



IBC Emergency Appeal: North-West Syria October 2024

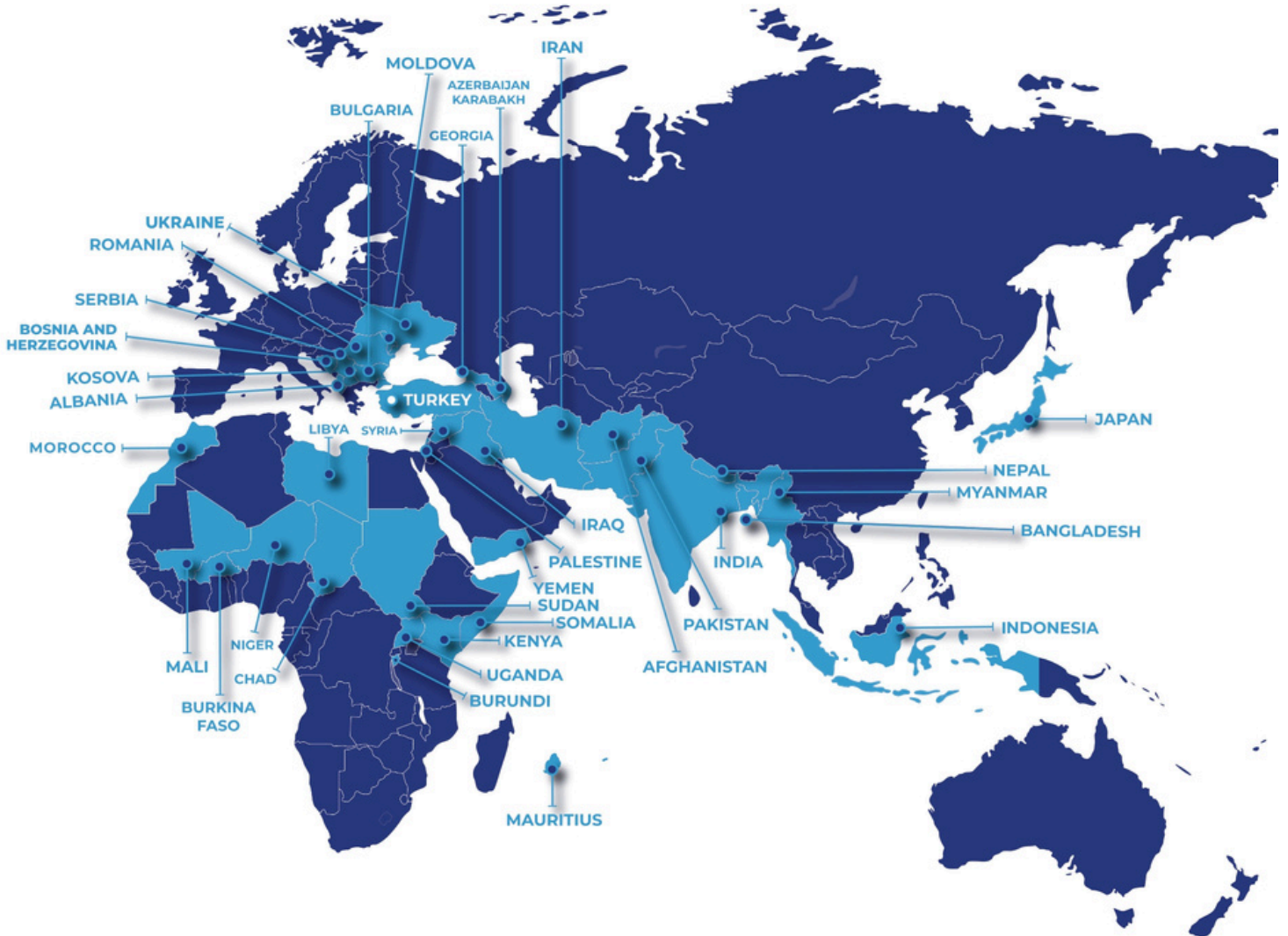




For more than 23 years, International Blue Crescent Relief and Development Foundation (IBC), has been reaching out to all people living in disadvantaged locations and who have challenges in accessing emergency relief, healthcare, education, and rehabilitation services, without any discrimination of nationality, religion, language, political view, gender, age, sexual orientation, genetic or physical characteristics.

A Special Consultant on the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and a member of the International Community of Volunteer Associations (ICVA), the IBC works in collaboration with local and national authorities, other CSOs, global donors, universities and research centers in all of its projects by leveraging their resources, technical expertise and experience in its own way of working.

Since its foundation, IBC has done ground-breaking work in fundamental rights and needs, particularly on creating sustainable livelihood, (re)integration to society, social cohesion, psychosocial support, access to education and healthcare, sustainable development, empowering women and gender equality.





This study developed by IBC in October 2024, addresses the increasing healthcare needs and preventions in northwest Syria through a multisectoral approach. Given the identified needs, the study is being presented to possible Donors as an emergency appeal for immediate support. Deteriorating Humanitarian Conditions in Syria North-west.

After more than 12 years of conflict, humanitarian conditions in north-west Syria continue to deteriorate due to ongoing hostilities, a worsening economic crisis, and the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes in February 2023. Approximately 4,1 million people require critical lifesaving assistance, with around 2,7 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). Emergency sites established as a last resort still host 1,9 million IDPs, about 80% of whom are women and children particularly vulnerable to various risks, including gender-based violence (GBV).

The major earthquakes that struck southeast Türkiye and north Syria on February 6, 2023, resulted in thousands of casualties and widespread destruction of civilian buildings and infrastructure in both countries. The earthquakes affected at least 96 communities across 35 sub-districts in northwest Syria (NWS), with more than 10600 buildings partially or destroyed. These earthquakes have compounded the long-standing humanitarian crisis in northwest Syria, where 2,7 million people were already displaced, and 4,1 million people were reliant on humanitarian assistance. Some 1,9 million IDPs live in 1459 IDP sites, 80% of whom are women and children particularly vulnerable to protection risks, including GBV.

In September 2023, a significant number of Lebanese citizens, along with Syrians, fled to northwestern Syria due to a surge in airstrikes and escalating violence in Lebanon. The airstrikes, primarily targeting areas in the north of Lebanon, particularly near the border with Syria, caused widespread fear and devastation. As a result, thousands of Lebanese families sought refuge in neighboring areas of northwestern Syria, including Aleppo and Idlib regions.

This migration is seen as a reversal of earlier patterns, where Syrians had fled to Lebanon during the Syrian civil war. Now, the violence and instability in Lebanon—coupled with increasing tensions and airstrikes in northern regions—have prompted many Lebanese citizens, especially those living in vulnerable border towns, to seek safety across the border into Syria. Many of these refugees have been forced to live in overcrowded and temporary shelters, increasing pressure on already strained resources in Syria's northwestern regions.

This shift in migration patterns reflects the broader instability in the region, with ongoing conflicts exacerbating the humanitarian crisis for both Lebanese and Syrian civilians. The influx has led to growing concerns over the capacity of humanitarian organizations and local communities to support the new arrivals, who are often in dire need of shelter, food, and medical assistance.

Although the form of migration has shifted due to recent developments, the regional conflicts and instabilities that caused the displacement continue to play a significant role; poor living conditions further threaten life and health, especially for children, older persons, and people with pre-existing vulnerabilities.

With 2,1 million people in need of shelter assistance and over 1.000.000 people living in tents and makeshift shelters (90% of which are more than one year old), environmental conditions pose a significant humanitarian challenge in north-west Syria. The majority of people reside in old tents in IDP sites that lack proper sewage, drainage, electricity, and water supply. Among the camp population, 80% are women and children who have experienced multiple displacements over several years, facing safety, security, and protection risks due to the temporary and undignified nature of shelter and settlement conditions.



The high rates of gender-based violence, the impact of poor living conditions on children, and the effects of climate change exacerbate the situation, rendering traditional approaches to shelter less effective.

There are 1468 IDP sites in northwest Syria, but only 188 are planned. The remaining 1245 sites are unplanned and spontaneously settled by IDPs themselves. These sites lack essential services, proper site planning, waste disposal, sewage systems, and a reliable water supply, making them difficult to access.



Food security remains of particularly serious concern, with an estimated 9,3 million people requiring food assistance to cover their daily needs, including 6 million people facing acute food insecurity. While 58% of the people in IDP sites are children, access to education remains limited.

In the region, only 40% of hospitals and 45% of Primary Healthcare Centers are functional. The main needs include comprehensive primary and secondary healthcare, trauma, postoperative care, physical rehabilitation, life-saving obstetric and reproductive health, and Mental Health and Psychosocial Services (MHPSS).

Children and adolescents have experienced significant and distinct impacts due to the crisis. The under-five mortality rate, neonatal mortality rate, and maternal mortality rate have all increased significantly since the crisis began. Children face additional diverse and deep-rooted protection issues, including family separations and losses, trauma, and the depletion of family assets and coping capacities. Separated children, refugees, and internally displaced or returning children are particularly vulnerable to gender-based violence and sexual exploitation; fear, anxiety, and grief also severely impact their mental health.

Since 2011, the categories of vulnerable people have expanded to include new demographics such as internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities, vulnerable boys and girls, unaccompanied and separated children, orphans, and women heading their households.

The availability, accessibility, and quality of basic services in Syria, as well as housing and other public infrastructure, have deteriorated significantly due to the crisis and the 2023 earthquakes. Widespread damage and destruction, combined with large-scale urban displacement and a sharp decline in public resources, have further reduced the capacity and effectiveness of service providers to ensure equitable, inclusive, and safe access to sustainable, quality basic services.

The crisis has created substantial challenges for the education sector, and widespread poverty and unemployment have forced many children to abandon their education to work and support their families. Overall, the education system, including the quality of education, has been severely affected.

The health system has suffered from the destruction and degradation of health infrastructure, the attrition of staff, and a lack of essential medicines. Women and girls are especially impacted by the lack of access to sexual and reproductive healthcare. Ten years of crisis have also resulted in a high demand for mental health and disability services across various age groups.



Water and sanitation systems have also been severely affected by the crisis and earthquake. The destruction and damage to water networks, combined with the displacement and loss of qualified technical water and sanitation staff, has decreased communities' access to safe water.

In the given context, the IBC strategically and urgently plans to support and focus on increasing improved, inclusive, safe, and equitable access and coverage of essential basic services and infrastructure, specifically for the most vulnerable people in Syria northwest. Respectively, the key programming priorities are as follows:

- **Ensuring reliable and safe water sources is essential for preventing waterborne diseases and safeguarding the health of IDP communities in northwest Syria, thereby supporting their overall well-being and resilience in challenging conditions.**
- **Supporting inclusive and equitable access to safe domestic and drinking water and clean sanitation, including improved hygiene practices.**
- **Addressing the urgent physiotherapy (PTR) and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) needs of IDPs in northwest Syria by providing comprehensive and accessible medical care to enhance the well-being of affected individuals by delivering targeted health interventions that address both physical rehabilitation and psychological trauma, ensuring that all participants have access to essential health services and support systems amidst the ongoing humanitarian crisis.**
- **Supporting and strengthening essential health services, especially in Orthopedics, PTR, and MHPSS at in and outpatient clinics, and regional hospitals.**
- **Supporting livelihood opportunities through conditional short-term Cash for Work (CfW) employment opportunities to improve the structure of IDP settlements, improvement of regional structure and environments.**
- **Educational response that includes the restoration of schools damaged by conflict and earthquakes, the construction of new educational facilities in high-density areas, and the provision of essential resources and support for teachers and students to ensure a conducive learning environment for IDPs and local host communities.**
- **Strengthening and scaling up crucial nutrition services across primary healthcare services to prevent malnutrition in early childhood and pregnancy and to promote the growth and development of children.**



- **Contributing to the rehabilitation of critical civilian infrastructure linked to the delivery of basic and WASH services/facilities and the emergency restoration of damaged housing to improve living conditions for all populations, with a focus on those most in need in urban and rural areas in hard-to-reach areas, to pave the way for the dignified, safe, and voluntary return of displaced populations, and to strengthen resilience and socioeconomic revitalization of host communities.**
- **Enhancing the safety and well-being of IDPs in northwest Syria through a comprehensive protection response that addresses and mitigates protection risks, including violence and exploitation, while ensuring the safeguarding of vulnerable populations.**
- **Ensuring that displaced communities in northwest Syria have reliable access to sufficient, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food to meet their basic needs, thereby improving overall food security and enhancing the health and well-being of affected populations.**
- **Preparing displaced communities in northwest Syria for the winter months by implementing comprehensive winterization strategies that protect individuals from severe cold and related health issues, ensuring their safety and well-being through a range of solution-oriented approaches.**
- **To provide safe and secure living conditions for displaced individuals by implementing measures that protect them from harsh weather conditions and other environmental risks by including the provision and distribution of essential winterization items to enhance the safety and resilience of displaced populations to ensure their living environments are adequately prepared to withstand severe weather conditions and mitigate associated health and safety risks.**
- **To enhance access to education and vocational training for displaced populations by implementing measures that support the continuation of formal and informal education. This will be achieved through the construction of new school buildings, expansion of existing educational facilities, and the establishment of vocational schools. The aim is to increase schooling opportunities for both children and adults, ensuring that displaced individuals can access quality education and skills development, thereby improving their long-term resilience and integration into host communities.**

IBC in North-West Syria

Following the onset of the Syrian crisis in 2012, the inability of international humanitarian organizations to access regions outside the control of the central regime led to the inclusion of humanitarian aid operations in Syria under the UN Security Council Resolution 2642, which allows for the cross-border entry of international assistance.

With the adoption of Resolution 2642 by the UN Security Council, many aid organizations began obtaining permits from various neighboring countries, particularly Turkey, to manage humanitarian operations and implement projects in northern Syria. These organizations developed their operational policies in accordance with internationally accepted standards. *IBC, with its regional, national and cross border implementation experience and logistical capacity, is among the leading organizations in this effort.*

Moreover, the extraordinary working conditions in northern Syria have created significant needs that necessitate replacing the central government's role in delivering essential services. In this unstable region, we have been able to address these basic needs while also intervening in response to displacements, forced migrations, and repeated bombardments, directing support to the sectors where it is most urgently required.

Turkey serves as a central hub for Syrian organizations working in humanitarian fields, thanks to its geographical location and the facilitation it provides for these organizations to operate and obtain permits. However, the complexities of the Syrian environment, the exacerbation of humanitarian needs, and the decrease in funding have increased the challenges and the need for additional financial resources.

MAPPING OF IBC OPERATION IN SYRIA



IBC continues to engage in multisectoral humanitarian activities in northern Syria. In the wake of the devastating earthquake in 2023, displacement, particularly in the northern region, has taken on a new dimension. Within the second half of 2024, the situation is further complicated by intensified attacks from armed forces, which are affecting the ability of IDPs to access humanitarian aid and are leading to evolving needs.



The priority needs identified include access to clean water, advance healthcare services at hospitals, shelter, protection, and food security. Additionally, considering the region's continental climate, winterization has been flagged as a priority for the coming months.

The below specified key areas reflect the urgent and evolving needs in Syria North-west, and IBC's ongoing efforts aim to address these challenges. In addition to IBC's strategic country response plan in Syria, the following contextual factors are emphasized, and each is summarized with key implementation headings and intervention summaries:

1. WASH and Access to Clean Water Response: Ensuring reliable and safe water sources to prevent waterborne diseases and support the health of displaced populations.

Planned Intervention: Expansion of water supply infrastructure, emergency water purification systems, and distribution of clean water.

Considering the ongoing crisis in Syria, ensuring access to clean water is a fundamental and urgent necessity for the local population, which includes approximately 230000 individuals in the north part of the target region. The importance of providing reliable and safe water sources spans all age groups and demographic segments, from infants to the elderly, and is critical for several reasons:



Health and Hygiene: Access to clean water is essential for preventing waterborne diseases such as cholera, dysentery, and hepatitis, which are prevalent in areas with inadequate sanitation. Contaminated water sources pose severe health risks, particularly to vulnerable groups including children and the elderly. In the region, the cholera outbreak is accelerating, primarily due to limited access to clean water and healthcare services. Ensuring access to safe water directly contributes to reducing morbidity and mortality rates and supports overall public health.

Basic Human Needs: Clean water is a basic human right and necessity. In the context of displacement and ongoing conflict, access to water becomes even more critical. For displaced populations and those affected by the crisis, reliable water sources are crucial for daily living activities such as drinking, cooking, and personal hygiene. The lack of access to clean water exacerbates the already challenging living conditions and contribute to further hardships among IDPs in north-west part of Syria.

Economic and Social Stability: Water access impacts economic stability by reducing the burden of healthcare costs associated with waterborne diseases and enabling IDPs in the region to engage in productive activities. IDPs in the northwest part of Syria need immediate reliable water sources also support agricultural activities and local livelihoods, which are vital for their domestic recovery and community stability.

Seasonal Needs: The region's continental climate requires additional considerations for particularly for summer months and respectively adequate water access is crucial for addressing seasonal needs, including the prevention and maintaining proper hydration and sanitation during extreme hot summer months. This is essential to prevent additional health risks associated with extreme weather conditions considering cholera and cutaneous leishmaniasis.

Operational Challenges and Infrastructure Needs: The ongoing conflict and infrastructure damage have severely impacted water supply systems. The establishment and repair of water infrastructure are necessary to ensure continuous and sustainable access to clean water in Syria northwest. Addressing these operational challenges is vital for long-term recovery and resilience of the affected communities in the region.



Overall, ensuring access to clean water is a high priority need that supports the health, wellbeing, and stability of all age groups within the affected population. Addressing this fundamental requirement is essential for mitigating the adverse effects of the crisis and improving living conditions in Syria.

To improve the health and living conditions of IDP families in North-west Syria, specifically in Azaz, Afrin, Al-Bab, Jarablus by ensuring access to clean water, adequate sanitation facilities, and promoting good hygiene practices through a comprehensive WASH intervention.

Planned Intervention: *Planned intervention aims to address the critical needs of IDP families in Azaz, Afrin, Al-Bab, Jarablus by ensuring access to clean water, adequate sanitation facilities, and promoting good hygiene practices. Through targeted interventions, infrastructure maintenance, emergency preparedness, and effective coordination, the plan seeks to improve overall health and living conditions for displaced individuals and contribute to a more resilient and healthier community.*

Access to Clean Water: *Access to safe and clean water is critical to prevent waterborne diseases and improve overall health. In conflict-affected areas, ensuring a reliable water supply is crucial for maintaining public health by installing and rehabilitating water supply systems, including boreholes, wells, and water distribution networks, prioritizing areas with the highest water scarcity and large IDP populations.*

Emergency Water Trucking: *Provide emergency water trucking to areas where permanent water supply systems are not feasible by ensuring regular and adequate water delivery to all IDP camps and settlements, conduct regular water quality testing to ensure safety and compliance with health standards.*

Sanitation Facilities: *Proper sanitation facilities are essential for maintaining hygiene and preventing disease outbreaks by accessing to clean and safe sanitation facilities is crucial for IDP communities, particularly in crowded irregular and makeshift settlements.*

Construction and Rehabilitation of Latrines: *Build and rehabilitate communal and household latrines, ensuring privacy, safety, and accessibility for all IDPs, including women, children, and individuals with disabilities by ensuring latrines meet sanitary standards and are regularly cleaned and maintained.*



Hygiene Support: *Providing good hygiene practices is essential to prevent the spread of diseases and improve overall health. By distributing hygiene kits containing items as well as preparing and distribute emergency WASH kits that include essential items for water purification, sanitation, and hygiene.*

2. Physiotherapy (PTR) and MHPSS Healthcare Services: Addressing urgent PTR and MHPSS health needs and ensuring access to essential medical care for affected individuals.

Planned Intervention: *Supporting PTR and MHPSS units in Azaz Regional Hospital, provision of medical supplies and support for mobile health screening teams with complementary and preventive approaches.*

Following the 2023 earthquake, IBC established physiotherapy (PTR) and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) units at the Azaz Regional Hospital. In this setup, IBC has provided all necessary equipment comprehensively for these units and has also covered the salaries of the healthcare personnel involved. This intervention marks IBC as the only NGO authorized to implement such activities in the region. However, in terms of ensuring the sustainability of the activity, immediate donor support is required.

Given the high incidence of physical injuries due to the earthquake and ongoing conflict, physiotherapy support is of critical importance for the local population. Surveys conducted by IBC teams in the region have identified a significant prevalence of developmental delays and physical disabilities among children, attributable to the high rate of consanguineous marriages as well as forced marriage among the young girl populations. Regular physiotherapy support is essential for addressing and mitigating these issues.

Additionally, the local population has faced forced displacement due to ongoing internal conflicts and the aftermath of the earthquake, leading to losses of family members, physical injuries, trauma, grief, and an increasing prevalence of substance abuse. As a result, it is crucial to support and sustain the often delayed and neglected MHPSS services in the region.

In the face of the summarized concrete situations, the presence of the mentioned services is of high importance for the local population, which includes approximately 85000 people across all age groups. These services are crucial for meeting the needs of everyone, from newborns to the elderly.



3. Shelter: Providing safe and secure living conditions to protect displaced individuals from harsh weather and other risks.

Planned Intervention: NFI support for temporary shelters, repair of damaged housing, and distribution of shelter materials.

Ensuring access to safe and secure shelter for IDPs in Syria North-west is critical for addressing immediate needs and supporting long-term recovery. It is essential prioritized vital need for IDP communities in safeguarding health, security, and dignity, and contributes to the overall effectiveness of humanitarian response and resilience-building efforts in the region.

In Syria North-west, providing safe and secure shelter is crucial due to the ongoing conflict and displacement crisis. The justification for prioritizing shelter for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in this region encompasses several key aspects:



Protection from Harsh Weather Conditions: Northwest Syria mainly in Azaz, Afrin, Al-Bab, Jarablus experiences extreme weather conditions, including harsh winters with freezing temperatures and intense summers with high heat. Adequate shelter is essential to protect IDPs from these severe conditions, which can lead to health issues such as hypothermia, heatstroke, and respiratory infections. Safe and secure shelters provide a basic layer of protection against these environmental hazards, helping to preserve the health and well-being of displaced populations.

Safety and Security: Displaced individuals often live in precarious conditions, including makeshift shelters or overcrowded living spaces that lack security. In the region well-maintained shelters required for protection from violence, exploitation, and other security risks. Ensuring that shelters are safe reduces the vulnerability of IDPs, particularly women, children, and other at-risk groups, and helps prevent incidents of violence and abuse.

Prevention of Disease and Health Issues: Especially in Azaz, Afrin, Al-Bab, Jarablus' rural parts in hard-to-reach areas inadequate shelter leads to exposure to unsanitary conditions, increasing the risk of disease outbreaks. Proper shelter immediately are required to mitigate these risks by providing protection from exposure to the elements and reducing the likelihood of disease transmission. By offering a secure environment, shelters contribute to the prevention of health problems associated with poor living conditions, such as respiratory infections, skin diseases, and vector-borne diseases.

Psychosocial Well-being: Stable and secure living conditions are need of IDP communities and have a significant factor in the psychosocial well-being of for targeted displaced individuals. The stress and trauma associated with displacement are exacerbated by unstable or inadequate living conditions of the IDP families.

Human Dignity and Livelihoods: Access to decent shelter is a fundamental human right and contributes to preserving human dignity. For IDPs to engage in livelihood activities, education, and other essential daily routines they need immediate shelter support.



4. Education: To enhance educational access and quality for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and local host communities (HCs) in the northwest regions of Syria, by restoring damaged educational infrastructure and developing new facilities.

Over the past 12 years, the ongoing conflict in Syria has devastated the education sector, leading to the destruction of numerous schools. Additionally, recent earthquakes have further compounded the situation, resulting in the destruction of more educational facilities. The increased population due to internal migration has exacerbated the need for educational resources, particularly in areas like Azaz, Al-Bab, Jarablus, and Afrin, where IDPs and host communities urgently require educational support.

The ongoing conflict in Syria has resulted in significant internal migration, leading to a dramatic increase in population in northwest regions. This surge has heightened the demand for educational facilities, yet existing resources are insufficient to meet the needs of displaced families and local communities.

Initially, educational services in camps relied on large tents, which provided temporary solutions. As the situation evolved, caravans were introduced as a more stable alternative. However, these measures remain inadequate to provide a quality education for all school-age children in the region. The lack of permanent structures hinders the ability to deliver a comprehensive and effective educational experience.

The current educational infrastructure is struggling to cope with the influx of IDPs and HCs. Many children remain out of school, exacerbating an already critical gap in educational access.

To address these pressing issues, it is imperative to implement targeted education support initiatives that focus on restoring damaged schools, constructing new facilities in high-density areas, and ensuring equitable access to quality education for all children, regardless of their background. Investing in education is essential for fostering social cohesion, promoting stability, and providing a hopeful future for the next generation in northwest Syria.



Planned Intervention:

Immediate Restoration: To restore and rehabilitate schools damaged by the war and recent earthquakes. Especially in regions experiencing increased migration, efforts should focus on building schools and opening vocational training centers, ensuring access to both formal and informal education services.

Infrastructure Development: To construct new schools in high-density areas to accommodate the rising population.

- Repair and rehabilitate schools that have been destroyed or damaged due to the conflict and earthquakes.
- Construct new classrooms and educational facilities in camps and urban areas where IDPs are concentrated.
- Implement mobile education units for immediate educational access in temporary housing and camp settings.

Support for School Age Children, Families, Educators, IDPs and HCs: To ensure equitable access to education for all relevant communities, fostering educational support through awareness initiatives and the provision of educational materials and resources.

5. Protection: Safeguarding vulnerable populations and addressing protection risks, including violence and exploitation.

Planned Intervention: Implementation of protection programs through mobile PSS screening teams, and provision of psychosocial support.

In the IDP communities of Azaz, Afrin, Al-Bab, Jarablus safeguarding vulnerable populations and addressing protection risks are of paramount importance due to the ongoing conflict, displacement, and humanitarian challenges. Implementing protection programs gained more importance due to ongoing instability and armed groups' attacks.



Addressing Protection Risks and Violence: *The ongoing conflict and displacement in Azaz, Afrin, Al-Bab, Jarablus have heightened risks of violence and exploitation, including physical abuse, sexual violence, and trafficking. IDP communities are particularly vulnerable to such risks due to their precarious living conditions and lack of secure housing. Protection programs are essential to identify and address these risks, providing a safety net for individuals who are at heightened risk of violence and exploitation. Mobile PSS screening teams can reach remote or underserved areas where protection needs are often acute, ensuring that all individuals receive the support they need.*

Providing Immediate Psychosocial Support: *The trauma associated with conflict, displacement, and loss has profound effects on mental health and well-being. Many IDPs in Azaz, Afrin, Al-Bab, Jarablus are experiencing significant psychological distress, including symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, and depression. Psychosocial support is critical for helping individuals cope with trauma, stress, and the challenges of displacement. Providing immediate and accessible psychosocial support through mobile teams helps address mental health needs, facilitating recovery and resilience among affected populations.*

Enhancing Access to Protection Services: *Displacement often disrupts access to essential protection services, and many IDPs may be unaware of or unable to access available resources due to mobility constraints or lack of information. Implementing mobile protection screening services play a crucial role in bridging this gap by bringing protection services directly to communities. This approach ensures that protection services reach those who may otherwise be excluded due to geographic or logistical barriers, improving overall accessibility and inclusivity.*

Preventing Further Harm: *Effective protection monitoring approach would help prevent further harm by identifying and addressing protection risks early. Mobile protection screening services are instrumental in detecting and responding to cases of violence, exploitation, and other protection concerns before they escalate. By intervening proactively teams would help to reduce the incidence of harm and safeguard the well-being of IDP communities.*

Supporting Communities with Solution Oriented Humanitarian Response: *Integrating protection programs with other humanitarian interventions ensures a holistic approach to addressing the needs of IDPs. Addressing the primary needs of vulnerable groups in the field—such as women, children, individuals with disabilities, newborns, and female-headed households—through solution-oriented approaches can enhance the effectiveness of the protection response by adopting a multisectoral approach to be more responsive to the diverse needs of affected populations.*



6. Food Security: Ensuring access to sufficient and nutritious food to meet the basic needs of displaced communities.

Planned Intervention: Distribution of food aid, livelihood support for local community through cash for work modalities and provision of nutrition programs.

To ensure that IDP communities in northwest Syria have access to sufficient and nutritious food, meeting their basic needs and improving overall food security through targeted interventions.

Distribution of Food Aid: The displacement and ongoing conflict in northwest Syria have severely disrupted food supply chains, leaving many IDPs without reliable access to sufficient and nutritious food. The immediate distribution of food aid is essential to address urgent food needs and prevent malnutrition among the displaced population.

Emergency Food Distribution: Implement regular and emergency food distributions targeting IDP camps and communities. This includes distributing staple foods such as cereals, legumes, and oil, as well as specialized nutrition supplements for vulnerable groups covering children, pregnant women, disabled, and the elderly by ensuring that food aid is targeted based on vulnerability assessments and registration processes to reach those most in need.

Livelihood Support Through Cash for Work Modalities: Displaced populations often face barriers to employment and income generation, exacerbating their food insecurity. Providing livelihood support through cash for work programs helps improve economic stability and allows IDPs to purchase food and other essentials.

Cash for Work Programs: Develop and implement cash for work programs that offer employment opportunities in community projects (e.g., infrastructure repair, camp rehabilitation, soil improvement, waste management etc.). Ensure that the wages provided are sufficient to cover basic food needs.

Provision of Nutrition Programs: Nutritional deficiencies are common among displaced populations due to inadequate diets. Nutrition programs are crucial for addressing these deficiencies and promoting overall health and well-being.

Planned Intervention:

Nutritional Support Programs: Implement programs that provide supplementary feeding to children, pregnant and lactating women, and other at-risk groups. This includes distributing fortified foods and conducting regular health and nutrition screenings.



Enhancing Food Distribution Logistics and Accessibility: *In the region in some irregular camp settlements especially in hard-to-reach one's food distribution is hampered by logistical challenges and accessibility issues, particularly in conflict zones. Communities also need food accessibility support. Within this response establishing and managing distribution points within IDP communities to facilitate access and reduce logistical barriers is targeted.*

Integrating Food Security with Other Humanitarian Efforts: *Integrating food security interventions with other humanitarian efforts (e.g., health, protection) ensures a comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of IDPs.*

7. Winterization: Preparing for the winter months to protect displaced individuals from severe cold and related health issues.

Planned Intervention: Distribution of winter clothing, installation of heating systems, and preparation of shelters for cold weather.

Targeting winterization needs to protect displaced individuals in northwest Syria from severe cold and related health issues through interventions are essentials. The distribution of winter kits and clothing, preparation of shelters for cold weather, and implementation of health and safety measures. By integrating these efforts with broader humanitarian activities, the plan seeks to ensure that all displaced individuals have access to essential winter support and can withstand the challenges of the winter months effectively. Especially for communities migrating from Lebanon, any form of winter aid provided to both Lebanese refugees and Syrian IDPs is much more urgent, essential, and a priority in this context.

Winterization NFI Kit Support: Distributing essential winter NFIs containing items such as thermal blankets, insulated sleeping mats, waterproof covers, and clothing items to IDP families. Initial distribution before the onset of winter, with additional support as needed throughout the season also to distribute fuel (such as kerosene, propane, or wood) to households for use with heating systems.

Emergency Shelter Upgrades: To reduce exposure to cold and improve living conditions during the winter months properly preparing the shelters of the IDP communities to ensure they are well-insulated and free from leaks or drafts.

Medical Support: Ensuring access to medical services in both in and outpatient clinics for winter-related health issues, such as respiratory infections and frostbite.



IBC has been operating in Syria since the onset of the conflict, yet humanitarian needs in the region remain critical. The area continues to experience ongoing armed attacks, and both IDPs and host communities, particularly in the rural regions of Azaz, Afrin, Al-Bab, Jarablus are severely lacking humanitarian assistance.

This emergency appeal has been developed by IBC to address the urgent needs of IDP and recently Lebanese refugee families and vulnerable host communities. IBC extends its sincere gratitude for your support...

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