

WINTERIZATION ADVOCACY NOTE

SEASON 2024 - 2025



2M People in
Need



1.4M People
Targeted



65M Funding
Appeal

Key Challenges

The humanitarian crisis in Northwest Syria remains acute, with approximately 2.2 million people needing shelter assistance. Over 800,000 individuals, mostly women and children, live in tents and makeshift shelters that provide inadequate protection from harsh winter conditions.

- **Inadequate Living Conditions:** Most internally displaced persons (IDPs) inhabit old tents in sites lacking proper sewage, drainage, electricity, and water supply. Heavy snowfall, widespread flooding, and muddy roads worsen the already dire conditions in overcrowded camps.
- **Winter Severity:** Long, extremely cold, and unpredictable winters cause immense suffering for 2 million people lacking adequate shelter and heating.
- **Health Risks:** Winter months bring a surge in respiratory infections, resulting in higher rates of hospitalization, illness, and death, particularly among children and the elderly.

Urgent Needs

To address these critical issues, we urgently require the following interventions:

- **Heating Fuel and Stoves:** Vital for providing warmth and preventing hypothermia.
- **Winter Clothing Kits:** Essential for protecting vulnerable populations from extreme cold.
- **Winterization Kits:** Including thermal blankets and carpets to enhance shelter insulation.
- **Flood Prevention and Mitigation:** Measures to safeguard shelters and camp infrastructure from damage.



2M

In need of winter
assistance



3.5M IDPs

Total IDPs in (2M) and
out of camps (1.5M)

Situation Overview and Funding Update

As winter approaches, the vulnerable populations in Northwest Syria face severe challenges that threaten their survival and well-being. This advocacy note outlines the critical need for immediate and comprehensive winterization assistance to protect lives and alleviate suffering among displaced and host communities.

An estimated USD 65 million is needed to provide essential winter assistance to 1.4 million individuals and respond to winter-related emergencies.



11

*Partners with
confirmed funding



262K

*People that can be reached
with available funds



6.5M

*Funding received

*As of Sept. 3rd 2024

Call to Action

We urgently appeal to donors and the international community to:

1. **Increase Funding:** An estimated \$65 million is needed to provide essential winter assistance and respond to 1.4M people vulnerable to winter-related emergencies.
2. **Prioritize Winterization:** Allocate resources to core winter assistance activities, crucial for survival during the harsh winter months.
3. **Support Long-term Solutions:** Invest in more dignified and durable shelter options to reduce reliance on tents and makeshift structures.

Your immediate support is vital to protect the lives and dignity of vulnerable populations in Northwest Syria this winter. The approaching cold season poses a critical humanitarian challenge in the region. Swift and coordinated action is essential to shield vulnerable people from harsh winter conditions. We urge all stakeholders to prioritize winterization assistance as a life-saving intervention. Together, we can alleviate suffering and prevent unnecessary loss of life.

Winterization Response Strategy for Northwest Syria

Objectives

- Provide essential winter supplies to vulnerable populations
- Mitigate health risks associated with cold weather
- Reduce negative coping mechanisms
- Improve living conditions in IDP camps and informal settlements



Geographical Prioritization

The winterization response in Northwest Syria prioritizes:-

- **Geographical Prioritization:** The SNFI Cluster analyzes communities using a winterization severity index, scored from 1 (minimal) to 5 (critical). Indicators include elevation, temperature, snow impact, precipitation, IDP population proportion, NFI and shelter severity, heating fuel affordability, and flood vulnerability.
- The overall community severity level informs the Winter People in Need (PIN) calculation. The SNFI Cluster will prioritize high-severity communities, followed by moderate-severity communities (secondary priority) as identified by the Shelter NFI cluster analysis

Implementation Approach

- **Timely Response:** Initiate winterization activities before the onset of cold weather
- **Cash-Based Interventions:** Prioritize cash and voucher assistance where markets are functional
- **Coordination:** Collaborate with other clusters (e.g., Health, WASH) for a comprehensive response
- **Unique Cases and Referrals:** Shelter NFI cluster members must work closely with the cluster coordination team to address unique cases. A referral system will ensure smooth, confidential registration for cases needing immediate response that may not meet standard criteria.
- **Community Engagement:** Involve affected populations in planning and implementation
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Conduct regular assessments to ensure effectiveness and adapt as needed

Monitoring and Reporting

Implement a robust monitoring system to track progress, including post-distribution monitoring and beneficiary feedback mechanisms. Regular reporting will inform stakeholders and guide response adjustments. The S/NFI Cluster has detailed reporting tools for tracking plans and progress of cluster members' projects.

Coordination

Monthly coordination meetings with implementing cluster members will address emerging issues and challenges, ensuring no duplication of assistance.

Key Response Activities

Recommended life-saving cluster supplies for winter response include:

1. Heating fuel and stoves
2. Winter clothing kits
3. Winterization kits (including thermal blankets and carpets)

The cash value of assistance for the above items is \$180

Infrastructure Improvements: Enhancing drainage systems and implementing flood prevention measures in camps

Population Prioritization

- Due to funding constraints, the S/NFI Cluster targets highly vulnerable households during cold winter periods. Winter increases respiratory infections, leading to higher hospitalization, morbidity, and mortality rates. Without adequate warmth and shelter, the risk of respiratory infections, hypothermia, and preventable deaths rises, especially for children and the elderly. The S/NFI Cluster has guidelines to identify highly vulnerable families, including female-headed households, households led by persons with disabilities or chronic illnesses, elderly-headed households (60+ years) without able-bodied adults, child-headed households, families with pregnant/lactating women or people with disabilities or severe chronic diseases, and households hosting orphans.
- This prioritization ensures that the most vulnerable populations in the hardest-hit areas receive timely and effective winterization assistance.

Key Challenges and Mitigation Measures

- **Funding Gaps:** Intensify advocacy efforts with donors and explore alternative funding sources
- **Access Constraints:** Coordinate with local authorities and partners to ensure safe humanitarian access
- **Non-acceptance of Targeted Approach:** Engage all key stakeholders throughout the project cycle, ensuring transparent communication of targeting criteria to the community
- **Climate Unpredictability:** Maintain flexibility in programming to respond to changing weather patterns

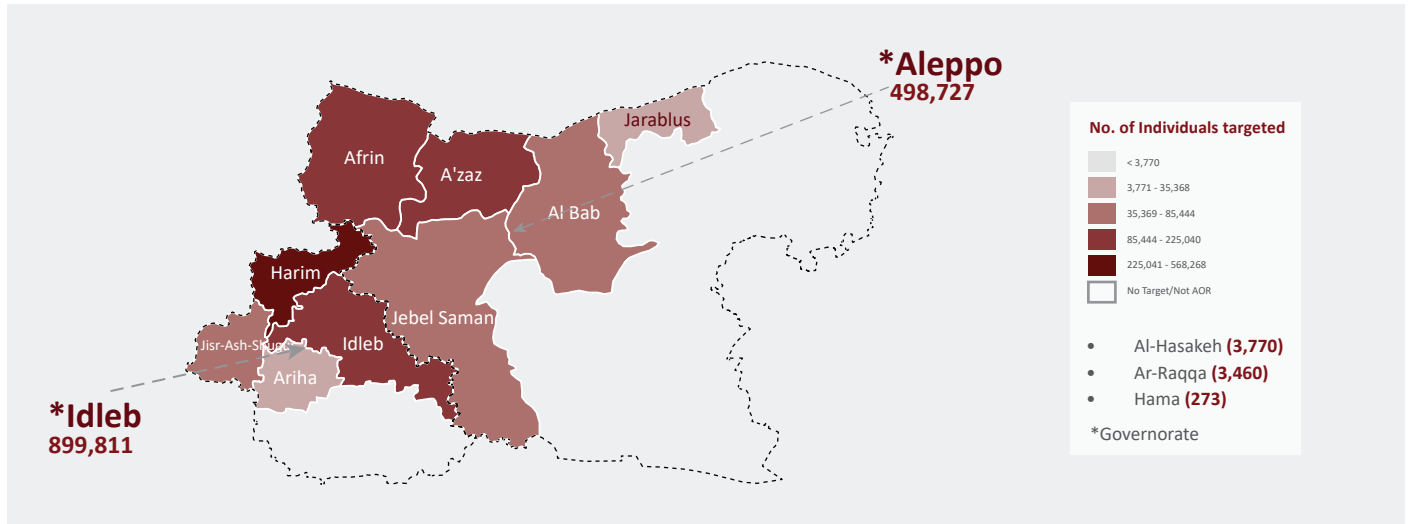


Flood affected camps in Idlib, 2021

Photo Credit: Shafak, 2021

Winterization Response Strategy for Northwest Syria

Geographical Target Breakdown by District



Priority and Target by Governorate

Priority	Severity	Governorate	# of Community	Target
1	High	Aleppo	8	16,996
		Idleb	23	159,263
	Medium	Aleppo	498	444,072
		Idleb	340	703,755
2	Low	Aleppo	91	37,660
		Al-Hasakeh	128	3,770
		Ar-Raqqa	192	3,460
		Hama	14	273
		Idleb	37	36,792
Grand Total			1,331	1,406,040

↓ ↓
176,259 INDs
in 31 Communities classified as high in priority 1

#	District	Subdistrict	Community	Total
1	Idleb	Maaret Tamsrin	Kelly	57,289
2	Idleb	Maaret Tamsrin	Harbanush	20,276
3	Idleb	Maaret Tamsrin	Ma'arrat Tamsrin	13,561
4	Idleb	Maaret Tamsrin	Kafr - Kafrehmul	13,213
5	Idleb	Maaret Tamsrin	Kafr Jales	10,117
6	A'zaz	Mare'	Mare'	9,414
7	Idleb	Maaret Tamsrin	Hazano	7,120
8	Idleb	Maaret Tamsrin	Shekh Bahr	6,568
9	Idleb	Maaret Tamsrin	Maaret Elekhwan	5,449
10	Idleb	Maaret Tamsrin	Kaftin	4,339
11	Idleb	Maaret Tamsrin	Zardana	3,404
12	Idleb	Maaret Tamsrin	Batenta	3,329
13	Idleb	Maaret Tamsrin	Kafraya	2,560
14	Idleb	Maaret Tamsrin	Ram Hamdan	2,463
15	Afrin	Afrin	Khalidiet Afrin	2,148
16	AlBab	Al Bab	Borj	2,097
17	Idleb	Maaret Tamsrin	Kafr tanor	2,054
18	Idleb	Maaret Tamsrin	Habat	1,895
19	Ariha	Ariha	Orm Eljoz	1,237
20	Afrin	Sharan	Doha	997
21	Idleb	Maaret Tamsrin	Bhora	909
22	Idleb	Maaret Tamsrin	Murin	862
23	Afrin	Afrin	Kafr Batra	815
24	Idleb	Maaret Tamsrin	Taltuneh	815
25	Afrin	Raju	Shekh Bilal	697
26	Idleb	Maaret Tamsrin	Kafr Nabi	621
27	Idleb	Maaret Tamsrin	Boayba	596
28	Afrin	Afrin	Hawa	538
29	Idleb	Maaret Tamsrin	Beeret Kaftin	353
30	Afrin	Bulbul	Dobera	290
31	Harim	Armanaz	Quneitra	233
Grand Total				176,259

Ranking by severity and priority



Access additional resources by clicking on the links below:-

