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Winter storm Update North-West Syria

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Al-Ameen for Humanitarian Support:

Is a non -governmental organization established in 2012 by a group of volunteers in northern of Syria within the crises and Starting as a group of activists with a mission of helping all conflict-affected people of Syria, registered in USA, Turkey, Yemen, Lebanon and Sweden.

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Humanitarian context:

The decade-long crisis has inflicted immense suffering on the civilian population who have experienced massive and systematic violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, including more than 1,350 attacks on education and medical facilities and related personnel, bombardment which has forced over 12 million people to flee their homes, and arbitrary detention, abduction, torture as well as other serious abuses. Almost 12,000 children have been killed or injured since 2011, and 47 per cent of young people have had a member of their immediate family or close friend die. With around half of Syria's children having known nothing but a lifetime of crisis 2.45 million of whom were estimated to be out of school in 2020 alone - an entire generation is at risk of being lost. Long-standing and deep-rooted trauma, much of which remains unaddressed, means a mental health crisis looms large. While large-scale hostilities have reduced compared to the peak of the crisis, with frontlines not having shifted in a year, frequent mutual shelling and rocket fire continues to be observed along contact lines, often causing civilian casualties.

Continued civilian casualties and forced displacement due to ongoing hostilities, in addition to reduced access to already degraded basic services, limited and inadequate housing and shelter options, and a wide array of specific protection risks and concerns continue to cause and perpetuate humanitarian needs among the population. While hostility-induced displacement additional needs amongst the population in Syria for internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees and host communities, particularly in North-west Syria (NWS), the ripple effects of the economic downturn - including the loss of income and livelihoods, sharply reduced purchasing power and resulting financial unaffordability of food and other basic goods - have exacerbated living conditions for people who were already in humanitarian need, and have tipped previously less affected segments of the population into humanitarian need.

While **DNA AL-Ameen** estimated total population of over 4 million people in north-west Syria, at Idleb governorate and Aleppo governorate "Opposition Areas" and it is estimated that around 2.8 million IDPs are considered as people in need of humanitarian assistance. New and protracted IDPs share the same urgent needs, in an area that has limited shelter options and where the fighting has caused the destruction of civilian infrastructure, including health facilities, schools, bakeries, and has disrupted the provision of basic services. With an increase in hostilities and deteriorating economic situation coupled with harsh weather conditions that have been severely damaging IDPs' shelter and properties, the population is now facing more difficulties in addressing their basic needs. Bad weather conditions and fire-related incidents in camps continue to affect the displaced population, including food insecurity.





Key Findings:¹

DEMOGRAPHICS

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According to DNA AL-Ameen Reports:

- The total number of IDPs, host communities, and returnees living in NWS (Northwest of Syria) in the communities that had been covered in this report and out of the control of the Syrian regime in the Opposition area are around 4,4 Million individuals.

- 2,8 Million out of the total number are IDPs individuals, furthermore, most of these IDPs are living in Idleb governorate by around 836,884 individuals.



- For the host community total 1,600,000 around 800,728 individuals are living in Idleb governorate, while in Aleppo there are around 656,522 individuals.



- there was a significant difference in the number of host communities between the sub-districts the highest number was in Dana sub-district that by around 189,373 individuals.

- Ariha, Maaret Tamsrin, and Salqin sub-districts there were for each sub-district more than 70,000 individuals.

- Men above 18 years are the biggest percentage in Aleppo governorate by around 24% of the total population, this was mainly in Mare', Afrin, Raju, Jandairis, and Bulbul sub-district.





IDPs FLOW_

- A'zaz sub-district had the biggest number of IDPs in Aleppo governorate by around 104,435 individuals, while in Idleb governorate Dana sub-district had around 313,849 individuals IDPs.

- The largest number of displaced persons were from Damascus governorate only around 15,000 individuals in the last three months even though the numbers are not clear due to the huge demographic change in this area, furthermore, these IDPs had been settling in Dana, Maaret Tamsrin sub-districts in Idleb governorate, also in Afrin and Jandairis sub-districts in Aleppo governorate.





EMERGENCY SECTOR

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- In Aleppo governorate it was found that almost half of the IDP population can't get cooking fuel, this was mainly in Ghandorah, Daret Azza, Mare', Menbij, A'zaz, Aghtrin, and Al Bab by more than 70% of the IDPs population in this governorate.

- The inability of the displaced to obtain cooking fuel is due to several reasons, the most important reason is the lack of purchasing power to secure fuel, due to the sharp rise in cooking fuel prices within this region and lack of income, this reason is also the general lack of availability of cooking fuel in these sub-districts that were covered in the report.

- that 26% don't depend on any coping strategy for lack of cooking fuel, this was mainly in Ma'btali, Mare', Raju, Sharan, and Bulbul sub-districts by more than half of IDPs in these areas.

- that diesel was the main material used for heating by 34% of total villages in Aleppo governorate, and its use was concentrated in Jandairis, Afrin, Atareb, A'zaz, Sharan, A'rima, and Aghtrin sub-districts by more than 40% of IDPs.





- Idleb governorate had shown that IDPs relying on buy blankets and other items to overcome the cold, this strategy was used by 35% of IDPs, while it was used mainly in Badama, Janudiyeh, Jisr-Ash-Shugur, Mhambal, and Teftnaz sub-districts.

- 65% of the covered communities hadn't received any humanitarian assistance, while around 35% of the communities had received assistance, while this type of assistance was related to shelter, WINTERIZATION, Food baskets, grants or support for livelihoods, WASH, Education, furthermore, out of these communities that received assistance 38% of the communities had received food assistance.



- Regarding the difficulties that had been faced by IDPs in collective centers and IDPs sites in Aleppo governorate, the report found that around 33% of the communities that had IDPs sites and collective centers are facing difficulties with main services like electricity, water, heating, ... etc.







SHELTER SECTOR

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- In studying the basic needs in shelter sector, the report found that in the communities of North West of Syria governorates and the report for this sector had shown the miscellaneous type of issues and it was spread in all sub-districts, also to mention that the lack of heating and lighting are the biggest problems that the shelter sector is exposed to.

- The same other issues like leaking in the roofs, lack of insulation against cold, lack of sufficient space inside the shelter, ventilation limited which is minimum 1 square meter for ventilation on one side of the house, half-square meter on the other side, lack of privacy for women and girls inside the shelter, latrines were not accessible, inability to reach culinary facilities, and inability to reach bathing facilities but in very small percentages.

- Problems and difficulties relating to shelter rehabilitation in the covered locations in North West of Syria was varied and affected many population groups, in the meanwhile the report had shown that most faced shelter problems and difficulties are relating to lack of tools or equipment for shelter repair, where it was found in %37 of the total houses in North West of Syria.

- in the North West of Syria in the covered communities, that around 23% of the communities had faced a lack of services for people with disabilities or elderly persons and this mainly was in Tadaf, Ar-Ra'ee, Suran, Jarablus, Atareb, and Afrin sub-districts by around 46% of the communities in this area.

- in North West of Syria, the report had shown that residents who haven't moved away since the beginning of the war are the most vulnerable group in this area by around 40% of the covered communities, in the meanwhile, the report had shown that these groups were mainly in Bulbul, Ma'btali, Daret Azza, Ar-Ra'ee, Tadaf, Jarablus, Mare', and Menbij sub-districts in Aleppo governorate and also in Idleb governorate for Saraqab, Harim, Bennsh, Ehsem, and Ariha sub-districts by around 50% of the communities in these sub-districts.









NON-FOOD ITEMS SECTOR

- access to reach non-food items, the report had found that the majority stated that 55% of villages can get their WINTERIZATION directly through the markets, and this was mainly in Teftnaz, Sarmin, Badama, sub-districts.

- With partial access to markets in of the areas of the North West of Syria governorates, or the inability to fully access the main markets in this area, which is due to obstacles such as road failures and physical constraints to markets access like a damage in the roads or shelling during the last period.

- The most used strategy in the Northwest of Syria was sales of households for assets or goods like jewelry, telephone, furniture, lands, etc., to cope with the lack of WINTERIZATION, this was by around 32% of the communities.

- With the severe shortage of electricity in North West of Syria, most of the population in this area resorted to mechanisms to cope with this shortage, so the statistics had shown that in about %25 of the villages in North West of Syria were have rationed electricity so that electricity is used in so limited proportion and to meet the basic needs.







Snowfall situation:

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With the heavy snow falls that strikes the NWS between 22-18nd of Jan, it was found that around 59 camps, these camps had been located in 10 sub-districts in the NWS, also to mention that the total population living in these camps estimated as of 178,000 individuals, most of them women, children, and elderly people. And Out of the over 1,755 destroyed and damaged tents, at least 1120 are reported to be in need of replacement, with the number expected to increase next days.



The rapid needs assessment by **DNA AL-Ameen** for these camps showed that in around 90% of the camps are in need for rehabilitation of shelter, while around 75% had showed the need for heating fuels as the lack of the item beside it non affordability, also to mention that some other needs like NFI kits, food baskets, blankets, tents, winterization clothes.



Need for rehabilitation of shelter,







Recommendation:

- Implementing rehabilitation projects to provide better shelter for the population.
- Systematic support for the neediest families, including regular food baskets.
- Rehabilitation of shelter units and providing cash-based support for housing purposes.
- Supporting all non-food items, including clothes, cooking fuel, and cash assistance.
- Securing a source of electricity supply and repairing the public electricity network, and providing electrical transformers.
- Maintenance of the public road network due to its essential role in the revitalization of economic life.
- Urgent provide of Tents for the affected locations
- The need to open roads as most of the IDP stranded



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