has already been signed by a small number of organizations and more widespread endorsement is expected in the first guarter of 2019.

In addition to the linking of existing mechanisms via the CBCM, a dedicated phone line, WhatsApp line, and email have been set up under the umbrella of all UN and non-UN humanitarian organizations for confidential reporting in English, Arabic and other languages. This mechanism will be managed by the PSEA programme, which is housed at IOM. This additional channel has been set up to offer beneficiaries an additional option for safely reporting SEA should it be that they do not wish to report to any existing complaint channel. The hotline operators are currently undergoing recruitment and will be trained extensively before the complaint channel goes live.

In order to ensure that affected communities are aware of their rights and of how to safely and confidentially report SEA, awareness materials have also been designed in Arabic, English and other languages and tested in Syria. These materials will be rolled out in 2019.

Community consultations with 630 respondents were conducted in northwestern Syria (Aleppo, Hama and Idleb) to understand what makes a complaints mechanism accessible and useful for the affected population. The key findings were analyzed and presented in a meeting on 26 October 2018 open to the humanitarian community in Gaziantep. The findings include, among others, that:

- Humanitarian misconduct is prevalent 1 in 6 persons reported that they had been asked for something in exchange for aid and 12 per cent of these said that they had been asked for 'personal relationships'.
- While there is generally high awareness of existing complaints mechanisms amongst the community, only 15 per cent of the respondents reported ever using the mechanism or knowing someone who had.
- 91 per cent of the respondents said that they had never been consulted in the design of a complaints and feedback mechanism.
- Women are at a disproportionately high risk of being subjected to misconduct, with the misconduct going unreported. 72 per cent of the respondents perceived that women were the most likely to get asked for something in return for aid. In addition, the data shows that half as many women as men use complaints mechanisms.

Finally, in the last quarter of 2018, 37 humanitarian workers were trained on PSEA basics in the Turkey cross-border operation (25 male and 12 female). In addition to training programmes, a set of awareness materials for humanitarian workers including a 'Know the Rules' poster and a 'There is no excuse' pocket card have been designed and translated in English, Arabic, and other languages.





# CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

### TOTAL BENEFICIARIES REACHED

64,452

**BENEFICIARIES** 

TOTAL BENEFICIARIES TRAINED

**BENEFICIARIES** 

**REACH AND PARTNERS** 

IMPL

23

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

LOCATIONS

77

5



IOM's Maaret Elekhwan Camp is opened in Idleb, designed to relieve the overburden on surrounding camps since the recent increase in IDPs.

- IOM partners with 3 local NGOs that serve as site managers for Reception Centers (RC) in Idleb and Aleppo, with capacity for up to 6,160 people.
- A new MoU was signed with a food sector partner who will provide two cooked meals per day for IDPs in A'zaz and Mizanaz Reception Centres.
- IOM's partners carried out infrastructural rehabilitation in Al Bab and A'zaz Reception Centre. In all three Reception Centres, partners rehabilitated children's playgrounds, upgraded latrines for disabled access, constructed field kitchens, re-gravelled pathways and repaired light systems.
- The outer fence in A'zaz Reception Center was fix after damage from recent storms.
- CCCM Roving Team conducted two assessments: one of congested sites; another on the damage and needs resulting from recent flooding.

### Maaret Elekhwan Planned Camp:

- The IOM Planned Camp in Maaret Elekhwan started receiving IDPs in October from the most vulnerable and congested IDP sites, alleviating the burden on other IDP sites.
- 276 households were relocated to the camp, filling almost a third of the capacity available. They received new shelters,

- NFI kits, food, protection, health and education services.
- In December, IOM also began distribution of fuel in the camp and initiated psychosocial support for children, including educational activities.
- IOM-organized camp management training with CCCM Cluster and UNHCR on CCCM standards and principles

### Winterization:

- IOM procured and shipped tent insulation items from Burc and Hatay warehouses in Turkey to Syria, which included 306,244.00m<sup>2</sup> of insulation rolls, 25,234 plastic sheets and 2.175 tents
- Three IOM IPs reached 3,550 families living in 44 IDP sites in Idleb with a comprehensive package of tent winterization assistance, including raising tents from the ground, internal insulation and external weatherproofing.
- IOM IPs provided water trucking services for nearly 18,840 IDPs living in 30 IDP sites that lack access to clean drinking water, reducing to 29 sites following IDP relocation from Tadamun Collective Centre.





# TRAINING: SAFE SECURE APPROACH TO THE FIELD ENVIRONMENT (SSAFE)

# TOTAL BENEFICIARIES TRAINED

**REACH** 

**†** † †

BENEFICIARIES

122

LOCATIONS

GAZIANTEP

SSAFE training in Gaziantep continued its delivery, offering a total of seven training sessions from 01 October -13 December 2018. A total of 122 staff members from UN, implementing partner and

local and national non-governmental organizations were trained and certified during the period, including 69 male and 53 female staff members.

# HUMAN INTEREST STORY: ZA'ALA

Za'ala from the village of Khyara in Idleb, has lived through a lot. At 80 years old, she was widowed at 40 and spent most of her life selling cigarettes to earn the money she could to provide for her children. Her extended family gave her a lot of happiness, especially one of her nephews, who would always drop round to say hello with citrus fruits and juice. He would sit for hours in her house, listening to his old aunt tell him poems in exchange.

When shelling began in their village, Za'ala was forced to flee with her family. They returned time and time again after bombings, but as the conflict intensified they had to move to nearby makeshift camps. People made tents using whatever they could find, squeezing large families into the space available on the piece of rented land that the camp sat on. During winter months, the rain leaked easily into the homemade tents and created thick, muddy pools in the camp. This was making conditions extremely unsanitary and was beginning to cause serious medical problems. 'I couldn't sleep at night, it was too cold and humid,' explained Za'ala.

As part of a winterization programme, IOM's tents insulation project works to provide more substantial shelter options for the most vulnerable affected by the conflict in Syria. Plastic sheeting

works to keep out the rain and keep tents dry and insulation material keeps the tents warm in winter and cooler during the hot summer months. Additionally, creating gravel and brick bases under tent sites also keeps out any ground moisture and mud. Together with the Shelter/NFI and CCCM Clusters, IOM Turkey is taking the lead in the winterization response in northern Syria to provide support to over 300,000 beneficiaries during the 2018/2019 winter.

Za'ala recently found some extended family in the camp and spends time with them in a more comfortable setting, however she still misses spending time with her nephew. She hopes to return to her home one day soon and spend time with him again.



Za'ala, 80 years of age, was provided with tents insulation materials to make her temporary living environment more comfortable by IOM's shelter team.



