

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



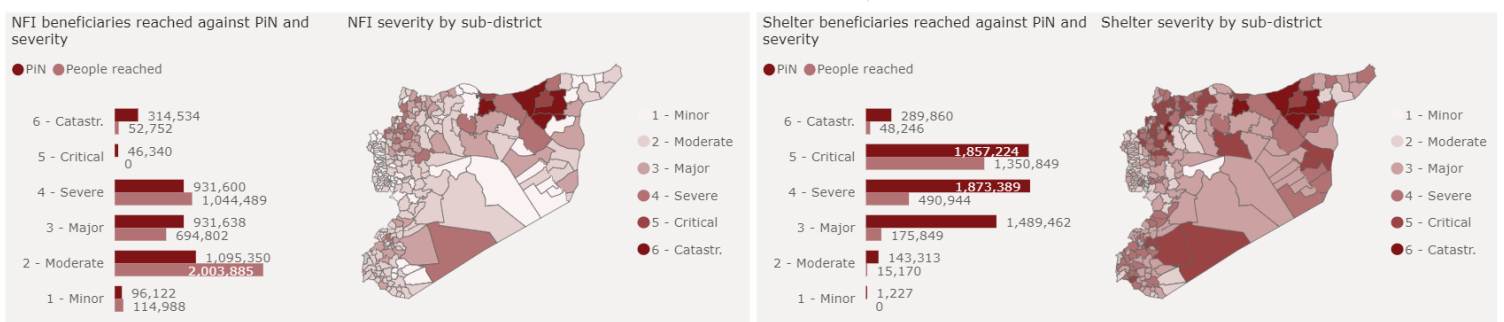
Shelter / NFI Sector
Whole of Syria
ShelterCluster.org
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

SITUATION OVERVIEW

In 2020, the number of people requiring shelter assistance remained substantial with over 5.65 million people in need. This is attributed to the loss of capital, destruction of housing infrastructure and the deterioration of shelter conditions in 238 out of 272 sub-districts in Syria. Needs are further intensified by the scale of new displacement in the Northwest, protracted displacement and limited housing options in some regions as well as a very limited shelter response.

Despite the sector's efforts over the years, the shelter response remains limited. It is estimated that at least 14 per cent of the population lives in damaged buildings, with IDPs disproportionately affected. An estimated 23 per cent of IDPs live in inadequate shelter conditions, including damaged and/or unfinished buildings, public buildings such as schools, and other non-residential buildings. Poor shelter conditions increase protection and public health risks, particularly when combined with overcrowding and inadequate access to water, sanitation/waste disposal and health services, enabling the spread of respiratory and epidemic-prone diseases, including COVID-19.

In early 2020, the number of people in need of NFI assistance had dropped from 2019 as a result of improved access to markets and widespread NFI support. However, given the displacement in Northwest Syria and deteriorating economic situation, during a mid-year review, the population in need of assistance has again increased. The Sector estimated it rose by one million, totaling to 4.33 Million People in Need. Rising prices, reduced economic activity and a lack of employment opportunities, negatively affect the capacity of vulnerable families, specifically IDP households to acquire essential NFI's such as fuel, blankets and clothing, leading to a growth in the severity of need particularly during the winter season.



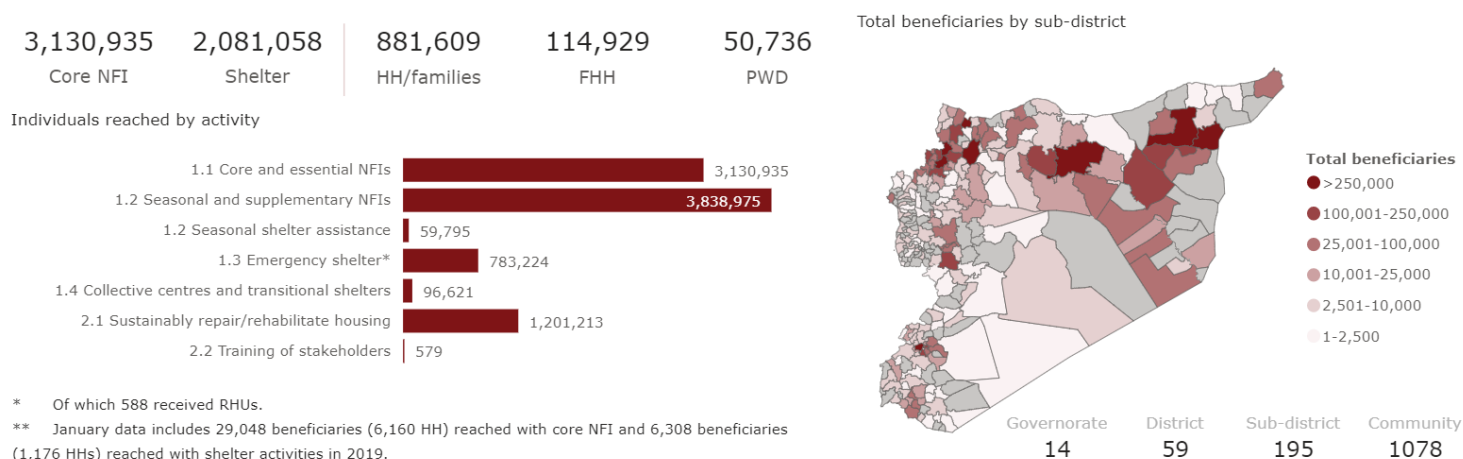
RESPONSE ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2020, NFI partners reached 72 per cent of their target – over 3.13 million people received core NFIs and nearly 1.6 million people received winter NFIs. Although distributions slowed March through May, due to COVID-19 movement restrictions, the response picked up and NFI partners were able to meet their targets for 2020. During this time, Shelter partners reached 96 per cent of their target for emergency shelter assistance with almost one million people assisted with tents, emergency shelters and collective shelter repairs; and 76 per cent of the target with nearly 1.2 million people assisted with longer-term shelter repairs.

Partners implementing longer-term repair shelter projects have faced several operational challenges. Fluctuating prices have made it difficult for partners to confirm prices for construction materials and guarantee supplies. Delayed permissions and reduced working hours during the second quarter of the year due to COVID-19 particularly in the Northeast and Government of Syria areas slowed down tendering and approval processes, while funding for longer-term shelter projects in the Northwest remains weak as funds have been reprioritized for emergency shelter response.

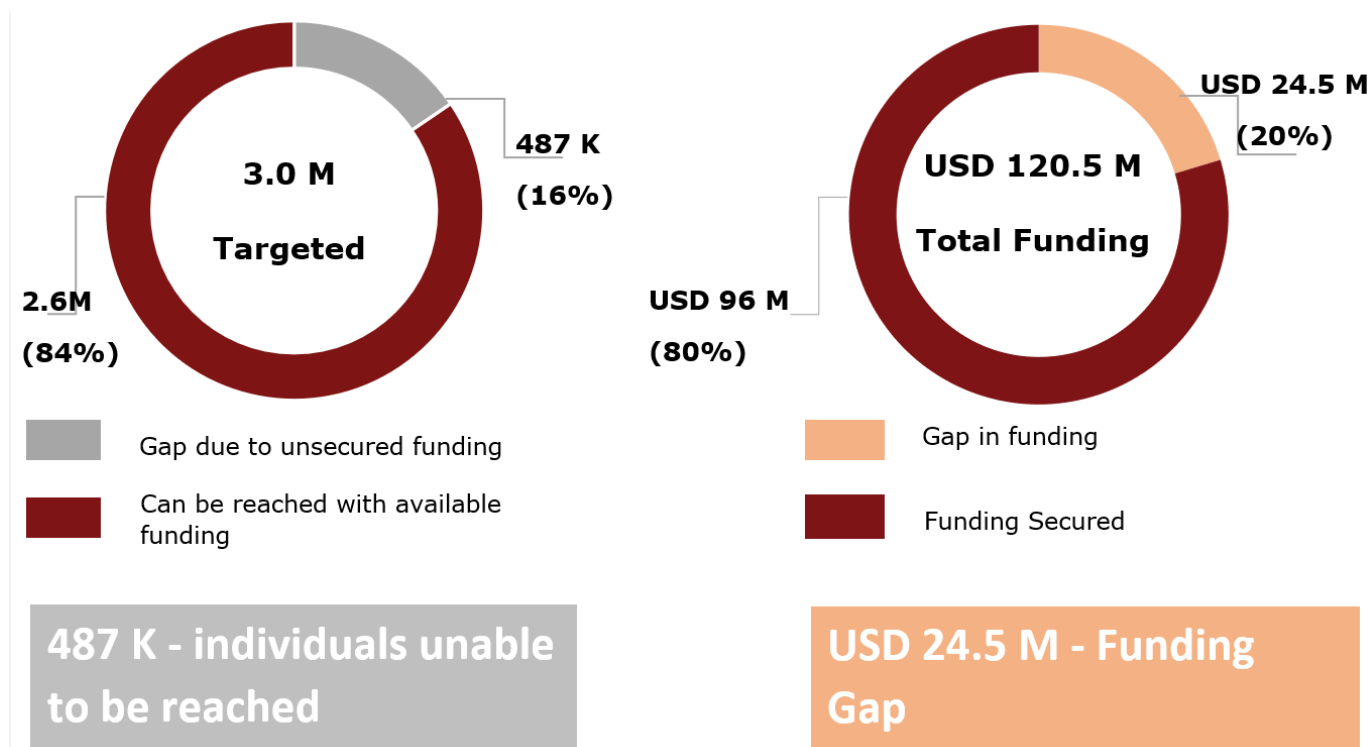
As a result of largescale displacement in the northwest, partners scaled up emergency assistance including NFIs and emergency shelter for nearly one million people. Although, shelters were provided, improving drainage and flood mitigation measures to newly established IDP settlements prior to winter remains a priority.

In response to COVID-19, emergency distributions of NFIs have continued and have been expanded in some areas to include hygiene materials or soap while implementing mitigation measures. Consequently, this led to an increase in operational costs. In addition to PPE for laborers, training for staff on mitigating measures and awareness sessions for households, shelter interventions have focused on repairs to collective shelters, informal settlements and camps to reduce overcrowding and improve sanitation and hygiene.



WINTER RESPONSE

Needs for Shelter & NFI assistance remain significant and response is still limited in comparison to needs. Nearly four million people are living in areas of high elevation, snowfall and extreme winter weather. In 2020, the sectors' partners aimed to deliver lifesaving winter assistance to three million vulnerable individuals, the targeted number is based on the partner's capacity and expected funding. The main target for assistance were beneficiaries residing in camps, collective shelters, informal settlements and areas of high altitude and snowfall. The Sectors utilized a variety of response mechanisms including cash support, vouchers and in-kind distributions. As of 1 January, partners have been able to reach more than 1.60 million individuals across Syria with planned winterization activities and will continue to deliver assistance. Critical gaps have been identified in the informal settlements in Northwest where mainly tents and makeshift shelters are not appropriately weatherized to withstand harsh conditions. In Northeast, deteriorating, poorly isolated and overcrowded collective shelters are putting residents at a greater risk of COVID-19. Many continue to live in areas with high elevation and snowfall with inadequate shelter including Rural Damascus. Across the country heating solutions and fuel remain an urgent need.



STORY FROM THE FIELD

This past winter almost 14,000 families received winter items through SARC, GoPA and UNHCR in Dar'a a southern city which only became accessible to partners in 2019. A remote area with rolling green hills it is home to displaced families, returnees and community members who are struggling with the current economic situation and the impact it has had on the region's factories and farms.

Yara is now living in an unfinished building that the landlord has provide to numerous IDP families free of charge. Having arrived a year ago the family of four is using the plastic sheet to cover the open openings for windows while replacing windows in other rooms. "We received blankets, mattress, solar lamps, kitchen sets and jerry cans. We have moved four houses over the last two years" While her husband works, she takes care of two elderly parents "We don't have a home, so these items really help"

Her neighbor explained that they arrived from Al Yarmouk basin region about a year ago after being displaced from their home in Jolan before. With the items they received they were able to stay warm and provide the basics for their family.

