



Idleb Situation Report Number 1 January 17, 2018

1. Needs

Idleb, with a total estimated population of over 2 million people, has almost 65% of its people as people in need as per the estimates of the Food Security Sector. This 65% PiN includes 35% as acutely food insecure and 30% as at risk of food insecurity (HNO 2018). Nearly half of the population are IDPs (44%) and one of the main drivers of food insecurity in Idleb is high concentration of IDPs and their increasing vulnerability. As per price monitoring conducted by WFP and issued in November 2017, a standard food basket in Idleb governorate costs 31,690 SYP (74.5 USD) which is a drop by 2% compared to one year ago, and is higher than the national average of 29,845 SYP (72.7 USD). REACH market monitoring in December, 2017 indicates that the median cost of a complete Survival Minimal Economic Baskets (SMEB that has 11 food items along with NFI, fuel, water, telecom and other costs) observed during November in northwest Syria was 55,999 SYP (131.61 USD). The highest costs of SMEB were recorded in Jisr ash Shugur (71,343 SYP, 169.26 USD), Khan Shaykun (61,280 SYP, 144.87 USD) and Kafr Takharim (60,372 SYP, 141.72 USD) sub districts of Idleb. Ongoing price monitoring will give further information on the effects on prices from the unfolding crisis and displacements.

Overall, the main sources of income in Idleb are agricultural activities (crop production and sales, livestock breeding), skilled labor, salaries, and some remittances. The overall situation had somewhat stabilized in mid 2017 since the de-escalation agreement – although many breaches were reportedly still occurring – which to some extent resulted in IDP inflows from other parts of the country. In the past year the total population of Idleb Governorate doubled, due to the large number of arrivals from various evacuations in other conflict-affected governorates and other conflict-related displacements (Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, Damascus, Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor).

In its Humanitarian Needs Overview analysis in late 2017, the Food Security Sector identified the following as the key risk factors in Idleb:

- IDP returns remain minimal (due to fear of detention, arrest and eviction), however they may increase in the future. Meanwhile, conditions for displaced populations may deteriorate as access to employment opportunities and services remain limited and tensions with host communities rise.
- Presence of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham.
- Continuous insecurity in some localities. The security situation remains tense in the sub-districts in the southern parts of Idleb.
- Interruption or reduction of humanitarian assistance

Since December 2017, the risk factors as identified above have unfolded and the security and humanitarian situation in Idleb governorate, as well as in parts of north-east Hama and western rural Aleppo, has worsened. Since December GoS made an advance to retake the strategic Abul Duhur air base in eastern Idleb and the conflict has intensified in south-east Idleb over the past few weeks. Government forces have reportedly taken control of Sanjar in eastern Idleb and its surroundings, and continue to advance towards the air base. Several towns near the frontline have been abandoned as people are moving to comparatively safer places. At the beginning of January, CCCM reported that 176,762 people were displaced, which by the

time of issuing this report has increased to 212,140 people. The FSL cluster in south Turkey is closely monitoring the situation and the effects of any political/military developments in the area would have on the growing needs in Idleb. The displaced people from northeastern Hama and southern Idleb are moving northwards in the safer areas of Idleb governorate. It should be noted that as the situation remains fluid and people are still on the move, this number might include some double counting, which is rendering it difficult to match the response figures with the number of reported new IDPs by sub-district.

A recent needs assessments conducted by south Turkey based actors indicate that 84% of the displaced people are living in open random settlements and 16 % of the displaced people are living in camps. The major needs identified are related to NFI, food, and shelter. Furthermore, as majority of the residents in the sub-districts of southern Hama countryside and the Idleb southern countryside are livestock attendant (with an estimated sheep and goats of 326,802 in those areas), the displaced people from these areas are bringing their livestock along with them. However, they are unable to bring animal fodder with them because of the shelling and the military operations. There are no pastures for the sheep to graze at this time of the season in the northern parts of Idleb where the displaced people have moved with their livestock.

2. Response and Gaps

In the month of December 2017, the FSL cluster partners reported to have responded in some of the sub-districts where IDPs have moved. As per data received by mid-January, FSL cluster partners supported 106,238 people with Ready to Eat Rations – RTERs (95,729 people by WFP and 10,509 people by 2 NGOs), 21,483 people with Food Baskets to last a month (by 8 NGOs) and 6,095 people with cooked meals (by 1 NGO).

The table below on Needs, Response and Gaps indicates that in several locations response seems higher or lower than the reported number of IDPs. The cluster is following up with partners, especially in areas where the reported response is much lesser than reported IDPs to further verify the numbers and to reconcile the December data. For January, weekly tracking of response and gaps are going on and an update of which will be provided in the next situation report.

Note: The number of total IDPs (176,762) by sub district is as per CCCM report, which has now increased to a total of 212,140 IDPs.

Needs by sub district (Number of IDPs)		Response and Gaps (Number of IDPs)					
		Food Baskets		RTER		Cooked Meals	
Sub district	IDPs	Reached	Planned	Reached	Planned	Reached	Planned
Abul Thohur	551	-	-	4,623	-	-	-
Ariha	9,840	-	-	156	-	-	-
Armanaz	6,329	1,080	195	-	-	-	-

Badama	91	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bennsh	85	-	-	1,836	-	-	-
Dana	48,585	4,016	3,750	41,559	15,800	3,074	22,968
Darkosh	68	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ehsem	5,965	-	-	41	-	-	-
Harim	390	-	-	-	-	-	-
Heish	5,299	-	-	882	272	-	-
Idleb	11,906	294	-	2,040	-	-	-
Janudiyeh	867	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jisr-Ash-Shugur	3,031	3,221	-	-	-	-	-
Kafr Nobol	9,994	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kafr Takharim	1,180	150	150	-	-	-	-
Khan Shaykun	7,454	-	-	222	2,936	-	-
Maaret Tamsrin	3,040	2,025	12,145	4,038	-	1,718	-
Ma'arrat An Nu'man	27,224	360	6,515	14,670	10,588	-	-
Mhambal	5,955	-	-	450	-	-	-
Qourqeena	2,220	1,238	2,085	-	-	853	-
Salqin	4,729	425	3,195	-	-	-	-
Sanjar	4,672	8,419	-	6,630	-	-	-
Saraqab	16,945	-	-	24,669	-	-	-
Sarmin	-	-	-	594	-	-	-
Tamanaah	342	-	-	-	223	-	-
Teftnaz	-	255	-	3,828	-	450	-
Total	176,762	21,483	28,035	106,238	29,819	6,095	22,968

3. Stock available

- WFP has prepositioned 27,118 RTERs (135,950 people) in strategic locations in Idleb and Aleppo (16,559 in the former). Dispatches are also ongoing from Turkey into Idleb for an additional 14,400 RTERs (72, 000 people).
- NGOs have reported that prepositioning of 4,000 Food baskets (20,000 people) is ongoing. Additionally 10,000 RTERs (50,000 people) will be prepositioned at the end of this month.
- Available stock inside Syria
 - 1,000 Food baskets to cover 2,000 HHs (10,000 people).
 - 5,200 Food baskets (26,000 people) available at partner warehouse.

4. Challenges and constraints

- One of the partners reported suspension of their activity during this week due to the highly insecure situation caused by the heavy airstrikes in south of Idleb.
- Intensified conflict, access and risks with moving items from warehouses are causing challenges with distribution.
- Partners also reported facing logistic issues, transportation and warehouses to keep their stock.
- Constant flows of IDPs and their movements rendering it difficult to respond and account for them in certain cases.
- As enough information on food security is not available, sector encourages partners to conduct Rapid Needs Assessment and Price Monitoring with sector recommended tools to provide more information/evidence around the needs.

The map below provides the number of IDPs by sub district (in bracket) as per CCCM data (which has since been updated to 212,140 IDPs, response recorded in December for RTERs, Food Baskets and Cooked Meals; and the severity of food insecurity as established in HNO 2018 (late 2017).

