

NORTH-WEST SYRIA: TRI-CLUSTER MESSAGE ON WINTER



Situation

Long, cold, and unpredictable winters cause acute suffering for **2 million people living without adequate shelter in North-West Syria**. Increased winterization support is urgently needed to protect displaced persons battling freezing temperatures. A timely winterization response will mitigate protection risks, including for children, older persons, and other vulnerable groups, and reduce negative coping mechanisms.

During winter, heavy snowfall, widespread flooding, leaking tents and muddy roads make dire living conditions in self-settled and overcrowded camps even worse. Deteriorating economic conditions and increasing prices make it harder for families to meet their winter needs this year.

For many families, this is the twelfth winter in displacement. Lack of winter support will force people to resort to **harmful coping mechanisms** such as spending less on food and medicine as well as burning clothes or plastic materials that cause toxic fumes and fire hazards. Cold temperatures increase the risk of contracting respiratory and waterborne illnesses. These conditions also have serious consequences for the mental health of affected communities.

Sufficient funding will **help to keep those displaced warm** through the provision of fuel, cash assistance as well as insulating items such as winter clothing, high thermal blankets and carpets during the coldest months.

Key figures

- ✓ 1.8 million internally displaced people live in over 1,400 self-settled camps with limited or no access to electricity, water and sanitation networks, livelihoods and camp management.
- ✓ 56% of the camp population are children who have been displaced multiple times over several years.
- ✓ 800,000 people live in old tents, the majority of which are more than two years old.
- ✓ 73% of families report cold and damp conditions as their primary shelter concern.
- ✓ 30% of all camps flooded last winter.

Funding and appeal

- ✓ To date, underfunding will leave **one million people without life-saving winter assistance**.
- ✓ **540 camps** identified by the CCCM Cluster as particularly vulnerable during winter remain unsupported.
- ✓ To avoid disruption of humanitarian aid in the middle of winter, it is crucial that the **UN Security Council Resolution** authorizing Cross-Border aid delivery is extended in January.
- ✓ **USD 46 million is urgently needed** to enable rapid response to winter-related emergencies (floods and fires) in camps and to provide survival winter items to families with no means to cover their needs.