

# IOM FLASH APPEAL FOR NORTHWEST SYRIA

## FIRST PHASE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

DECEMBER 2024 – MARCH 2025



The escalation of hostilities, leading to the fall of the Assad government, has displaced hundreds of thousands of people.  
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### SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 27 November 2024, a significant military offensive by Armed Opposition Groups (AOGs) against Syrian Armed Forces led to a significant shift in the conflict, with subsequent airstrikes devastating already fragile civilian infrastructure and essential services. The rapid advance saw the capture of strategic locations across Idlib, Aleppo, and Hama Governorates, and through central and southern Syria, with the conflict culminating with the AOGs capturing the capital Damascus and toppling Bashar al-Assad, marking a historic and transformative moment in Syrian history. The recent and ongoing events have compounded humanitarian needs, resulted in large scale internal displacement and returns, exacerbating the vulnerabilities of affected populations and creating new and complex needs. As of updates shared by the IDP Task force on 8 December, over 1 million people are displaced. This is in the context of 3.5 million displaced in Northwest Syria prior to the latest developments, of which 2 million people resided in camps.

This situation has significantly heightened protection needs and increased the vulnerability of both the existing residents, those who have faced protracted displacement and the new arrivals, who are in dire need of essential winter relief supplies, emergency water and sanitation support, area-based mobile camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) support, emergency shelter, as well as mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and long-term housing solutions.

Through this Flash Appeal, IOM aims to mobilize **USD 30,951,000 million** over the next four months to assist 684,100 affected individuals in Northwest Syria, in addition to IOM's broader [2024 Syrian Arab Republic Crisis Response Plan](#), and will ensure **immediate and continued assistance** to the most at-risk and vulnerable groups among those already displaced in Northwest Syria, as well as ensuring support to newly displaced or returning groups – with particular focus on providing timely assistance during the winter period. This is a first phase appeal as IOM reviews the evolving situation, including potential shifts in access, to ensure response to the most pressing needs.

### IOM APPEAL

**(USD 30,951,000)**  
(December 2024 – March 2025)



Shelter, Non-Food Items, and Winterization Support  
(Individuals targeted: 270,000) **\$18,400,000**



Emergency Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)  
(Individuals targeted: 330,000) **\$7,000,000**



Multi-purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)  
(Individuals targeted: 34,000) **\$3,756,000**



Protection  
(Individuals targeted: 10,000) **\$1,000,000**



Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)  
(Individuals targeted: 40,000) **\$660,000**



Coordination  
(Individuals targeted: 100) **\$135,000**

**TOTAL: \$30,951,000**  
(Individuals targeted: 684,100)

## RESPONSE STRATEGY AND COORDINATION

As one of the key actors in the provision of humanitarian aid in Northwest Syria (NWS), IOM seeks to leverage its long-established experience of working in the region, building on existing partnerships to scale up emergency response, respond to new and emerging needs resulting from significant shifts, including IDP movements and returns. This includes through provision of critical winter supplies, multi-purpose cash, critical non-food items, protection assistance and WASH services. IOM has been closely collaborating with all clusters to ensure its approach is in line with recommended emergency response guidelines, given the dynamic situation and resulting displacement and returns, while supporting information provision by contributing to inter-agency rapid needs assessments.

IOM has already been active in newly established sites for populations fleeing escalating hostilities and continues to access Northwest Syria through a cross-border modality. Additional funding would ensure that IOM can continue to support emerging humanitarian needs, as well ensure provision of assistance to the most vulnerable and at-risk groups that continue to remain in sites.



IOM responded swiftly through its cross-border operation, working with partners to deliver essential supplies to newly displaced communities in Aleppo and Idlib Governorates.  
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## SHELTER, NON-FOOD ITEMS AND WINTERIZATION SUPPORT

IOM will distribute essential relief items such as blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, solar lamps, diapers to IDPs and host communities to meet their immediate needs. In light of the winter response, in line with cluster standards, IOM will have flexibility to provide a general non-food item (NFI) kit or more a comprehensive winter kit as relevant, to ensure ability to withstand the challenges of the current harsh conditions. IOM adopts a ‘quick release’ mechanism which would allow prepositioned items to be dispatched from within partners’ warehouses inside NWS, enabling a rapid response. Additionally, IOM will provide both emergency shelter items for reception centers and areas hosting newly arrived IDPs, while expanding its provision of dignified shelters – providing safer, more resilient living conditions for displaced populations.

Funding required  
**USD 18,400,000**

Target  
**270,000**



## EMERGENCY WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

IOM will provide a package of emergency WASH interventions and support enhanced WASH capacity for sites and communities hosting new arrivals. IOM will enhance sanitation facilities, conduct vector control, utilize unconventional water sources, support rehabilitation of sanitation, water networks and solid waste systems while supporting water supply and storage. Emergency WASH interventions will target sites with sudden increases in populations, ensuring access to safe water through water trucking, distribution of hygiene kits, installation of prefabricated latrines and solid waste management (collecting garbage, desludging and repairs of sewage networks). IOM will also mainstream a disaster risk reduction lens, introducing more sustainable approaches, including through use of solarization where possible.

Funding required  
**USD 7,000,000**

Target  
**330,000**



## MULTI-PURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE (MPCA)

Where appropriate and where markets are functioning and cash-based interventions are feasible, IOM will provide multi-purpose cash assistance, to ensure displaced populations, returnees and local affected communities have the flexibility to prioritize their needs. IOM will distribute cash through engagement of financial service provider (s) or implementing partner(s) depending on the availability and contextual requirements. While being able to provide emergency short-term assistance, in line with cluster guidelines of one-off or up to three rounds, IOM will also transition, as relevant, to longer-term repeat assistance for populations not at risk of re-displacement.

Funding required  
**USD 3,756,000**

Target  
**34,000**



## PROTECTION

IOM will provide needs-based assistance that includes individual protection assistance, case management and specialized gender-based violence (GBV) services, as well as child protection (CP) and legal services to the most at-risk groups, including persons with disabilities, older persons, single female-headed households and persons with chronic illnesses, including those newly arrived in communities/sites. IOM will provide information and referrals to specialized services where referral pathways are active or establish new pathways as relevant, while promoting integrated approaches with all assistance, to ensure cross-team referrals as needed, in coordination with the cluster. IOM will provide capacity strengthening activities, including on GBV risk mitigation and handling disclosures in safe and ethical way, protection mainstreaming and housing, land and property (HLP) due diligence support across sectors.

Funding required  
**USD 1,000,000**

Target  
**10,000**



## CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

IOM will implement area-based mobile CCCM activities. In the initial phase, IOM will scale this up in areas of newly established sites, in collaboration with the cluster, while also expanding in locations receiving new arrivals or returns. IOM will work with site residents and site managers to provide technical support to camp committees; provide guidance on disaster risk reduction planning, emergency preparedness and environmental risk mitigation; support fire safety and prevention initiatives; as well as guide community-led targeted site improvements, such as communal lighting or improved accessibility, especially if sites are required to expand capacity. While conducting mobile CCCM, IOM will also support coordination and information referrals from collective centres and reception centres, while contributing to cluster-led data efforts to track IDP movements through a joint partner tool. Protection will be mainstreamed across the efforts under this sector, in line with Protection Cluster guidance. Protection risks will be mitigated, and referral pathways for those at risk will be activated accordingly.

Funding required  
**USD 660,000**

Target  
**40,000**



## COORDINATION

To support senior humanitarian coordination policy and decision-making forum on issues related to advocacy, access, humanitarian programming and response, IOM will support inter-agency data collection efforts such as rapid needs assessments coordinated by the Assessment and Analysis Working Group (AAWG) and displacement tracking coordinated by the IDP Task Force. Additionally, to inform programming, provide timely and accurate information on needs and severity, and ensure evidence-based interventions, IOM will undertake multi-sectoral site and community assessments in areas affected by the emergency. Data will be gathered through a network of field-based enumerators and shared with other donors and humanitarian agencies to help inform the response.

Funding required  
**USD 135,000**



IOM responded swiftly through its cross-border operation, working with partners to deliver essential supplies to newly displaced communities in Aleppo and Idlib Governorates.

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## CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

IOM places **protection at the core of its operational work**, recognizing the increased risk of violence, neglect, deliberate deprivation, discrimination, abuse and exploitation faced by displaced populations and host communities. IOM will mainstream protection principles across all interventions to ensure safety, dignity, and non-discriminatory access to assistance for all those in need. This will include the **prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)**, as well as, where relevant, GBV risk mitigation, disability inclusion, child safeguarding, and an inclusive response. These efforts will be closely coordinated with the Protection sector and its sub-sectors.

**Accountability to affected populations (AAP)** is integrated across IOM's response in coordination with local implementing partners, ensuring that communities can access existing complaints and feedback mechanisms (CFM), participate meaningfully in decision-making, and receive relevant information on how to access services to make informed choices. IOM provides information on how to safely access existing reporting mechanisms to communities through a number of formats and channels – including a hotline, face-to-face, and printed IEC materials. The CFM is managed through a Dialogue, Information and Participation System (DIPS), a two-way communication system used to disseminate information and receive feedback. Feedback collected through implementing partner feedback channels are systematized and shared with IOM for learning and planning purposes, including improved programming.

**Conflict sensitivity** is a key component of IOM's work in addressing migration-related crises, particularly in conflict-affected and fragile contexts. IOM is committed to integrating conflict sensitivity throughout its crisis response, to ensure that interventions respond to needs and vulnerabilities while mitigating risks. This approach contributes towards a risk-sensitive, rights-based, and inclusive strategy that integrates gender and youth considerations. Conflict sensitivity also complements and reinforces other frameworks, including the Principles of Humanitarian Action. By embedding conflict sensitivity into its operations, IOM strengthens its commitment to inclusive, transparent, and responsive interventions that align with these standards, ultimately enhancing the impact and sustainability of its programs.

IOM embeds a robust **risk management and compliance capacity** into its operational response, ensuring risk assessments are integral to planning and decision-making, including jointly with implementing partners. This includes reviewing and monitoring key risk indicators, regularly updating risk registers, and implementing effective risk treatment plans. IOM has an established commodity tracking mechanism to track items and ensure they reach intended beneficiaries, reinforced with beneficiary verification mechanisms, third-party monitoring as well as established complaints and feedback tools. This approach maintains a strong internal control environment, ensures compliance with IOM's rules and regulations as well as donor requirements, and supports operational efficiency.

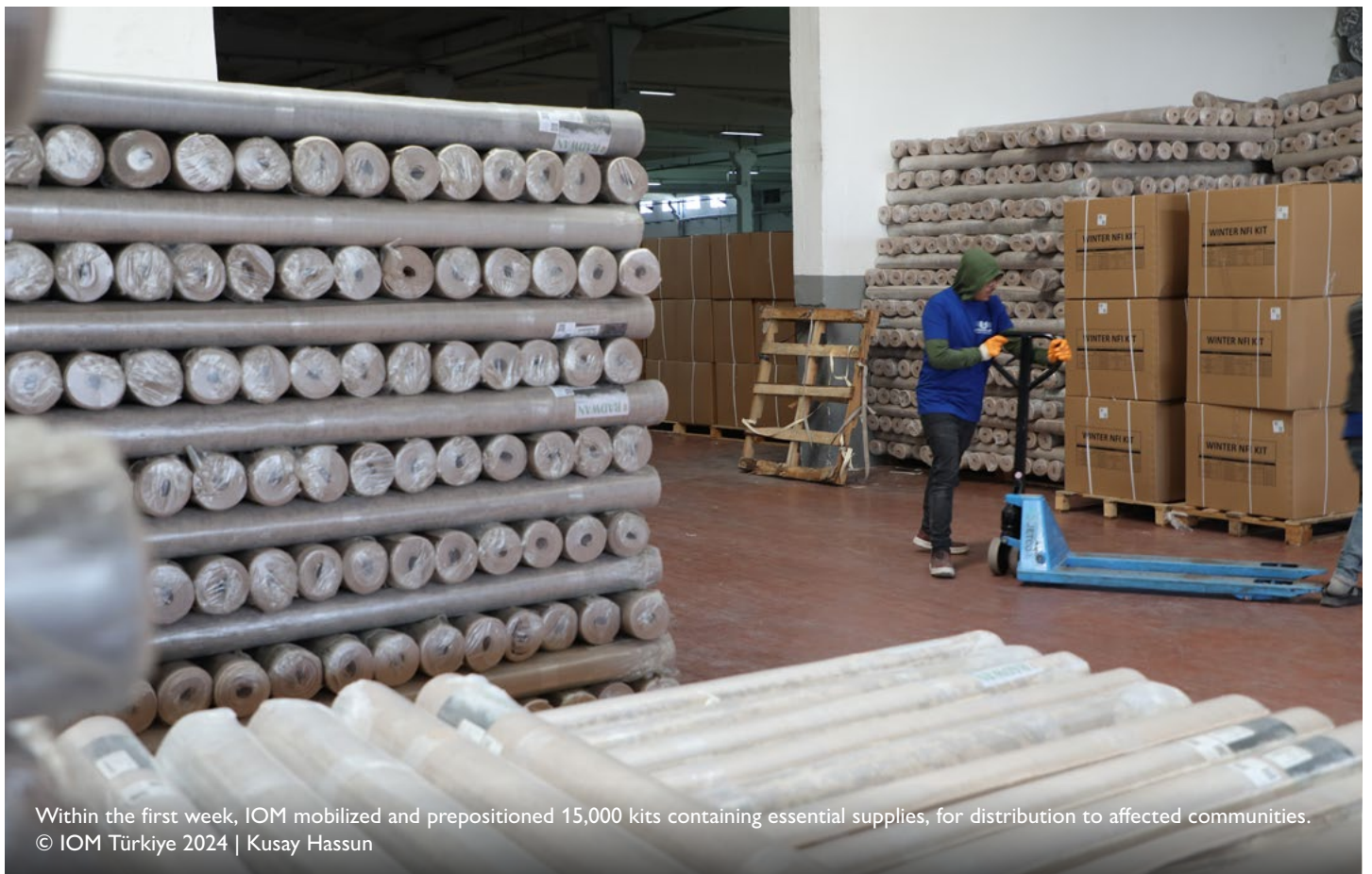
IOM's **localization** Framework focuses on effective partnerships, capacity strengthening, participation and coordination with local and national actors. IOM recognizes that meaningful localization requires creating the space for partner inputs and support in project design given local expertise and local knowledge. IOM will continue to work collaboratively with its partners to design, review and monitor the project, as an ongoing capacity strengthening opportunity, as well as to ensure that programming is appropriate and relevant. IOM recognizes its duty of care to its partners and works collaboratively to review risks, while striving to reach populations in need.

## IOM CAPACITY

IOM's cross-border operations from Türkiye into Northwest Syria started in July 2014 with the approval of the first UN Security Council Resolution 2165. By leveraging the UN's consent-based approach, IOM has been able to establish a robust presence in the northwest with regular field visits to the project sites and partner offices to ensure quality programming, accountability to affected populations and protection mainstreaming. IOM has been operating for over ten years providing shelter and NFIs; CCCM support; cash-based interventions (CBI); WASH; health; early recovery and livelihoods; and protection services. IOM has a pool of twenty-one partners and three partner warehouses inside NWS, while also operating a rapid response mechanism to address emerging needs swiftly and effectively.

### Complementing Humanitarian Assistance with Recovery Interventions: A Humanitarian-Peace-Development Nexus Approach

IOM will complement the humanitarian and life-saving assistance outlined in this appeal with a more robust focus on Early Recovery and Livelihoods (ERL) interventions to address both immediate needs and the foundations for long-term recovery. Utilizing a nuanced Humanitarian-Peace-Development Nexus approach, IOM will integrate targeted ERL activities, such as cash-for-work programmes, market revitalization, and sustainable livelihoods support, to reduce aid dependency and foster resilience. Localized, gender-sensitive strategies will prioritize the restoration of critical infrastructure, market access, and economic opportunities for displaced and host communities. By prioritizing localization and implementing context-specific interventions, IOM aims to transform short-term humanitarian aid into a driver of resilience and social change. This approach is critical in complex emergencies like Syria, where long-term recovery must go hand in hand with immediate relief efforts and support sustainable, gender-responsive and context-sensitive priorities under the [Syria Early Recovery Strategy 2024 – 2028](#).



Within the first week, IOM mobilized and prepositioned 15,000 kits containing essential supplies, for distribution to affected communities.  
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