

Idleb Situation Report Number 1

September 18, 2018

1. Needs

As per Food Security Sector estimates (Mid Year Review 2018) almost 67% the total population in Idleb are People in Need. This includes 37% of the population as acutely food insecure and 30% of population as at risk of food insecurity. In addition to physical and financial access to food, displacement and conflict have been key drivers to food security in Idleb. As of July 2018, there are 317 active Internally Displaced Sites registered into the CCCM database, which are hosting a total of 420,103 IDPs/75,005 families. As per HRP, IDPs in last resort camps are one of the six core vulnerable groups.

Out of the 26 sub districts in Idleb 3 sub districts were classified as severity 5 (equivalent to IPC phase 4) and 19 sub districts were classified as severity 4 (equivalent to IPC phase 3) (Humanitarian Needs Overview 2018). This demonstrates high needs for and reliance on humanitarian assistance and lack of it would imply that these areas will move into the next phase of severity. For the three sub districts that are under severity 5 (IPC phase 4) – Khan Shaykun, Sanjar and Dana – several challenges are foreseen. Khan Shaykun - with an estimated 34,000 inhabitants - is in the southern parts of Idleb bordering Hama which is under risk of offensive and thus may become inaccessible, Sanjar - with 67,000 inhabitants - is under mixed NSAG and GoS control but has not been accessible in the past months is likely to receive IDPs (including the planned GoS humanitarian corridor) and Dana - with an estimated 400,000 inhabitants - is likely to receive highest number of IDPs.

Recent data from REACH (August 2018) indicates that 38% of assessed communities in Idleb reported food to be a priority need. Main barriers to accessing markets are related to conflicts and safety/security. In more than half of the assessed communities (58%) households reported to have faced barriers to access food markets primarily due to safety and security. This is under the current situation and thus if the security situation further deteriorates, physical access to market will worsen for the people in Idleb. Furthermore, humanitarian assistance is reported as one of the main sources of food and livelihoods for IDPs. In parallel, the use of negative coping strategies for lack of food was reportedly widespread as almost two thirds (63%) of assessed communities reported that households were using strategies such as purchasing food on credit, reducing meal sizes, selling productive assets and skipping meals, in order to cope with a lack of food.

On 12 August 2018, GoS reportedly blocked up the Al-Madiq Castle passageway in the northern countryside of Hama and shelling was reported in the northern countryside of Hama. Between 4 – 10 September air strikes and shelling were witnessed in western Idleb (Jisr Al Shughur) and southern country side of Idleb (Maarat Au Nauman, town of Khan Shaykun, Madiq Castle) and northern countryside of Hama. Following these incidents the food prices reported to have increased in Maarat Au Nauman by 5 – 15 %. Other developments include Turkish military reinforcements, ongoing negotiations and diplomatic efforts and large protests on ground. Situation remains tense but no further aerial and ground offensive reported in the past few days. Latest development being agreement between Russia and Turkey to create a demilitarised buffer zone to separate GoS forces from rebel fighters based there.

As a result of the developments until early Septembers, an estimated 32,000 – 38,000 people were reported to be displaced in Idleb. As of 17 September, HNAP reported 32,508 individuals have been displaced from 72 communities and arrived to 149 communities. Of those, 12,004 (37%) are accommodated in 80 camps and camps like structures and 20,504 (63%) are staying with host community and in rented accommodation. Since last week, a total of 11,286 individuals moved back to 26 communities (their place prior to the recent displacement) based on latest update from HNAP.

A Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) was conducted by one of the key NGO partners from south Turkey in 33 communities in Qourqeen, Armanaz, Maaret-Tamsrin and Kelly sub districts. This RNA interviewed 159 households out of 471 displaced households. As per the findings 72% IDP households are accommodated with host communities and 28% IDP households are in tents. Food was reported as the first priority need for 42% of interviewed IDP households and second priority need for 30% of the IDP households. 48% of respondents stated that shops have enough stock to meet the basic needs. Further reports from other partners state that from the verified IDPs, where Rapid Needs Assessments have been carried out, the main findings are: 1) some families are temporarily displaced to farmlands outside of populated places that may be target of airstrikes; 2) many families could not bring with them cooking items and food; 3) families accommodated in camps report higher vulnerability.

2. Sector Capacity

In anticipation of an offensive or deterioration in security situation, the Food Security Sector has worked on a preparedness plan to feed into the Inter Agency Plans. This preparedness plan is to establish the capacity to respond to IDPs in North West Syria from both south Turkey and Syria hubs. The preparedness plan is based on first line response that aims to provide immediate food in 72 hours through Ready to Eat Meals followed by second line response to provide monthly Food Rations (in kind or cash based transfer). Complementary food assistance through bread or mixed food items also form part of the strategy. Livelihoods programming is encouraged only for stable areas to address negative coping mechanisms.

As per the preparedness plan, the sector has the capacity to respond to up to 1.4 million people with immediate food assistance (first line response) and 1.35 million people on a monthly basis (second line response) for three months from both south Turkey and Syria hubs.

Hub	First Line Response – RTERs/cooked meals			Second Line Response – Monthly Food Rations/Cash Based Transfer – 3 months total		
	WFP	Others	Total	WFP	Others	Total
South Turkey	80,000*	88,151	168,151	360,000	209,362	569,362
Syria	80,000	35,000	115,000	192,000	50,000	242,000
Total	160,000	123,151	283,151	552,000	259,362	811,362

*WFP has an additional 43,000 RTERs lined up

Sector Response

As of 17 September, WFP and 1 other sector partner assisted 6,082 displaced households (approximately 30,000 individuals) with first line response. Out of this 5,169 households have been reached with first line response with Ready to Eat Rations in the camps clusters of Dana district: Atme, Deir Hassan and Qah; and 913 households have received RTERs by WFP in the districts of Afrin, Azaz, Khan Sheikhoun, Dana, Idleb, Maaret Tamsrin, Saraqab.

Additional partners are conducting assessment, verifying displaced households and lining up their response.

Recommendations

- In anticipation of an offensive and/or deterioration of security situation the sector recommends that partners take adequate measures with pre-positioning items, sufficient security of warehouses and teams on standby to verify IDPs being reported in their area of operation.
- The sector recommends partners for conducting Rapid Needs Assessments and response within 72 hours of reported IDP movements.
- The sector also urges partners to conduct real time market/price monitoring so that physical and financial access to food can be monitored to feed into response planning.