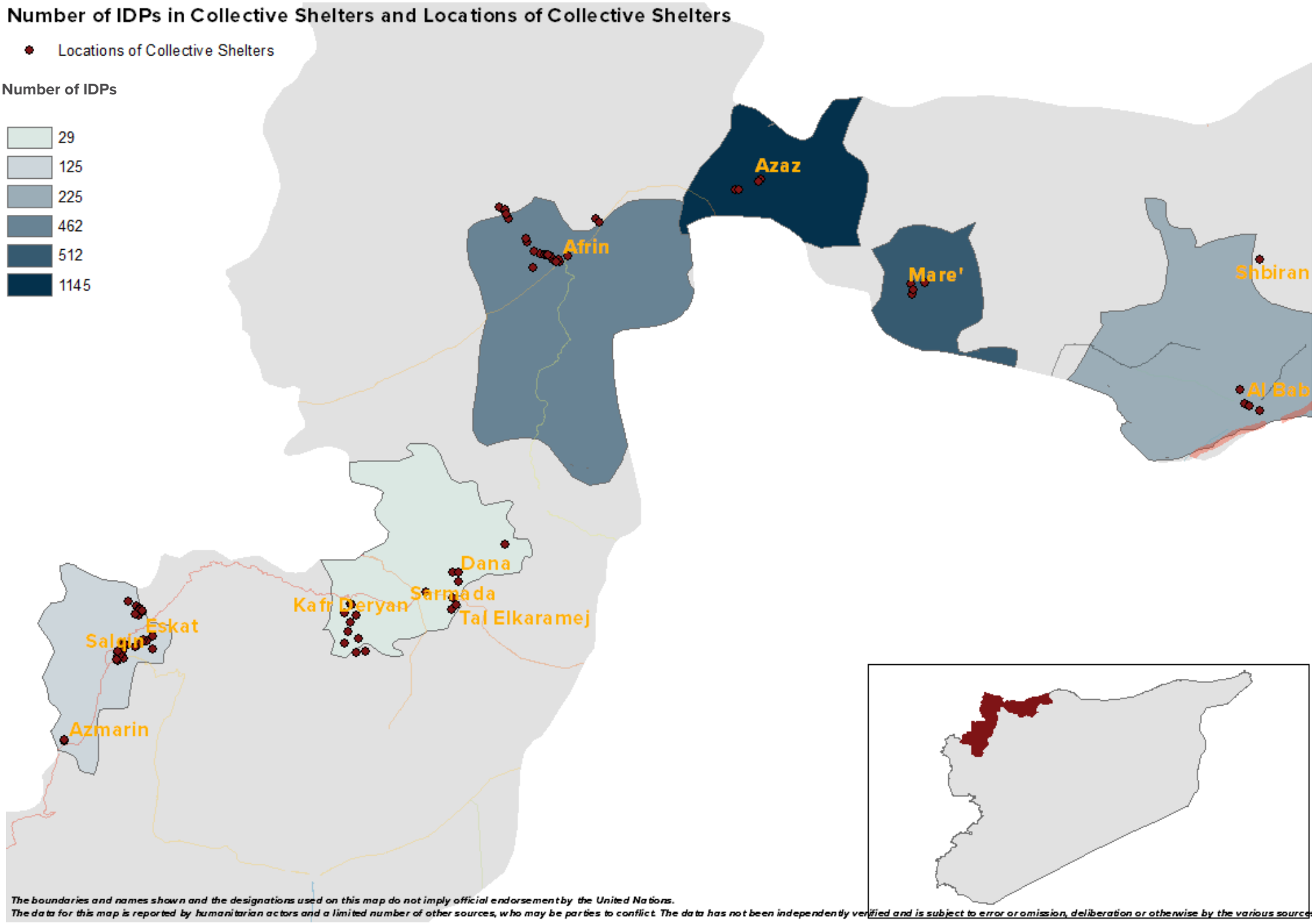
Collective Shelter Conditions in NW Syria

United Nations

Humanitarian
Needs Assessment
Programme

Shelter/NFI Cluster
X-Border Operation - Turkey Hub
ShelterCluster.org,
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter

Number of IDPs in Collective Shelters and Locations of Collective Shelters



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Executive Summary

After nine years of conflict and forced displacement, as of April 2020 over 2.74 million people are internally displaced in north-west Syria (NWS); with approximately 961,000 of them displaced since December 2019. The rapid onset of the recent offensive across NWS further diminished internally displaced persons' (IDPs) access to sustainable shelter solutions. While over 990,000 IDPs are reported to have turned to camps for shelter, nearly 1.5 million IDPs have sought shelter in residential urban areas. Furthermore, the current context of the global COVID-19 pandemic poses additional risks for IDPs in NWS, particularly for those residing in collective shelters. The Shelter/NFI Cluster team conducted this assessment with the objective of supporting partners in designing and prioritising interventions to improve living standards within collective shelters.

In the first of several planned assessments, a total of 87 collective shelters were assessed to determine the current living conditions and availability of services including water, sanitation, hygiene, cooking facilities, electricity, and security of tenure. To support partners in conducting their own assessment prior to making an intervention, the Humanitarian Needs Assessment Programme (HNAP) and the Shelter/NFI Cluster team also prepared individual profiles on each collective shelter.

The results of this report indicate that **none of the assessed collective shelters to-date achieve the minimum emergency standards across all relevant sectors.** Indeed, few collective shelters provide suitable shelter solutions for their inhabitants which compounds the risks affecting already vulnerable households.

More specifically, by comparing the number of inadequacies reported, the findings showed that the most prevalent issues overall **were overcrowding and WASH.** For example, 24 collective shelters, home to 3,436 individuals, are below the minimum standard of 3.5m2 per person. Moreover, 68% of collective shelters do not have bathing facilities, forcing 10,940 IDPs to shower and bathe within their living units which is the same place where they sleep.

By analysing the overall conditions of the buildings, the Shelter/NFI Cluster team classified the buildings according to the criteria of extreme, severe, moderate, and minor inadequacies. The assessment found that **10 collective shelters have severe inadequacies**, 73 shelters have moderate inadequacies, and 4 shelters have minor inadequacies. In terms of geographical distribution, the most severe collective shelters are found in Dana followed by Afrin, and then Mare' sub-districts.

Recommendations for Shelter Cluster Partners

In line with these key findings, as well as the underlying objective to support partners in designing interventions to improve living conditions within collective shelters; Shelter Cluster partners are advised to consider the following recommendations:

- Assess the collective centres and consider their own operational capacity to deliver interventions in line with the broad categories outlined by the Shelter/NFI Cluster: Extreme, Severe, Moderate and Minor inadequacies.
- Prioritize collective shelter interventions that aim to decongest overcrowding in existing collective shelters.
- Aim to improve available sanitation services and the ability to store water for drinking, cooking, and bathing.
- Liaise with the Shelter Cluster in order to review the individual profiles of each collective shelter and to receive guidance on possible interventions. The collective shelter profiles include useful information such as maps, pictures of the shelter, population data, conditions of the building, and adequacy issues

HNAP

The Humanitarian Needs Assessment Programme (HNAP) for Syria is a joint UN assessment initiative which tracks displacement and return movements, conducts sector and multi-sectoral assessments, and monitors humanitarian needs inside Syria. HNAP is implemented through local Syrian NGOs, with technical support from UN Agencies. In order to respond to support the humanitarian community to respond to the needs of the mobile Syrian population, HNAP produces regular updates and thematic reports. None of which would be possible without the hard work of our implementing partners, who collect data - often in very difficult circumstances. Their efforts are deeply appreciated.

DISCLAIMER

The contents of this report are based on data collected by field staff using a questionnaire. HNAP endeavours to make sure that the information provided is accurate and up to date, but it is important to keep in mind that the reported findings and conclusions represent the views and opinions of the key informants, for which Shelter/NFI Cluster and HNAP cannot be held responsible. Challenges to bear in mind include standard forms of survey bias, as well as data collection obstacles in a challenging environment.

Introduction

Key Findings

- Since the end of March 2020, there has been a decrease of 40,651 people living in collective shelters.
- Population movements in collective shelters are dynamic.

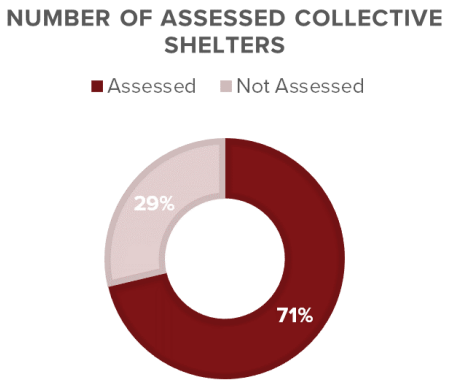
As of April 2020, approximately 2,740,000 people are internally displaced in NW Syria with 961,286 of them displaced since December 2019. While over 990,000 IDPs are reported to have turned to camps for shelter, nearly 1.5 million IDPs have sought shelter in residential urban areas. The shelter types in these areas range from houses and apartments to collective shelters. Given the significant increase in IDPs seeking these solutions, more information is needed on the current shelter conditions in these accommodations. This report focuses on the shelter conditions of collective shelters.

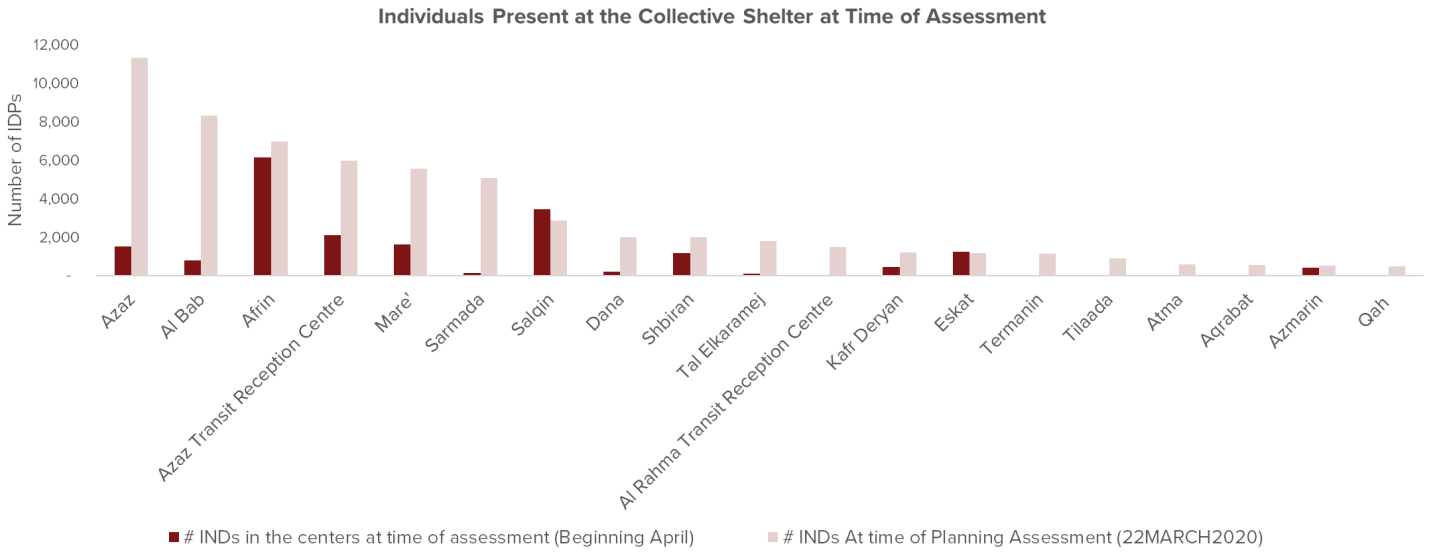
This was the first assessment to do a detailed analysis of the shelter conditions within collective shelters. The assessment's purpose was to focus on the living conditions and associated services available to IDPs within these shelters including water, sanitation, hygiene, cooking facilities, electricity, and security of tenure. Other aspects of collective shelters such as motivations for choosing collective shelters, intentions, population movements, and group organisation are typically aspects covered by camp coordination and camp management and not included in this report.

The planning of this assessment took place during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. To limit the potential for disease exposure and contagion, the assessment targeted sub-districts with the highest proportion of IDPs and focused on collective shelters with 500 IDP residents or more. At the end of March it was estimated that 60,115 of the 88,395 IDPs living in collective shelters matched the shelter criteria. By the start of April, however; given the dynamic mobility of IDPs, this number decreased to 19,464 individuals. Additionally, since the end of March, 16,428 IDPs were forcibly evicted from 12 collective shelters to camps or tents. A further 7,549 IDPs living in 2 collective shelters decided to leave the centers in order to search for better access to humanitarian assistance.

87 Collective Shelters Assessed

71% of the target
due to access and identification limitations





Methodology

Key Findings

- All data in the report is observational and focuses on the shelters themselves as the unit of analysis.
- Shelter partners should perform a detailed analysis of the shelters prior to intervention.

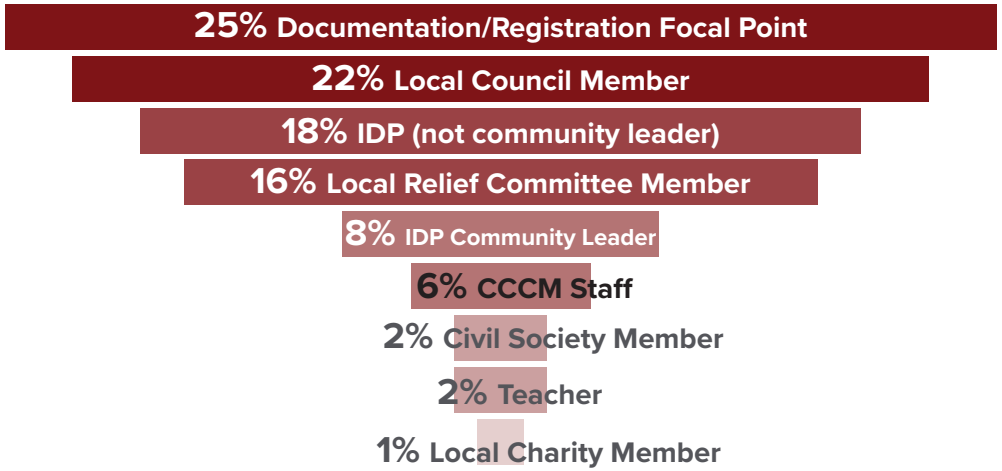
Since the beginning of 2020, HNAP's monthly population monitoring has included data on how many IDPs are staying in what kind of shelter at the community level. On a quarterly basis, HNAP aggregates the findings in its Quarterly Population Baseline. This data enables the Cluster to have a better understanding of whether IDPs have settled in camps, informal settlements or in residential urban areas. It further explores what kind of shelter IDPs are living in and whether the status of their shelter is rented, hosted, squatting or owned. As there was a need to assess the conditions of actual shelters, the Shelter/NFI Cluster with the support of Care International, UNHCR, and HNAP developed a data collection tool focusing on the conditions of individual collective shelters.

The assessment investigates the number of people living in the collective shelters, living and sleeping space, the availability and quality of water and sanitation services, the conditions of cooking facilities, the availability and amount of electricity, and the security of tenure of the IDPs. When possible, enumerators were required to take photos on-site to provide additional confirmation of the answers to the survey.

One of the challenges to this assessment was the absence of an exhaustive list of collective shelters for NW Syria. This required enumerators to also take the time to identify and then visit the location of the collective shelters. Methodologically, enumerators encountered confusion in what was the exact definition of a collective shelter. This may mean that certain centers were excluded from consideration or that buildings such as reception centers were included in this round of analysis.

The visits to the shelter and interviews including observations of facilities took an average of 2 hours. In several locations, photos of the outside of the premises were not taken due to fears that this could compromise the safety of the internally displaced people taking shelter within the units. The enumerators were trained in the methodology of the assessment but are not engineers themselves, so the data is strictly observational. There was **no capacity to assess the structural safety of the collective shelters**. Shelter Cluster partners are expected to follow up to the findings prior to interventions with specific assessments of their own. The unit of analysis was the shelter unit themselves, but conclusions can be made as to how the conditions of the collective shelters impact the number of IDPs living in these units.

Type of Key Informants



Demographics of Collective Shelters

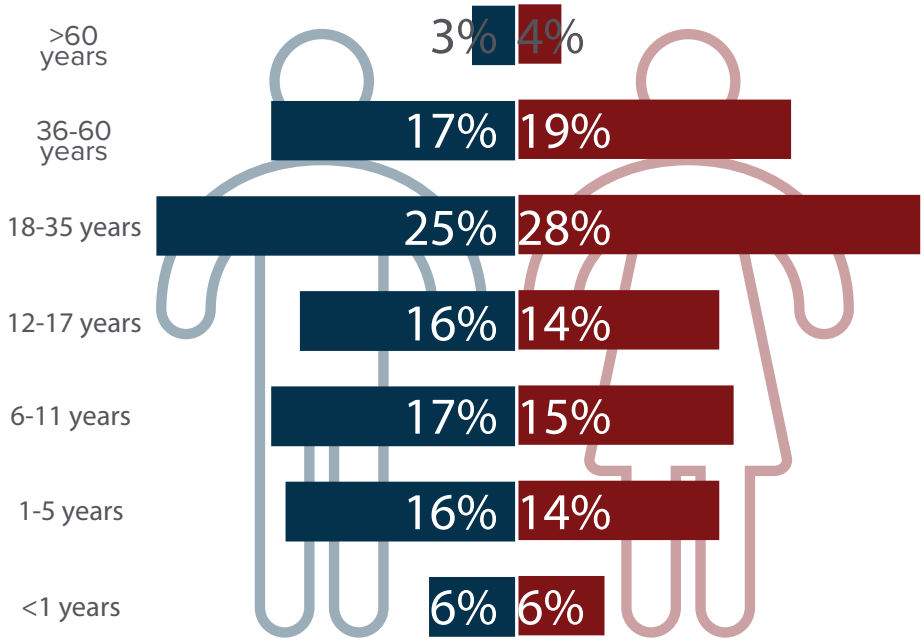
Key Findings

- The majority (54%) of the residents of collective shelters are under 18 years old.
- Only 5 of the 87 assessed collective shelters have inclusive construction features for persons with disabilities.

Of the 19,464 people living in collective shelters, 20% are men, 26% are women, and 54% are children. [1] As the majority of IDPs are children, t**he burden of childcare will likely fall to the women** and could be resulting in negative coping mechanisms to ensure the children are getting enough food and water. 3% of the residents are elderly, over the age of 60 years old. The population distribution is consistent with the typical age/sex ratio across Syria, where there is typically a significant youth bulge, followed by people in the age category of 18 to 35 years. However, **the dependency ratio of children (under 15 years old) and seniors (over 60 years old) to active members is significant** and suggests increased burden of care for active men and women in the shelters. 53% of the residents of collective shelters with SADD data were female and 47% were male.

71 Collective Shelters have the presence of vulnerable people living within their collective shelters. Of these centres, there were reported to be 695 pregnant or lactating women, 2600 individual members of female headed households, 245 males with disabilities, and 135 females over the age of 12 having a disability. Relevant to this, only 5 collective shelters of the 87 collective shelters assessed during this assessment were reported to have construction features that reflected the needs of people with disabilities.

Population Pyramid (% of Individuals) from Collective Shelters with SADD



13% of individuals are members of female headed households

54% of residents are children (<18)

3% of residents are elderly

80% of residents are women or children

1 53 collective shelters had information on sex and age disaggregated data (SADD) while 34 collective shelters did not. This means that information on 14,772 residents of collective shelters was available representing 76% of the IDPs found in collective shelters in this survey.

Collective Shelter Types and Tenure Arrangement

Key Findings

- Most collective shelter types range from schools, poultry farms, unfinished or abandoned buildings and other structures not suitable for accommodation.
- Those paying rent, typically pay between 15,000 to 100,000 Syrian Pounds.

Almost none of the collective shelters are designed **as accommodation and therefore are not suitable for residents**. Twenty-two collective shelters are schools, **14 of which are located in Salqin sub-district.** 16 collective centres in Salqin and Dana normally are poultry farms, but now host 733 IDPs. 14 collective shelters are unfinished buildings or abandoned residential buildings, over half of which (8) are located in Afrin sub-district. Wedding halls, other public buildings, warehouses, cellars, factories, and shops are also common types of collective shelters. Throughout the assessment, an amusement park, a large vegetable refrigerator, a caravan, a garage, a civil defense building yard, a medical center, an office, and a reception centre are also reported to be types of collective shelters.

While the majority of collective shelters assessed are hosting the IDPs for free, **18 collective shelters require IDPs to pay the rent,** and 3 collective shelters are occupied by IDPs **squatting for free** without the permission of the building owner. Rental arrangements impact a total of 173 households. Of these households, only 24% of households are able to pay rent, while 40% are able to partially cover rent, and 36% of these households are unable to pay rent. Of those paying rent to stay in the collective shelter, the average price of rent ranged anywhere from 15,000 to 100,000 Syrian Pounds. There was not a significant difference in terms of average price and the IDPs' reported capacity to pay rent.[1]

17 collective shelters are at risk eviction: **10 collective shelters are in Salqin, 3 are in Dana** and one collective shelter each is in Afrin, Al Bab, A'zaz, and Mare' sub-districts. This would impact a total of 651 households (3,332 IDPs). Reasons for eviction included returning the building to its pre-conflict use as in the case of 13 collective shelters. In one collective shelter, the key informant explained that IDPs did not have permission to stay, while 5 collective shelters set a limitation for how long the IDPs could stay. One key informant mentioned that the religious nature of the building prevented IDPs from staying there longer, and another one cited that shops needed to be opened for the cardamom market season which runs from April to June. The collective shelters at risk of eviction house 130 pregnant or lactating women, 53 males with disabilities, 51 females with disabilities, 557 members of female headed households, and 45 people over 60 years old (27 are elderly females).

Building Type	Number of Buildings	Number of Individuals
School	22	6,303
Poultry Farm	16	1,002
Unfinished/Abandoned Building	14	1,463
Wedding Hall	6	1,568
Public Building	4	146
Warehouse	4	139
Factory	3	1,265
Shop	3	662
Cellar	3	420
Religious Building	3	381
Caravans	1	2,116
Reception Centre	1	1,173
Office	1	1,172
Civil Defense Yard	1	650
Land with Fence	1	432
Amusement Park	1	272
Medical Center	1	210
Refrigerator Crate	1	50
Garage	1	40

3,332

Individuals at risk of eviction from collective shelters

1 Those who reported being able to pay rent paid on average 43,333 Syrian Pounds, while those who were not able to pay rent paid on average 42,250 Syrian Pounds. Those who reported being able to partially pay the rent pay 48,750 Syrian Pounds. Given fluctuations in the exchange rate, all financial figures are intentionally presented in SYP to diminish potential miscalculations at the time of implementation.

Occupancy

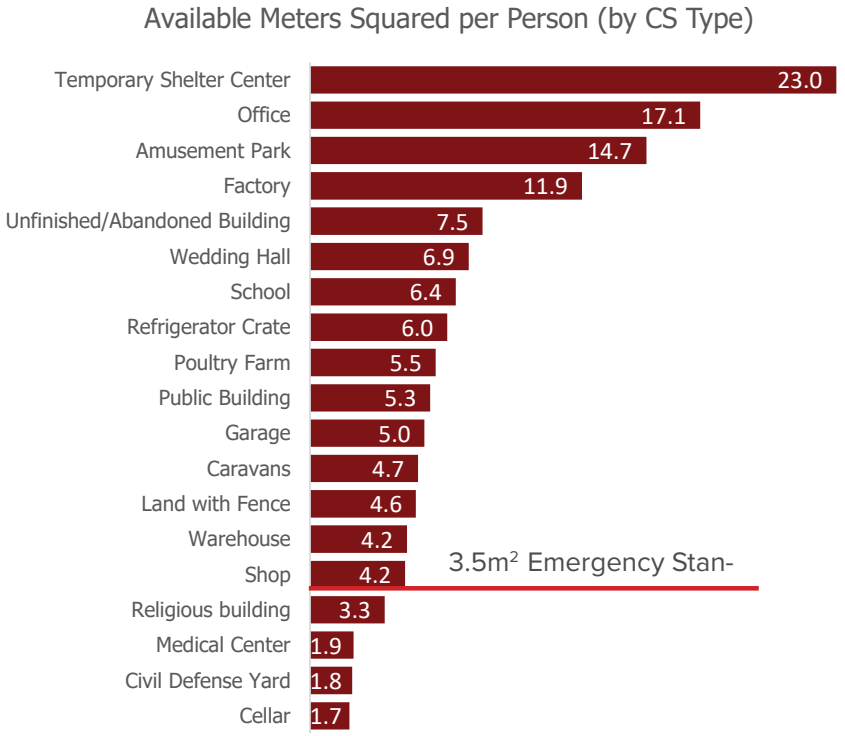
Key Findings

- 24 collective shelters, home to 3,436 individuals, are below the minimum standard of 3.5m^2 per person.
- Mare' sub-district has the highest rate of persons affected by insufficient space and should be prioritised for decongestion with interventions such as provision of emergency shelter and installation of partitions where possible.

On average, those living in designed temporary shelters, amusement parks, offices, factories and schools have the most space per person, while religious buildings, medical centers, civil defense building properties, and cellars are on average found to be below the emergency standard of 3.5m^2 per person as demonstrated in the graph on the right. When taking the average space of the buildings per the number of occupants, the **sub-district of Mare' was found to be the most overcrowded** with an average of 2.6m^2 available per person for all collective shelters in that sub-district for this round of data collection. In total 24 collective shelters were found to be below the minimum standard of 3.5m2 per person.

Mare' sub-district had the most persons affected by insufficient space where there are 3 collective shelters housing 1,372 individuals with less than 3.5m^2 available per person. 9 collective shelters in Salqin, which house 969 individuals are also below emergency standards. 5 collective shelters in Dana, 4 collective shelters in Afrin and Dana respectively, 2 collective shelters in A'zaz, and 1 collective shelter in Al Bab also had inadequate surface area per person.

Sub-district	Number of Collective Shelters	Number of Individuals	Average M^2 per Individual	Number of Shelters Without Sufficient Space	Number of Individuals Without Sufficient Space
Azaz	4	3,641	8.8	2	380
Mare'	4	1,637	2.6	3	1372
Afrin	22	6,145	9.9	4	630
Al Bab	5	1,960	16.2	1	225
Dana	18	962	5.0	4	246
Salqain	34	5,119	5.5	9	969



Sleeping Conditions

Key Findings

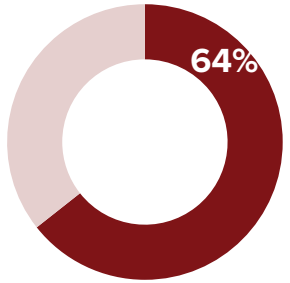
- Only 7% of collective shelters have enough space for men and women to sleep separately.
- 40 collective shelters reported that IDPs encounter frequent interruptions to sleep, 62 reported overcrowding and 68 reported cold and damp conditions.

When taking the average sleeping space per person, poultry farms (3.4m²), warehouses (3.3m²), unfinished or abandoned residential buildings (3.1m²), garages (3m²), medical centers (3m²), wedding halls (2.8m²), factories (2.7m²), temporary shelter centers (2.5m²), shops (2.3m²), public buildings (2.3m²), caravans (1.8m²), cellars (1.2m²), civil defense yard (1.8m²), yards/cellars (1.2m²), religious buildings (1.1m²) all are below the sphere standards of 3.5 m² per person. If looking individually at each collective shelter, 56 collective shelters are found to have **inadequate space per person in the sleeping areas**. The majority of these centers are in **Afrin (16)** and **Dana (16)** collective shelters, with an additional 12 such collective shelters in Salqin sub-district.

This situation was marked by key informants' evaluation of the sleeping conditions within the collective shelters. 40 collective shelters reported **frequent interruptions to sleep impacting 8,454 IDPs**; 62 collective shelters reported **overcrowded impacting 14,066 IDPs**; 68 collective shelters reported that conditions were **cold and damp impacting 12,768 IDPs**. Additionally, **only 6 collective shelters reported that there was enough space for men and women to sleep separately** and a further 6 collective shelters reported that there is enough space to enable families to sleep separately from people that they did not know. A school in Salqin however, reported insufficient space for both gendered sleeping arrangements and between households. **This means women and girls of different ages (or unmarried) may be sleeping in mixed gendered rooms with extended families or strangers**, increasing protection risks such as gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA).

In terms of geographical distribution of issues with the sleeping conditions, collective shelters in **Afrin (56 complaints affecting 6,145 individuals)** and **Salqin (55 complaints affecting 3,956 individuals)** sub-districts mentioned the most issues such as frequent interruptions to sleep, overcrowded, and cold and damp conditions. **Dana (39 complaints)** also had a significant number of challenges. Sleeping conditions are highly correlated with sleep space, as evidenced by the low rates of spacial adequacy in Afrin, Dana and Salqin.

Shelters with Inadequate Sleeping Space (<3.5m²)



	AFRIN	AL BAB	A'ZAZ	DANA	MARE'	SALQUIN
Total Number of Collective Shelters in SD	22	5	4	18	4	34
% of Shelters with Inadequate Sleeping Space (<3.5m²) per SD	73%	100%	75%	89%	100%	35%
# of Persons with Inadequate Sleeping Space	4,049	1,960	2,496	801	1,637	953
Average Sleeping Complaint	2.5	1.2	1.3	2.2	2.3	1.6
Complaint: (# of shelters) Frequent Disturbance to Sleep	18	1	0	8	2	11
Complaint: (# of shelters) Overcrowding	16	1	3	15	4	23
Complaint: (# of shelters) Cold and Damp	22	4	2	16	3	21

Damages to Collective Shelters

Key Findings

- Over half (52%) of the collective shelters report damages.
- 7,643 IDPs live in collective shelters that have sustained damages.
- 3 buildings are severely damaged, 8 moderately damaged and the remaining 34 collective shelters have minor damages.

Enumerators were asked to observe the conditions and whether any damage was observed to the buildings where IDPs were taking shelter. Damages were observed at 45 collective shelters.

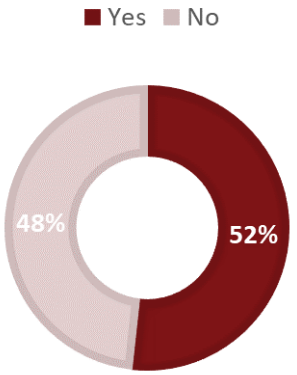
21 collective shelters have minor damages to the roofs, observing evidence of water leakages in the roofs but no major holes in the walls. **Moderate damages to the roofs were observed at 5 collective shelters**, observing holes in the roof and reporting that rain normally leaks into the dwelling. **5 collective shelters have severe damages to the roof** with several large holes observed in the roof making it difficult to repair. The highest concentration of severely damaged roofs was reported in Dana (4 collective shelters).

17 collective shelters have minor damages to the walls of the building, observing bullet holes or non-structural cracks. **7 collective shelters have moderate damages to the walls,** being able to see through some of the cracks in the walls, while only **3 collective shelters -two of which are located in Dana-have severe damages to the walls**, observing many large holes in the walls.

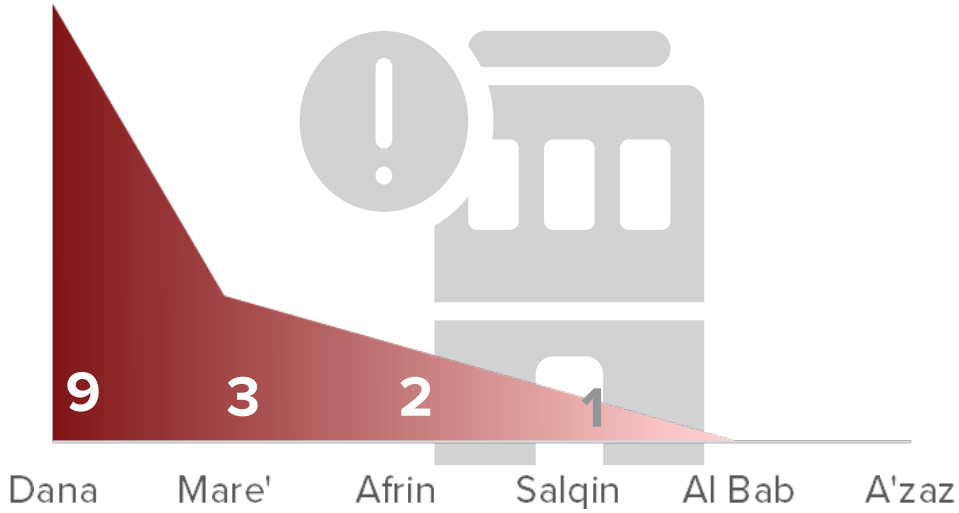
16 collective shelters have minor damages to windows and doors observing several broken glasses from damaged windows. **12 collective shelters have moderate damages to windows and doors**, while **14 collective shelters have severe damage to windows and doors** indicating that many doors and windows in the building were damaged or destroyed.

In terms of locations of damages, **27 collective shelters have damages in Salqin sub-district** followed by **11 collective shelters reporting damages in Dana sub-district**. In all, 7,643 IDPs are living in collective shelters that have sustained various forms of damages.

Shelters with Damage Present



Shelters with Severe Damage, by Sub-district



Key Issues with Collective Shelters

Key Findings

- 96% (80) of collective shelters report various issues with the buildings.
- 79% cited lack of heating, 71% cited lack of lighting.
- Afrin and Al-Bab sub-districts have the collective shelters with the highest rate of issues.

80 collective shelters reported various issues with the living conditions in the collective shelters. 69 collective shelters reported **lack of heating**. 62 collective shelters reported **lack of lighting**. 52 collective shelters reported that there was insufficient insulation due to the **cold and damp** conditions. 48 collective shelters reported that it leaks when it rains. Damp and cold sleeping conditions undermine the health of residents by increasing the risk of respiratory disease. This is particularly concerning in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, a disease which notably undermines respiratory health. 44 collective shelters reported to be unable to lock the door securely, and few have individual rooms with locks – leaving them open to potential intruders, theft or attack. 28 collective shelters reported limited ventilation.

In terms of type of building, the most issues reported were with **unfinished or abandoned residential buildings,** 11 of which had a total of four or more key issues. Poultry farms also had a higher propensity to report key issues, 8 had at least 4 key issues.

The collective shelters with the most issues are in **Afrin, where all 6,145 IDPs reported at least 4 key issues with their shelters. Al Bab also reflected a high rate of issues, with 80% of the shelters reporting leaking and the lack of sufficient lighting.** The most common types of issues per collective shelters are reported at poultry farms, schools, factories, cellars, and shops. In terms of other issues, one key informant made a recommendation that the collective shelter rooms should be partitioned with concrete blocks to enable privacy in larger open spaces.

% of Shelters with Key Issues, by % of Shelters per Sub-district

	Insufficient Insulation	Leaking (When Raining)	Limited Ventilation	Insecure (No Locks)	Lack of Lighting	Lack of Heating
Afrin	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	100%
Al Bab	60%	80%	0%	60%	80%	60%
A'zaz	75%	25%	0%	50%	75%	50%
Dana	72%	50%	22%	39%	72%	89%
Mare'	50%	50%	50%	100%	50%	25%
Salqin	29%	32%	3%	21%	56%	74%

22	3	16	2	1	25
AFRIN	AL BAB	DANA	A'ZAZ	MARE'	SALQUIN

Total CS per SD

Cooking

Key Findings

- Due to the lack of designated cooking space in collective shelters, most IDP cook in their living units.
- 67% of collective shelters assessed said that cooking facilities in collective shelters were extremely poor.

Key informants from 55 collective shelters reported that **t IDPs typically cook in their living units** which is often the same place that IDPs sleep and rest in the evening. This lack of designated cooking space and further reports of poor ventilation - indeed nearly half (22) of collective shelters with kitchens in their living area reported ventilation issues - indicates many people may be exposed to smoke inhalation **increasing chances of respiratory disease**.

18 collective shelters reported that IDPs cook in a designated space for cooking, but that the facilities are not properly equipped as a kitchen. 5 collective shelters use a kitchen which is not fully equipped; while **4 collective shelters reported that they do not have a space for cooking;** 3 collective shelters have a fully equipped kitchen that is managed by the focal point of the collective shelter; and 2 collective shelters use an outdoor kitchen. In total, 3,560 IDPs live in collective shelters without a kitchen space.

Of the 83 collective shelters which have cooking facilities, 67% (58 shelters) where 12,329 IDPs live **have extremely poor cooking facilities**. 25% of collective shelters (22 collective shelters) where 3224 IDPs live have poor cooking facilities. 2 collective shelters have satisfactory cooking facilities, while 1 collective shelter has “good” cooking facilities.

In terms of cooking fuel sources, the most commonly used fuel source is **gas (reported at 76 collective shelters)** with various fuel sources being used within one collective shelter. **Firewood (reported at 61 collective shelters)** is also a commonly used fuel source. Coal (16 collective shelters), kerosene (5 collective shelters), diesel (2 collective shelters), and pomace/olive-pit biomasss (5 collective shelters) are also mentioned. The common use of firewood and coal as fuel sources is especially concerning considering the COVID-19 outbreak and its impact on the lungs. Women are predominantly in charge of cooking for the family indicating that they could be more exposed to smoke inhalation risks.

Electricity

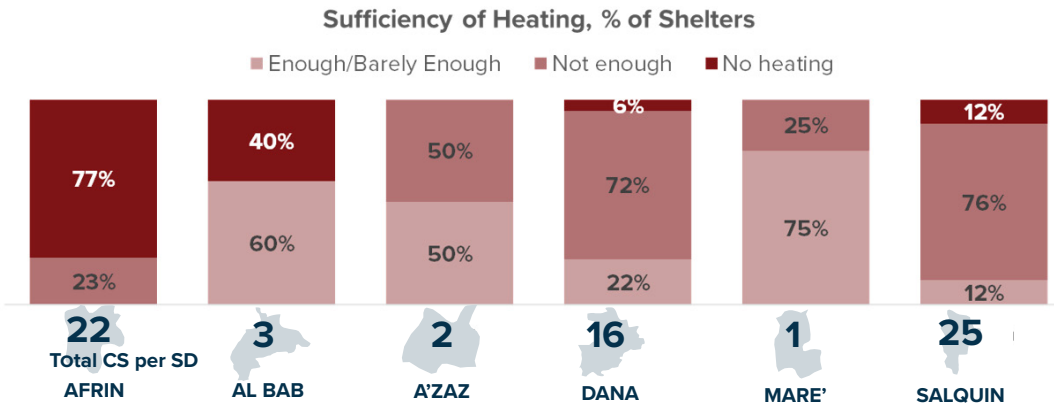
Key Findings

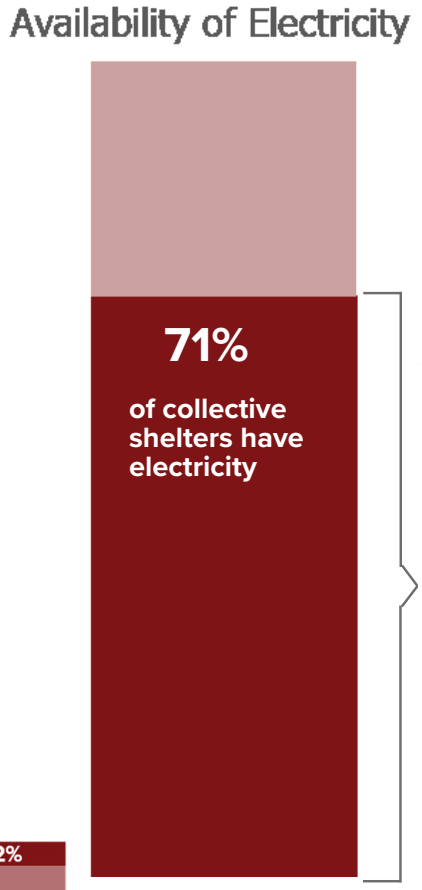
- 25 collective shelters do not have access to electricity; 37 only have access to electricity for less than 6 hours a day.
- 47 collective shelters reported that there is not enough heating; 24 collective shelters reported that there was no heating.

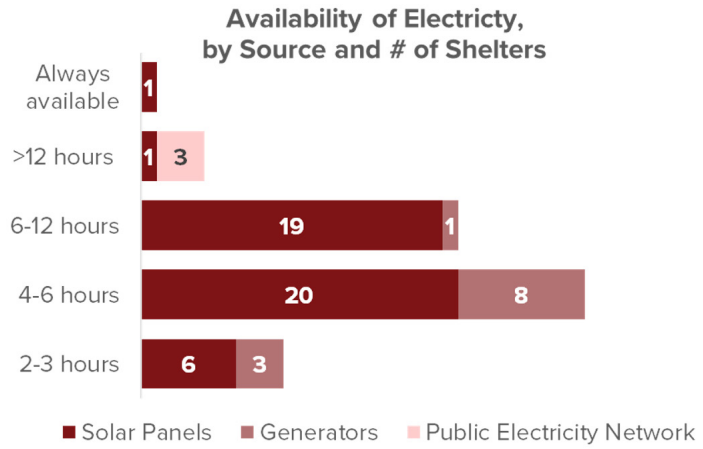
62 collective shelters have access to electricity, while 25 did not. 6,561 individuals therefore are without electricity. The availability of the electricity per collective shelter varied per type of electricity. 9 collective shelters have electricity only for two to three hours per day; 28 collective shelters have electricity for four to six hours per day; 20 collective shelters have electricity between six to twelve hours a day; while 4 collective shelters have electricity for more than twelve hours. **Only 1 collective shelter always has electricity available**. 12 collective shelters have generators, 3 rely on the public utility network, and 47 have solar panels.

The majority of collective shelters with only **2 to 3 hours a day are found in Dana (6 shelters)**, 2 are in Salqin, while 1 is in Afrin. Shelters dependent on generators are less likely to have sufficient electricity, as illustrated by the fact that **11 out of the 12 shelters with a generator have 6 hours or less of electricity per day.**

In terms of the quality of heating in the collective shelter, **47 collective shelters do not have enough heating**, while **24 collective shelters have no heating**. At 16 collective shelters, there is just enough heating. **Of the 47 collective shelters where there is not enough heating, 31 of these collective shelters have various levels of damage** and **15 of them have no electricity**. Of the 24 collective shelters with **no heating, 4 have various levels of damage while 7 have no electricity.**







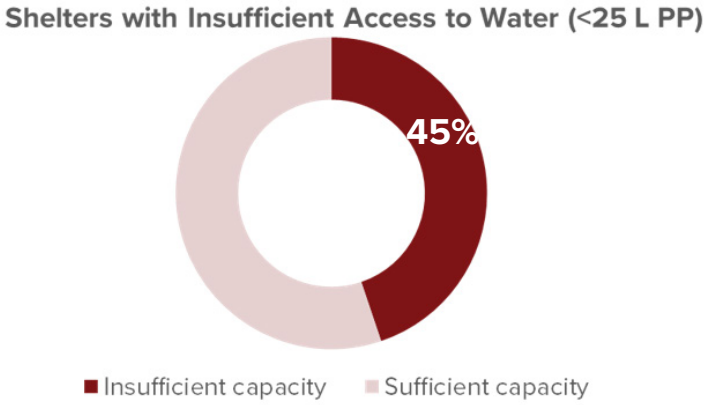
WASH: Drinking Water

Key Findings

- 45% of collective shelters do not have enough capacity to store enough water to ensure 25 L of water per person per day.
- Water trucking purchased by the residents is the main source of potable water for residents of collective shelters.
- 10 collective shelters fall below the emergency standard of 15 L of potable water available per person per day.
- 74% of collective shelters did not chlorinate or test water prior to it being distributed to IDPs.

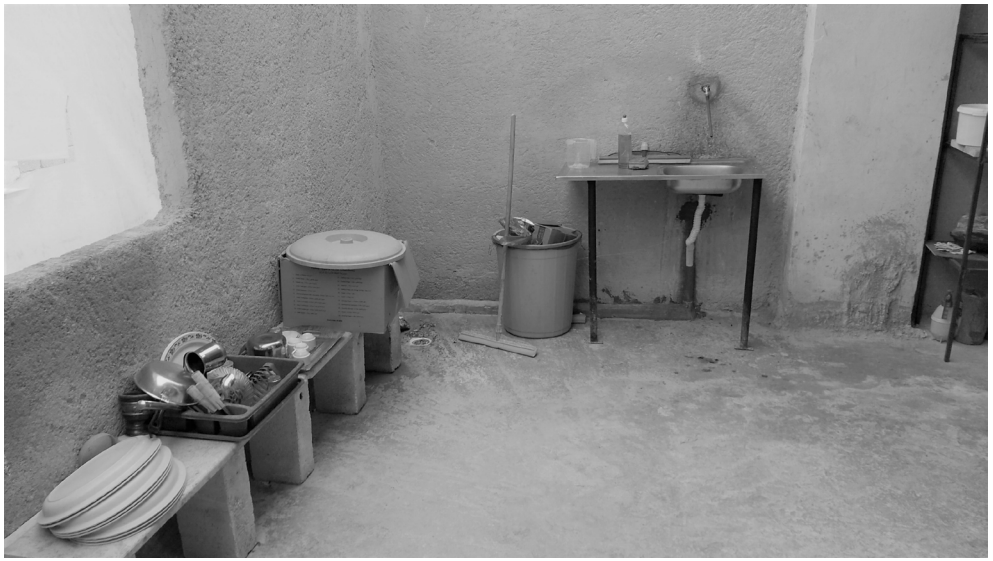
To assess the capacity of the collective shelters to provide sufficient water for cooking, bathing, and drinking, the assessment sought to understand whether the collective shelter had enough water storage tanks to hold enough water storage capacity for an amount of 25 L per person per day. 48 collective shelters reported having such capacity, and **39 collective shelters reported having no such capacity**. Of these collective shelters lacking the capacity to store sufficient water are 8 unfinished or abandoned residential buildings, 6 schools, 4 poultry farms and 4 wedding halls in addition to several other collective shelter types. **21 of these collective shelters that do not have significant water storage capacity are in Afrin (19), while 14 are in Afrin**. **9 collective shelters in Afrin reported that they did not have access to potable water at the collective shelter site** impacting a total of 3,796 IDPs. These collective shelters comprise 4 unfinished or residential buildings, 2 factories, 1 office, 1 school, and a wedding hall.

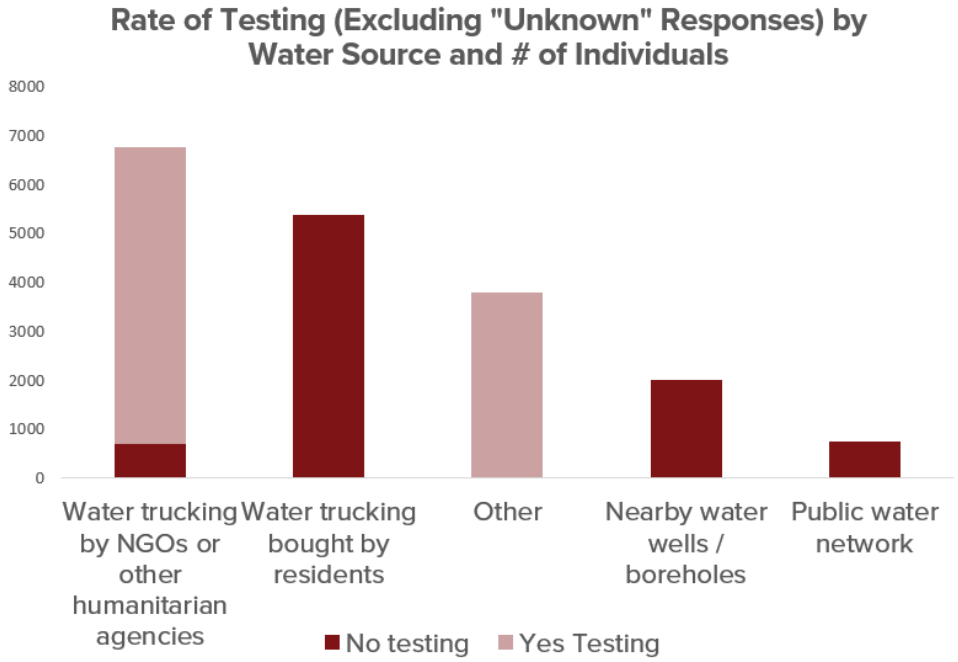
The source of potable water for the other 78 collective shelters includes water trucking bought by residents (46 collective shelters representing 5,721 residents), nearby water wells/boreholes (14 collective shelters representing 2,027 residents), water trucking by NGOs or other humanitarian agencies (13 collective shelters by 7,019 residents), and the public water network (5 collective shelters representing 901 residents). **8 collective shelters fall below the emergency standard of 15 litres of potable water available per person per day (4 of which are in Afrin).** If the post-emergency standard of 20 litres of potable water available per person per day is considered; however, **27 collective shelters would fall below this standard**. Of these centres below post-emergency standards, 12 depend on water bought by the residents; 7 depend on water delivered by NGOs or other humanitarian agencies; 1 depends on nearby water wells or boreholes; and 1 collective shelter depends on the public water utility network.



WASH: Drinking Water (Cont.)

There are only 16 collective shelters where water is tested or treated with chlorine prior to being delivered to the collective shelter, leaving 9,597 IDPs potentially exposed to contaminated water. 7 key informants at collective shelters said they did not know whether water was tested or treated with chlorine prior to delivery. This lack of treatment and testing of the water was the **most prevalent in 43 collective shelters where residents bought their own water trucking**.





WASH: Bathing

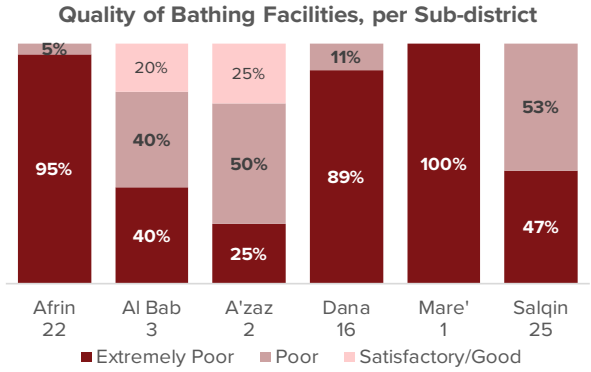
Key Findings

- 68% of collective shelters do not have bathing facilities, forcing 10,940 IDPs to shower or bathe within their living units which is the same place that they sleep.
- Of the collective shelters that had bathing facilities, only 10 of these shelters had gender-disaggregated showers.
- 69% of collective shelters were found to be in extremely poor conditions while 29% were found to be in poor conditions.

Only 28 of the collective shelters have designated bathing facilities or showers. This situation further highlights how unsuitable many of the collective shelters are for living. There are **11,210 IDPs living in the 59 collective shelters which do not have bathing or shower facilities**. In these collective shelters, 57 shelters where 10,940 IDPs live shower and bathe within their living units. 250 IDPs living in one collective shelter shower in the toilet area, and 20 IDPs living in another collective shelter shower in a small area in the center.

Of the twenty-eight collective shelters which have bathing and shower facilities, **only 10 collective shelters have gender-segregated** showers. On average, 61 men have one shower available each, and 64 women have one shower available each. This falls below the emergency standard which is typically 50 people or less per one shower. If looking at these collective shelters individually and by gender, the situation is **far worse for women living in these 10 collective shelters.** 6 collective shelters have 50 or more women per one shower. In some collective shelters, it was reported that 122 women are sharing one shower, with 116 and 115 women per one shower also reported. For men, there are only two collective shelters exceeding the 50 people per shower standard with 206 men per one shower reported in one collective shelter and 182 men per one shower reported in another.

In terms of the cleanliness of the bathing facilities, 60 collective shelters had very poor conditions, while 25 key informants at 25 collective shelters reported that the conditions were poor. This ranking of general satisfaction correlates with the overcrowded conditions and lack of shower space available in the collective shelter premises. **Of the 60 collective shelters that had a very poor ranking**, there is an average of 76 people per shower, and of the 25 collective shelters that had a poor ranking, there is an average of 127 people per shower available. The majority of collective shelters (73) reported that showers were not connected to water pipes. **21 of the collective shelters reporting extremely poor bathing facilities are in Afrin**, while 16 are in Salqin, and 16 are in Dana.



WASH: Sanitation

Key Findings

- 38 collective shelters reported having toilets that were not functioning.
- 22% of collective shelters fall below the emergency standard of 50 people per latrine. If applying the post-emergency standard of 20 people per latrine, 74% of collective shelters would fall below this standard.
- Only 30 collective shelters had a system in place for cleaning the toilets.

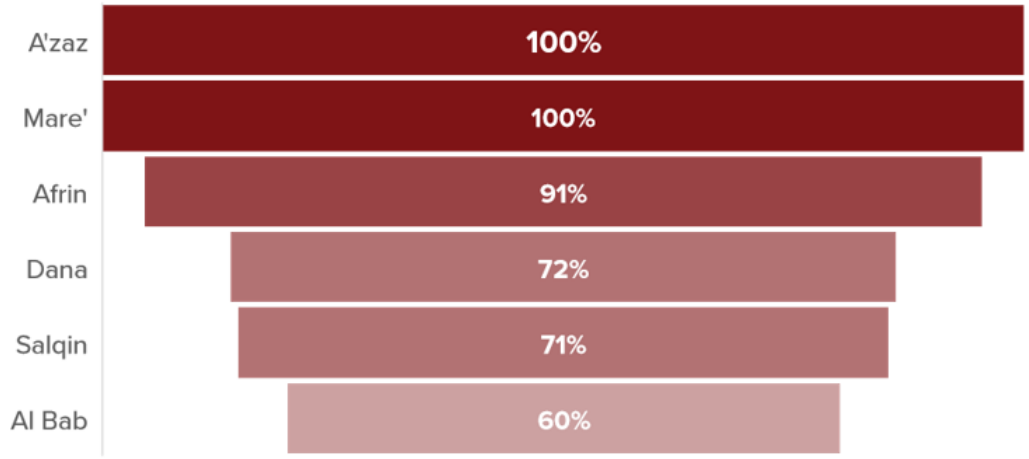
23 collective shelters have toilets that were not functioning and unusable by the residents. **26 collective shelters fall below the emergency standard** of 50 people per latrine. **10 of these collective shelters are in Afrin,** 10 of these centers are in Salqin, 3 are in Mare'. If applying the post-emergency standard of 20 people per latrine **68 collective shelters would fall below this standard**. 24 of these collective shelters below the post-emergency standard are in Salqin, while 20 are in Afrin.

In terms of maintaining the cleanliness of toilets, **only 30 collective shelters have a system in place for maintaining the cleanliness of the toilets** and latrines, while 57 collective shelters did not. Therefore it is likely that the cleanliness of the latrines for the 10,394 people living in these collective shelters without a regular cleaning service is quite poor. Moreover, **38 collective shelters have latrines that are not connected to a water source**, impacting a total of 6,367 IDPs. Of the collective shelters that do not have a management or cleaning service, 27 of them also do not have water connected to the toilets. 60 collective shelters have latrines that are connected to septic tanks or sewage systems, while **3665 IDPs live in the 27 collective shelters which have latrines not connected to septic tanks or sewage systems**. Poultry farms (14 such collective shelters) were the most likely to have latrines not connected to the sewage system.

57 collective shelters have no lighting in the hallway outside the toilet. 19 of those shelters are currently without electricity and would be less likely to light the hallways. This could increase the risk for GBV. Only 6 collective shelters report having equipped disabled friendly latrines available within the shelter, while **81 collective shelters do not, impacting a total of 331 IDPs with disabilities living in the centres without equipped disabled friendly latrines.** The needs of persons with disabilities are often overlooked in shelters. Where a shelter lacks inclusive, disability-appropriate infrastructure, individuals with disability may be more limited within the shelter and unable to meet their basic WASH needs.

While 45 collective shelters have gender disaggregated toilets, 42 collective shelters do not. As this impacts nearly half the collective shelters, women and girls may be deterred from using the facilities. If applying the emergency standard of 50 people per latrine per gender to these 45 collective shelters, there are 7 collective shelters which exceed 50 women per latrine, while only 2 collective shelters with gender disaggregated toilets have over 50 men or more per one latrine. If applying the post-emergency standard of 20 people or less per toilet, 22 collective shelters have 20 women or more per one latrine, while 23 collective shelters have 20 men or more per one latrine. Poor sanitation facilities **impact women heavily**, namely because the collection, storage and management of water, the cleaning of the facilities, bathing children, and cooking falls to them. When these facilities are lacking, women must work harder and family tensions often increase if these tasks aren't achieved, potentially resulting in cases of GBV.

Proportion of shelters per sub-district where there is more than 20 people or more per toilet



WASH: Waste Management, Hygiene and NFI Assistance

Key Findings

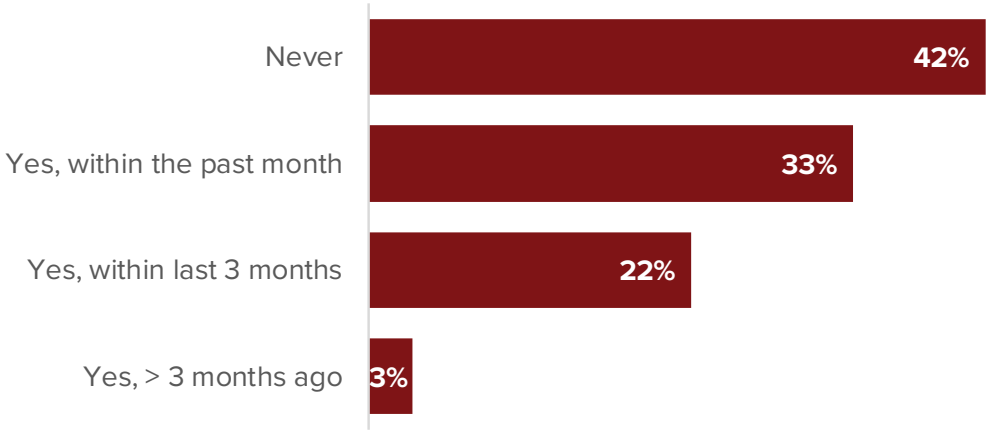
- 60% of collective shelters assessed reported that they did not have any garbage bins to dispose of waste.
- 24% of collective shelters have never received hygiene assistance.

When key informants were asked to identify if there were any concerns about waste management in the collective shelters, 79 collective shelters have no concerns, 1 key informant claimed to be unaware of concerns, while 7 collective shelters have definitive concerns. 6 of these collective shelters have concerns with the fact that there were **no garbage bins for collecting waste**. 1 collective shelter is concerned with the **lack of sanitation**. Even though the concern about lack of bins was reported at only in 6 collective shelters, **52 collective shelters where 9,247 IDPs are residing do not have any garbage bins** contributing to health risks for collective shelter residents. Poultry farms (14) and schools (14) are the most common type of collective shelter to not have garbage or plastic bins. Of the 35 other collective shelters which have garbage bins, the garbage bins are emptied daily at 18 collective shelters, weekly at 9 collective shelters, every two days at 7 collective shelters; and every 3 days at 1 collective shelter. **24 of the collective shelters which do not have garbage bins are in Salqin** with 12 of these collective shelters in Dana.

Due to the context of COVID-19, a question was added as to whether the collective shelter had received any distribution of hygiene materials. A high proportion (36) of collective shelters have **never received any hygiene materials meaning that 4,843 IDPs have never received such materials**. 2,173 IDPs living in collective shelters last received hygiene materials **more than three months ago**, which could contribute to the risk of COVID contagion. 21 of the collective shelters which had never received hygiene kits were in Salqin. Of the collective shelters who had never received hygiene assistance, there were 1,098 women living in these shelters, while 500 women were living in collective shelters who had received hygiene assistance more than 3 months ago. This could have an impact on women trying to keep healthy during their menstrual cycles, or pregnancies, heightening the risk of COVID-19 for everyone.

65 of the collective shelters assessed reported that they **had never received any Shelter or NFI assistance**, meaning that 11,400 of the IDPs have not received any recent Shelter or NFI assistance. 28 of these collective shelters are in Salqin, 19 of these centers are in Afrin, 13 are in Dana, with 3 in Al Bab, and 2 in A'zaz.

Receipt of Hygiene Assistance, by Collective Shelter

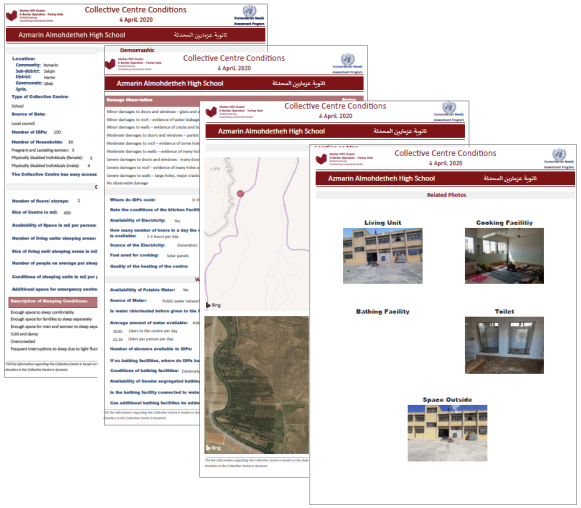


Operationalising the Findings

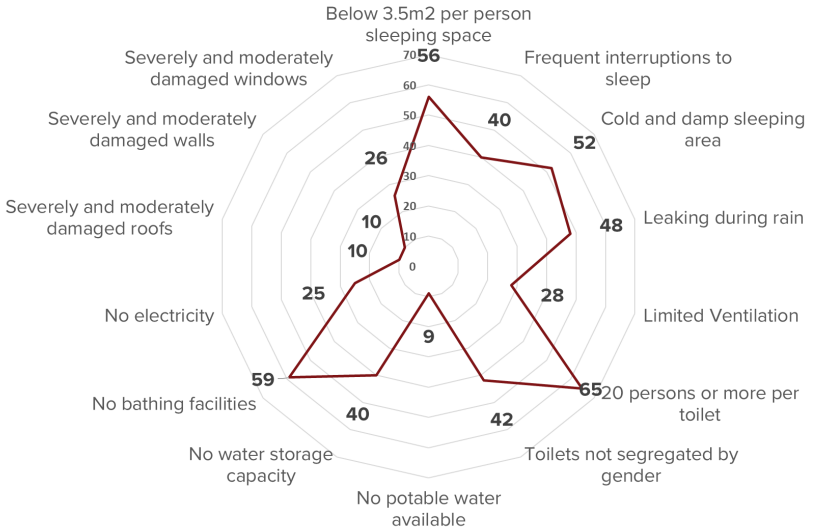
As 65 of the 87 collective shelters assessed reported that they had never received any Shelter and NFI assistance, the Shelter/NFI Cluster team conducted this assessment in order to improve the available shelter and NFI assistance provided to these shelters. Various indicators on spacing, damages, building issues, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), and electricity were assessed. Prior to making an intervention, Shelter Cluster partners are responsible for carrying out their own individual assessment in order to design interventions and support to the shelters. In order to support Shelter/NFI Cluster partners, HNAP and the Shelter/NFI Cluster team have prepared individual profiles on each collective shelter. In order to request the individual profiles of the collective shelters, please contact the Shelter/NFI Cluster team at im.turkey@sheltercluster.org.

The Shelter Cluster team selected several key indicators from the assessment in order to determine a degree of comparability between the collective shelters in terms of their adequacy according to occupancy, damage, WASH, and electricity standards. By comparing the number of inadequacies reported for the number of collective shelters, **overcrowding and WASH were the most prevalent issues**. This requires Shelter/SNI and WASH Cluster partners to consider the following types of interventions as priorities:

1. Decongestion in overcrowded collective shelters by providing emergency shelter or by setting up partitions to ameliorate issues with lack of space.
2. Improving or repairing available sanitation services
3. Improving the capacity of existing collective shelters to store water for drinking, cooking, and bathing.



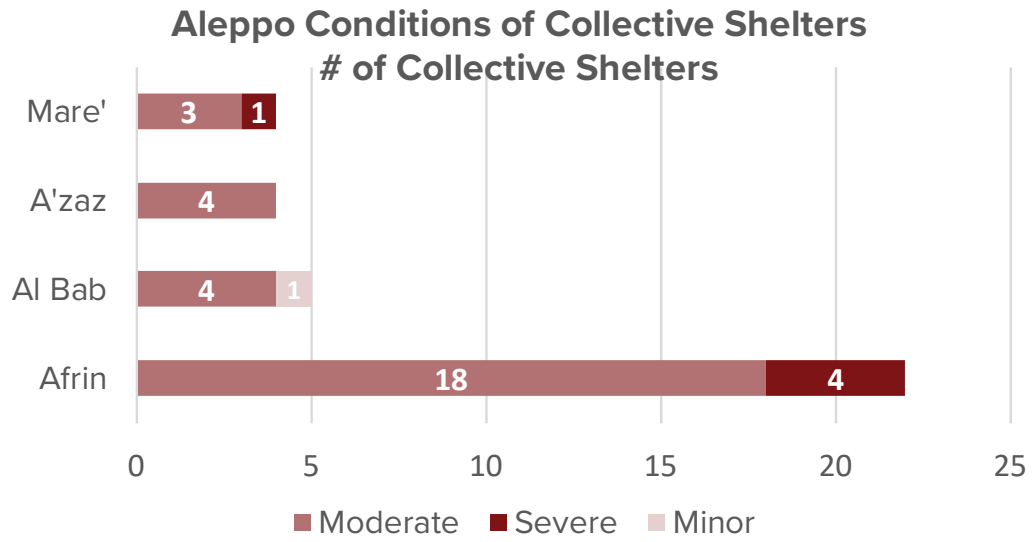
# of Collective Shelters Reporting Building Inadequacies

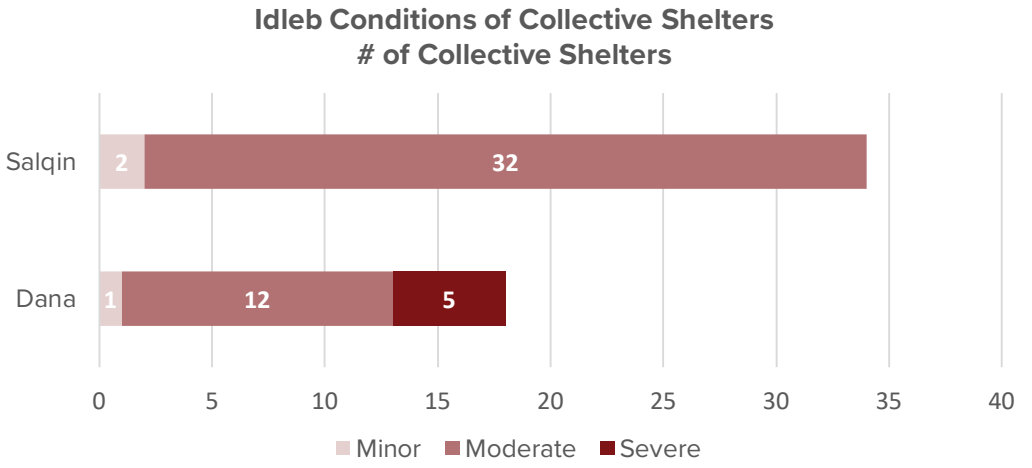


Operationalising the Findings (Cont.)

In order to rank the buildings and give the individual shelters a degree of comparability, the Shelter/NFI Cluster team assigned weights to each of the criteria and classified the collective shelters in the following broad categories. These categories are indicative and require Shelter/NFI Cluster partners to assess the shelters and to consider their own capacities to deliver interventions in these collective shelters:

1. **Extreme Inadequacies:** Shelter and WASH interventions may require significant capacity and budget in order to address the collective shelter inadequacies. Shelter/NFI Cluster partners should prioritise immediate interventions such as non-food items and partitioning. Major infrastructure works may not be cost-effective, but partners should aim to improve the immediate adequacy of available shelters through decongesting overcrowded space and improving living areas used for cooking. Make minor improvements to WASH infrastructure. Liaise with the CCCM and Shelter/NFI Clusters in order to identify alternative shelter solutions than the collective shelter.
2. **Severe Inadequacies**: Assistance in such collective shelters should include decongestion measures such as installation of partitions, moderate repairs, and provision of immediate services such as delivery of water and or non-food items. Major infrastructure works may not be cost-effective, but partners should aim to improve the immediate adequacy of available shelter space and living areas. Life-saving WASH interventions should also be prioritized. Liaise with the CCCM and Shelter/NFI Clusters in order to identify possible alternative accommodation for the IDPs living in these shelters.
3. **Moderate Inadequacies:** Shelter interventions in these shelters may be within the capacity of Shelter/NFI Cluster partners as they require light improvements. Partners should consider decongestion measures such as installation of emergency shelters to decongest overcrowded sleeping areas and to afford families a better degree of privacy. Where no space is available, consider partitioning. Liaise with WASH partners in order to make the appropriate improvements to WASH infrastructure or installation where required.
4. **Minor Inadequacies:** Minor repairs and upgrades to space and WASH infrastructure can be made. If no space for emergency shelter, partitions can be considered.





Humanitarian
Needs Assessment
Programme

Shelter/NFI Cluster
X-Border Operation - Turkey Hub
ShelterCluster.org,
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter