

IDLEB – Governorate profile

Syria Needs Analysis Project

June 2014

This document is the 3rd Governorate profile published by the Syria Needs Analysis Project (SNAP). The profile describes the current situation in Idleb, with regards to the conflict, the subsequent displacement situation and the humanitarian needs, where available per district. The Syria Needs Analysis Project welcomes all information that could complement this report. For additional information, comments or questions please email SNAP@ACAPS.org.

Content

[Overview](#)

[Possible developments](#)

[Conflict overview](#)

[Operational constraints](#)

[Displacement](#)

[Key issues in the Governorates](#)

[Key Sector issues](#)

[Sector Overview](#)

[Information sources](#)

[Information gaps and data limitations](#)

[Annexes](#)

Overview

Idleb is largely an agricultural area located northwest of Syria covering approximately 6,000 km² with a population of 2,072,000 (according to the 2011 census). With a Sunni majority, before the crisis it ranked among the poorest parts of Syria for income, health and education. Bordering Turkey on its north and northwest, it lies in the shadow of Aleppo in the northeast and is dominated by the Jabal Harim and Jabal Zawiyah mountain ranges, the Idleb plain and the Orontes River in the west.

Idleb is a strategic Governorate for the Syrian Armed Forces (SAF) as it contains two main routes used to transport supplies to Aleppo: the main road connecting Lattakia to Aleppo through Idleb city, the capital of the Governorate, and the highway linking it to Damascus. Idleb also has one of the major access points for cross border operation from Turkey via the Bab Al Hawa crossing. Idleb has the highest concentration of IDP camps in all of the Syrian Governorates (85 camps, grouped in 9 clusters by the end of May 2014).

At the end of 2013, the Governorate was hosting between 560,000 and 720,000 IDPs. The numbers have probably risen since then, as multiple instances of large-scale displacement have been reported, caused by the continuing violent conflict in

Aleppo and Hama and in the South of Idleb Governorate. The number of camps is increasing, and existing camps see a growing influx of new residents. The supply of services to these camps is essential. Food has been one of the priorities so far, with WASH becoming a serious issue due to the general water supply problems.

Despite being an accessible area for cross border operations, Idleb remains a Governorate with high needs, with over 80% of the population estimated to be living below the poverty line and around 70% of households struggling to meet their household's needs in terms of basic food and non-food items to survive, compared to 55% of households countrywide.

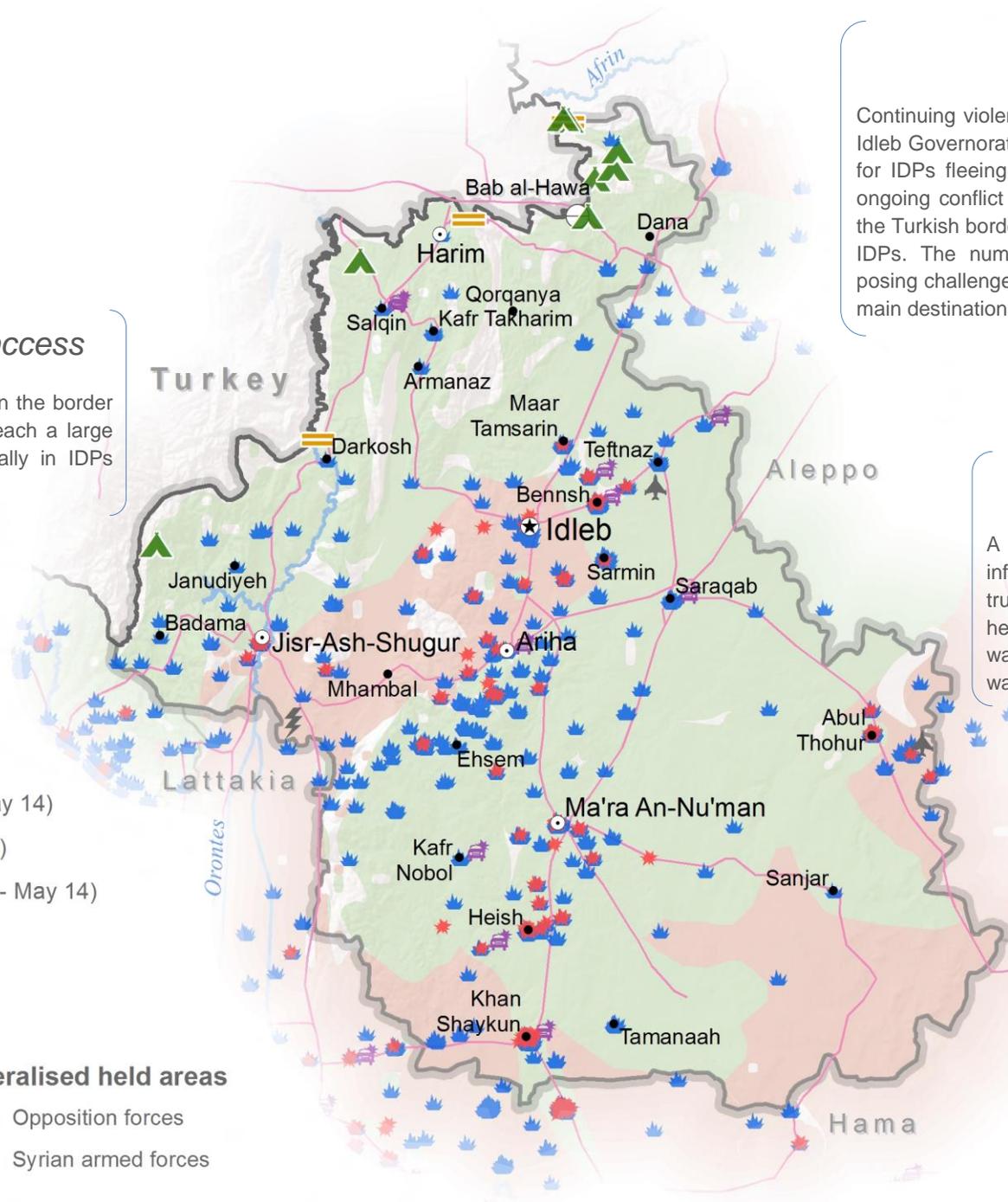
Records show high disease incidence related to waterborne diseases, and the November 2013 Syria Integrated Needs Assessment (SINA) indicated that 71% of the 21 (out of 26) sub-districts assessed in Idleb have experienced serious problems with water, including limited supply and accessibility of clean drinking water. Limited electricity supply is an issue in the Governorate as is sewage disposal. Whilst in general functional health centres are available to the population, the lack of medicine and vaccines is an issue.

Violence in Idleb has largely resulted from clashes between the Free Syrian Army (FSA) and the SAF. Fighting between jihadists groups forced ISIL to withdraw from the Governorate by February, while Islamic entities such as Jabhat al Nusra are Ahrar al Sham are still very active in the area.

With the intensification of violence in recent months, physical security remains a key protection concern and is most critical in Khan Sheikhou, Idleb city and its surrounds and areas along the road between Lattakia and Idleb.

In terms of access, the north of Idleb remains the most accessible area for cross-border humanitarian assistance from Turkey. The Bab al Hawa border crossing remains open border for relief, persons and goods. It continues to service a high number of people in need and, directly or indirectly, reaches a large catchment population. However in late 2013, access was reported to be a severe problem, especially in those areas held by SAF in the south, southeast and in the west central stretch going from Idleb city to Mhambal sub-district. Clashes and bombing in particular escalated since March, and fighting is expected to spread to Jisr Ash Shoghour, Ariha and Idleb cities, currently in the hands of Government of Syria (GoS) forces.

Idleb Overview Map



Humanitarian access

The Bab al Hawa border crossing on the border with Turkey will remain crucial to reach a large number of people in need, especially in IDPs camps.

Displacement

Continuing violent conflict in Aleppo and Hama and in the South of Idlib Governorate caused new displacement. The main destinations for IDPs fleeing fighting were Idlib city and Kafr Nobol. With the ongoing conflict in the South of the Governorate, the camps along the Turkish border in the North of Idlib were the main destination for IDPs. The number of camps and camp residents are growing, posing challenges mainly in terms of food and shelter in camps. The main destinations for refugees from Idlib are Turkey and Lebanon.

WASH

A lack of water supply and the destruction of water infrastructure are causing a high dependency on water trucking. Unsafe drinking water and water-related health issues such as diarrhoea are a problem, as are waste accumulation and surface run off from sewage water that cause serious health issues.

Food Security

The main sources of food in Idlib are currently local markets and food assistance. A sharp reduction in agricultural production and price hikes due to high fuel prices and transport costs continue to impact the availability of and access to food.

- Armed clash (April 14 - May 14)
- Shelling (April 14 - May 14)
- Explosive device (April 14 - May 14)
- IDP camp
- Border crossing open
- Unofficial crossing
- Major roads

Generalised held areas

- Military airport
- Opposition forces
- Syrian armed forces
- Power station

Key sector issues

Protection: Physical security is a major protection concern in Idleb. Certain areas of the Governorate have experienced an intensification of violence in March, April and May and violence is continuing. Children are increasingly engaged in various income-generating activities.

Food security: Between an estimated 530,000 (according to Dynamo), and, 717,000 (according to the geographically broader SINA assessment from November 2013) people are in need of food assistance. Assessments show that the main sources of food in Idleb are local markets, which are mostly functioning, and food assistance. However, a sharp reduction in agricultural production and price hikes due to high fuel prices and transport costs continue to impact the availability of and access to food.

WASH: Safe drinking water supplies are critically low within many parts of the Governorate: around 550,000 people were in need of safe water support according to the SINA. With a lack of water supply and the destruction of water infrastructure, the dependency on water trucking is growing. Water trucking is too expensive for the increasing number of people with reduced or no income-generating activities. Unsafe drinking water and water-related health issues such as diarrhoea are a problem. Likewise the accumulation of waste, due to a halt of collection and disposal services, is becoming a health problem. Sewage disposal is a critical issue reported in various locations across the governorate. Surface run off from sewage water is causing serious health issues.

Health: According to the SINA, almost 360,000 people are in need of health services, mainly related to the lack of available medicine and the outbreak of vaccine-preventable diseases, including measles. Leishmaniasis continues to be a prevalent problem that is exacerbated by the deteriorating water supply and the accumulation of waste.

Shelter and NFI: Residential homes, schools and the general infrastructure have experienced a high degree of damage from conflict-related violence. Almost 230,000 people are in need of shelter and NFI assistance according to the SINA. The insufficient number of adequate shelters available for IDPs is causing overcrowding in schools, shelters or host family accommodation. The main concerns regarding NFIs are the provision of electricity and household fuels.

Education: Education is hampered due to the unavailability of schools as safe learning spaces. Many schools have been destroyed, while many of those that remain are used to host IDPs. Also, with family incomes declining, more and more boys are engaged in income generating activities and have dropped out of school.

CCCM: With continued displacement and limited remaining safe spaces available in the Governorate, the number and size of IDP camps is expected to further increase in the coming months, putting pressure on existing camp facilities and service provision.

Information sources

There are 6 main assessment reports which give an overview of the humanitarian situation in Idleb:

SINA and J-RANS II: The JRANS II (Joint Rapid Assessment of Northern Syria) was carried out in March 2013. The Syria Integrated Needs Assessment (SINA) covers November 2013. ([JRANS II 2013/03](#), [SINA 2014/01](#))

Dynamo: The Assistance Coordination Unit (ACU) issues the Dynamic Monitoring System (Dynamo). It was last published in May, covering the period from 1 January to 28 February. ([Dynamo 2014/05/02](#)).

GOAL needs assessment carried out in 9 Idleb sub-districts in January 2014 (GOAL 2014/01/01).

The EMMA, the Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis in Northern Idleb (GOAL 2014/01).

Polish Humanitarian Action WASH-assessment from May 2014 (PAH 2014).

Information gaps and data limitations

Baseline: The last population statistics were gathered in 2004 and there has been no proper update since then. Little sectoral information on Idleb is available, particularly concerning education and shelter. Access to the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) website has been restricted as well.

Crisis Information and Geographical Coverage: Some areas of the Idleb Governorate are inaccessible making full coverage impossible. None of the assessments analysed for this document cover all of the Governorate's sub-districts. As such, there is limited data for certain locations and some data gaps

remain. On top of this, the available data is not regularly updated.

Sectoral coverage: As for much of Syria, in-crisis statistical data is very limited across all sectors, especially with the CBS and related ministries not updating or publishing available data. In particular, there were greater information gaps in the sectors of Education, Protection, and Shelter/NFI.

Relevance of the data: The information in this report takes into account the humanitarian situation before the crisis and the most updated sectoral information as of May. The situation is dynamically changing and therefore the relevance of certain information over time will decrease.

Conflict overview

Past event and current situation

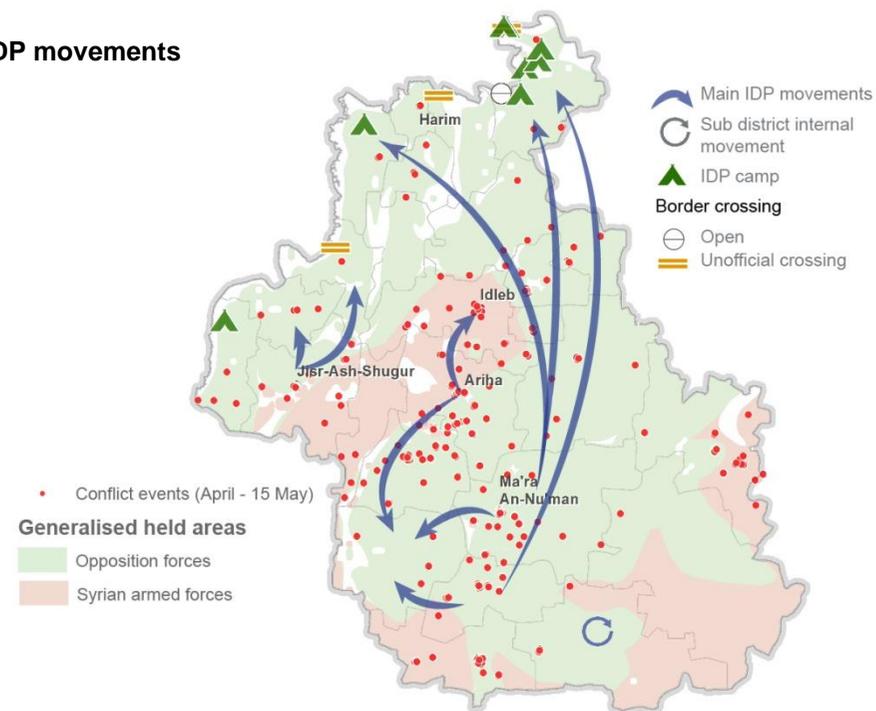
Idleb was one of the first governorates in Syria to join the protest against the Syrian government at the end of March 2011. It has seen a high intensity of violence over the past 3 years, since the attack on Jisr-Ash-Shogour town in June 2011. At the end of 2011, Idleb was the main area of activity for the FSA, which at that time mainly consisted of military officers and troops who had defected from the Syrian army. At the end of 2011 the FSA controlled some areas in Idleb and by mid-2012 some key towns, including Bennish, Taftanaz and Saraqeb, around Idleb city, were controlled by the FSA. The FSA has repeatedly attempted to control Idleb city, but the city has remained controlled by the GoS.

At a later stage, Islamic forces such as Jabhat al Nusra, Ahrar al Sham and ISIL became key players in the battle and many strategic spots in the governorate, such as the Bab-al-Hawa border crossing, were controlled by these forces. At the end of 2013, FSA groups along with Ahrar al Sham and Jabhat al Nusra fighters started fighting ISIL in all parts of Northern Syria and by February, ISIL had largely withdrawn. On two occasions ISIL targeted the Bab-al-Hawa border crossing with car bombs, and in February they targeted a hospital in Atmeh town.

By March, opposition groups had taken control of the strategic town of Morek in Hama and since then, the supply route between Hama and Idleb has been a target for shelling and clashes. From April, opposition groups' military operations in the governorate have significantly increased as part of an offensive along a section of the main highway linking Damascus to the northern city of Aleppo. In March, opposition groups attempted to take control of the strategic city Khan Sheikhoun, aiming to cut off the supply routes to the 2 GoS military bases of Wadi El Daif and

Hamediyeh near Ma'arrat An Nu'aman, which have been besieged on and off since October 2012. The opposition forces, achieving steady progress between northern Hama and southern Idleb, took control of Khan Sheikhoun in late May. Barrel bombing by the GoS and clashes have also escalated along the supply route towards the city of Idleb, namely around Al Arba'een mountains in Ariha, Saraqeb, Bennish and Ma'arrat Annu'man. [\(ARA News 2014/04/09, worldbulletin 2014/04/05, Assafir 2014/05/13, Zamanalwasl 2014/05/26, Al-Watan 2014/05/25, Daily Star 2014/05/29, Alertnet 2014/04/03, AFP 2014/05/26, Assafir 2014/05/31\)](#)

IDP movements



Key stakeholders

Key stakeholders in the Governorate will continue to be the Islamic front and Jabhat al Nusra who have wide support in various areas in Idleb, such as Darkoush, Janoudiyeh, Salqin, Harim and Dana. The FSA will remain a key player with support in areas such as Saraqeb, Ma'arrat an Nu'aman and Kafr Nobol.

Operational constraints

As in the rest of Syria, access varies significantly between different sub-districts, depending on the conflict dynamics, the type of actors providing relief and the actors in control of the area.

Humanitarian access was reported to be a severe problem in parts of Idleb Governorate during the SINA, especially in areas held by the GoS, such as Idleb city, Ariha, Jisr ash Shoghour town and Mhambel. Main reasons for this limited access were the restrictions on movement of persons and relief agencies in these areas, interferences in the implementation of humanitarian activities and violence against relief agencies and personnel. Since the SINA in November 2013, high levels of conflict have been reported in the south and south-east and, as a result, insecurity is currently of concern to relief actors in these areas. At the end of May, Damascus-based actors reported that the only mechanism to deliver aid is through unaccompanied cross line missions. (UNICEF 2014/05/19). (SINA 2014/01).

In areas under GoS control, pockets of the Governorate (in the south and in the west-central stretch between Idleb city and the Mhambel sub-district, including Ariha) are facing very restricted access. Main reasons for this were the high number of active check-points and security concerns. In these areas, people and humanitarian actors are forced to take the longer road from the north to the south through Taftanaz and Saraqeb. This road is in bad condition, and travellers face security constraints, as the road passes close to conflict areas such as Wadi Ad Deif camp and Hamediyeh between Ma'ara and Saraqeb. Occasional cases of theft are observed along the road as well.

In December 2013, an inter-agency convoy reached the southwestern area of Khan Sheikhoun and delivered enough food to support 15,000 people for one month. (WFP 2014/01/22). However in March, it was estimated that some 160,000 people are living in areas where armed violence and road blockades have been interrupting access for several months, up to two years in some cases. (WFP 2014/03/03).

In areas under control of the opposition, notably in the north, humanitarian access benefits from the proximity with the border crossing. In east central areas access has been relatively unrestricted too. The food sector is reportedly dispatching increasing amounts of assistance in these areas. Since late February, 6 inter-agency convoys by international actors registered with the GoS reached north-eastern areas in Idleb, the most recent of which arrived in late April. (WFP 2014/05/30, SANA 2014/04/26).

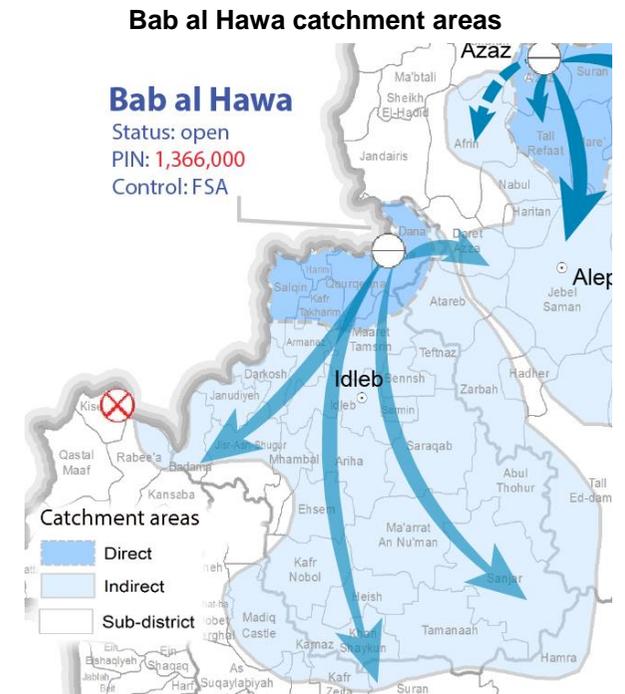
In opposition controlled sub-districts bordering Turkey, either no or low humanitarian access issues were reported during the SINA, giving an indication of the ease with which humanitarian organisations can move through Turkish borders and the relatively calm security situation in these sub-districts. This makes them a main destination for IDPs to receive humanitarian assistance (SINA 2014/01).

The Bab al Hawa border crossing is still a highly active border crossing for relief, persons and goods. It serves a high number of people in need and, directly or indirectly, reaches a large catchment population. 5 sub-districts (Dana, Harim, Qurqanya, Salqin and Kafr Takharim) have direct access to this border crossing, benefiting the populations of roughly 85 IDP camps in the area as the map shows.

The border crossing will remain crucial to reach a large number of people in need, especially in IDPs camps. The main reasons for closure in the past were directly related to security incidents such as car bomb attacks by ISIL or aerial bombardment by the GoS air force. These kinds of incidents will remain the key factors that determine the open/closed status of the border crossing.

Presence of actors

In December 2013, the ACU mapped all local actors providing relief to communities in Idleb. 18 actors were found to be providing mostly food aid, including local councils and local relief organisations. None of the identified actors



provided early recovery support while only 2 actors were reportedly providing WASH support.

Future Risks and Forecast

Political and conflict developments: Having taken control of the strategic town of Khan Sheikhoun in May, opposition forces in Idlib will continue trying to secure the main towns that are currently in the hands of GoS forces, including Jisr-Ash-Shoghour and Ariha, in order to control the supply route between Idlib city and Lattakia. The conflict is expected to spread to Idlib city, with opposition groups trying to take control of it. At the same time government forces will try to maintain their strategic supply route between Idlib and Lattakia through Ariha, mainly using aerial bombardment in response to attacks by opposition fighters and targeting strategic towns in Saraqeb, Janoudiyeh, Ehsim and Jabal al Zaweyah.

There is a low possibility that in the near future, ISIL will attempt to re-enter Idlib Governorate, as its main focus at this stage is to enhance its power in eastern parts of Syria such as Deir-ez-Zor and Al-Hasakeh. If it happens then there is high chance that opposition groups would reunite again against ISIL.

Access: Idlib will continue to be the most accessible area for cross-border humanitarian assistance from Turkey, due to the low constraints on the Bab al Hawa border crossing and the large number of humanitarian actors in Turkey who work in the Governorate. Access through Bab al Hawa relies on policies from the Turkish side of the border and the security situation on the Syrian side. Humanitarian cross-border operations could be affected if access is limited as a result of security incidents, such as car bomb attacks on the border crossing or aerial bombardment to towns close to the borders. Unofficial crossings, especially close to Darkoush, are expected to stay functional although the Turkish side of the border will be highly monitored by Turkish military in order to control smuggling of people and goods, and to prevent Al Qaeda fighters from entering the country.

Trade through both official and unofficial border crossings is expected to rise, benefiting from the stable security situation in the towns close to the border crossings, especially after the withdrawal of ISIL from the governorate at the end of January. In addition, the markets in Sarmada, Darkoush and Saraqeb, considered some of the most functional markets in the North of Syria, also support trade. These markets cover wide areas in Idlib and parts of Aleppo and Hama with goods coming through Turkish borders.

Access to Idlib city will stay limited due to continuous fighting around the city, with opposition fighters possibly constraining access or besieging the town. The same holds true for Ariha city and its surrounds, depending on the ability of GoS forces to control these areas; if opposition fighters take control of these areas, access would be expected to improve. In areas under control of the opposition, humanitarian access is expected to stay relatively unrestricted.

Displacement

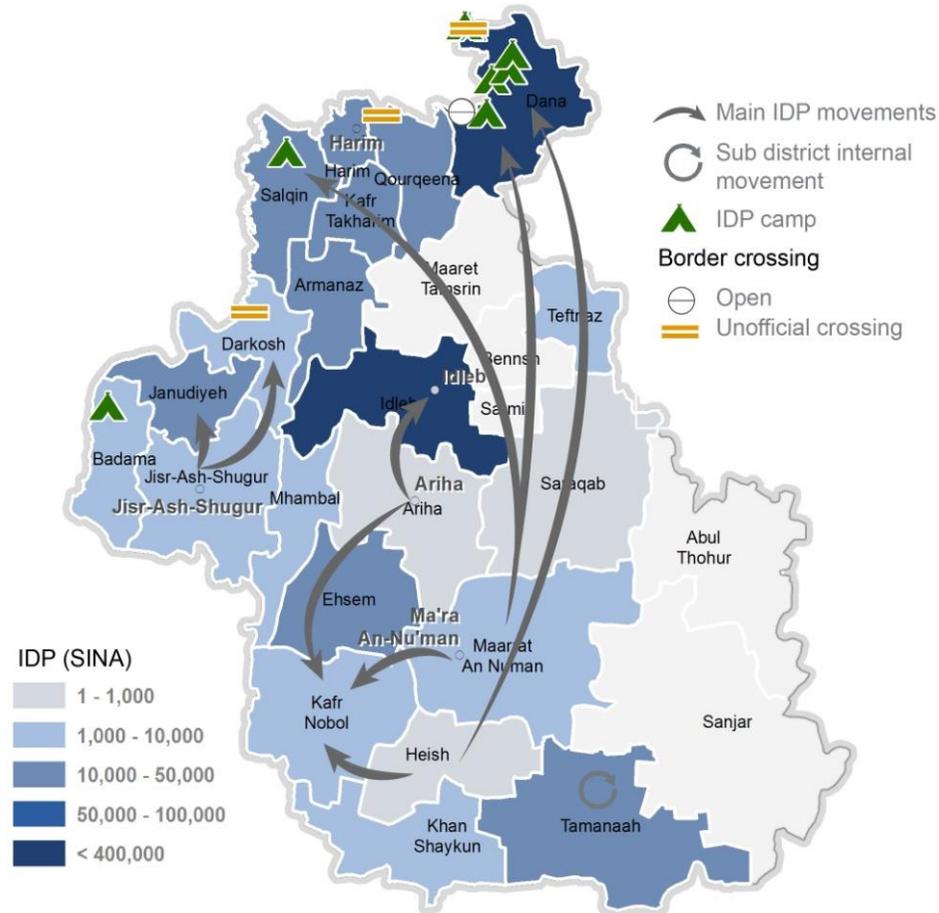
The SINA reported an estimated 724,000 displaced people in Idlib in November 2013 ([SINA 2014/01](#)).

Since December, multiple instances of large-scale displacement of new and already displaced people within the Governorate and from other governorates have taken place. These displacements were caused by the continuing violent conflict in Aleppo and Hama and in the South of Idlib Governorate. The main destinations for those displaced were Idlib city and Kafr Nobol and, with the fighting that started in the south of the Governorate during spring 2014, to the camps along the Turkish border.

Some major displacements are illustrated in the map below and include:

- Between mid-February and mid-March, 7,700 people arrived in Idlib city, fleeing the conflict in rural Idlib, Aleppo and Hama. ([UNICEF 2014/03/22](#)).
- In mid-April, some 117,500 newly displaced people were reported to have sought shelter in IDP camps in northern and central Idlib. These people had fled fighting in rural Aleppo and northern Hama. Escalating clashes around Khan Sheikhoun in Idlib Governorate itself contributed to these numbers ([WFP 2014/04/17](#)).
- April and May saw new displacement within Idlib Governorate, caused by escalating violent clashes around Khan Sheikhoun, Mhambal, Jabal Al Zawya, Binish and Abul Thour. IDPs fled to Idlib city and to the camps in Harim sub-district ([WFP 2014/05/19](#)).

Internally displaced people (by sub-district)



Camp number and Population: Idleb hosts 9 camp clusters comprised of 85 camps in total. In May 2014 around 104,000 of the almost 155,000 people in organized camps in Northern Syria were residing in one of the Idleb camps (Camp

Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) 2014/05). Only 6 months earlier, the SINA reported 28 camps, a third of the current number ([SINA 2014/01](#)).

IDP destinations and places of origin

According to UNHCR, by end of April around 10% of the pre-crisis population of Idleb were registered as refugees, primarily in Lebanon, but also in Egypt and Jordan ([UNHCR 2014](#)). SINA data shows that the largest percentage of people from sub-districts in Idleb, whose destination was a foreign country, had moved to Turkey ([SINA 2014/01](#)).

Information on Syrian refugee numbers in Turkey is collected by the Turkish government. A field survey carried out in June / July 2013 indicated that 21% (around 40,000 people) of the surveyed refugees in Turkish camps came from Idleb ([AFAD, 2013](#), [UNHCR 2013/06/28](#)).

SINA data indicates that most of the displaced originating from Idleb either left the country or fled to areas within Idleb itself. Most IDPs fled to other sub-districts in their district of origin and if that was not possible, to other districts within Idleb ([SINA 2014/01](#)).

Sector Overview

Livelihoods and Food security

Key messages:

- Over 80% of the population in Idleb was estimated to be living below the poverty line in December 2013, the highest proportion in the country. In addition, the population of Idleb is most affected by extreme poverty, with around 70% of households struggling to meet their households' basic food and non-food items to survive, compared to 55% countrywide.
- Assessments show that currently, the main sources of food in Idleb are local markets and food assistance. While markets are mostly functioning in the governorate and humanitarian assistance is covering more than 60% of reported people in need, price hikes, fuelled by an increase in transport costs due to security and high fuel prices, continue to hamper access to food.

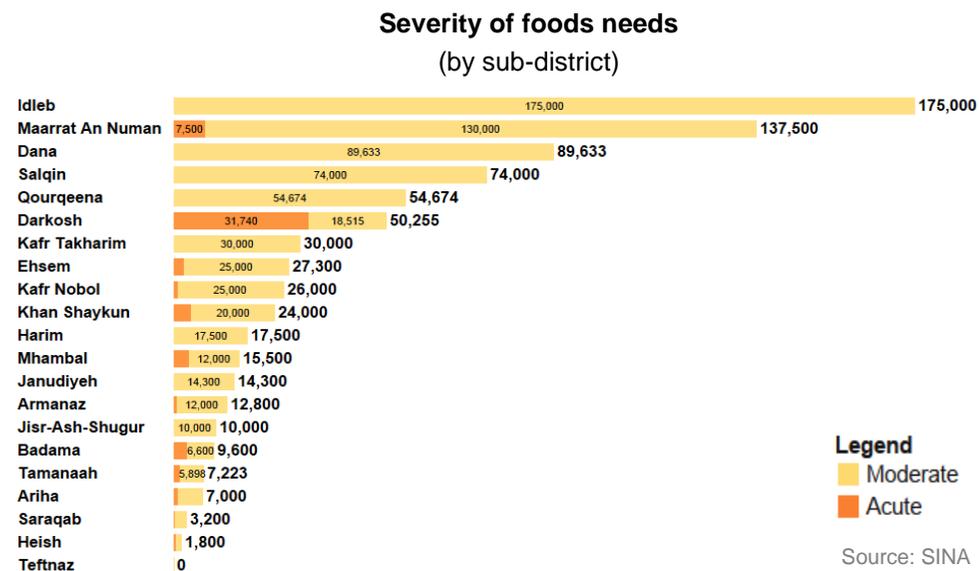
- There has been a sharp reduction of agricultural production due to increased prices of agricultural inputs, breakdown of irrigation systems as well as drought like conditions that hamper the outlook for the current growing season's production. As a result, households are further reliant on markets.
- Reported negative coping mechanisms include accumulation of debt and reduction of meal frequency and size, depending more on the same type of foods and increasingly depending on food relief.

People in need: The most recent figures available on the number of people in need of food assistance in the governorate are from the ACU-led Dynamo, a monitoring system based on key informant interviews. According to the Dynamo, which covered the situation in January and February, over half a million people are in need. The SINA, which covered 81% of the governorate, found over 717,000 people in need of food assistance. The discrepancy between the SINA and Dynamo figures can be explained by the difference in assessment coverage. While the SINA covers 21 out of 26 sub-districts or 81% of the governorate, Dynamo covers only 54% and thus almost 1 million people fewer. In addition, differences in how the data was collected could explain the different findings. While the assessment methodology behind the Dynamo is similar to the SINA methodology, it could be that the exact definition of people in acute vs. moderate need differs. ([Dynamo 2014/05/02](#), [SINA 2014/01](#))

People in need of food assistance – SINA 2013					
Source	People in Moderate Need	People in Acute Need	Total in Need	Assessment Coverage	Total Population assessed
SINA	660,204	56,865	717,069	81%	1,882,439
Dynamo	328,030	204,000	532,030	54%	776,272

In February, an inter-agency mission to the towns of Ariha and Mamble, in rural Idleb, conducted a rapid needs assessment following delivery of humanitarian assistance for the first time since August 2013. Preliminary findings indicated that an overall 300,000 people in this area alone are believed to be in need of humanitarian assistance. ([WFP 2014/02/21](#))

Most affected areas: During the SINA assessment in November 2013, the highest proportion of people in acute need (almost 32,000 people) were found in Darkoush, while overall the highest number in moderate and acute need were found in Maarat An Numan sub-district (137,500 individuals). However since this assessment, food aid has reached several areas and the situation is likely to have changed, as 80% of agricultural production has ceased. Rural Idleb, where access to non-agriculture related livelihoods opportunities is limited, is a particularly affected area as well.

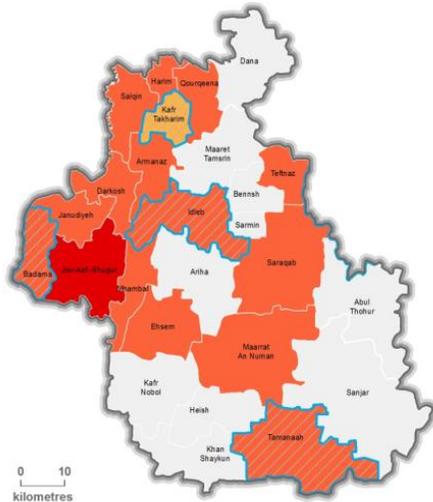


In Idleb, the general severity of needs decreased between April and November 2013: the situation has improved since J-RANS II, with the food security situation in several sub-districts moving from life-threatening to non-life-threatening status. In Jisr-Ash-Shogour for example, the situation was no longer life threatening due to an increase in food availability in the markets. In addition, the sub-district received sufficient food support from 2 relief actors in the 30 days prior to the SINA assessment. ([JRANS II 2013/03](#), [SINA 2014/01](#))

Severity of food needs and absence of food aid sub-district assessed in both JRANS II and SINA

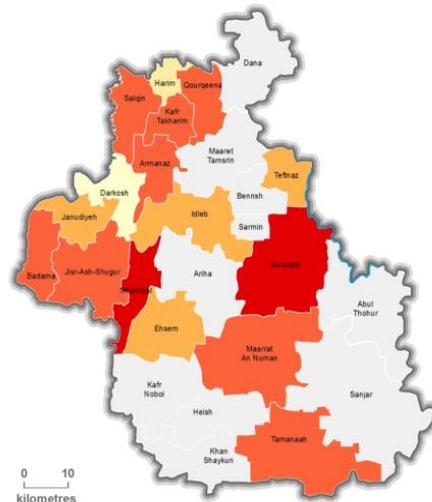
J-RANS II

as of 17 April 2013



SINA

as of 25 November 2013



- Leishmaniasis, already prevalent in the Governorate before the crisis, is a main concern in all areas covered by assessments. While treatment is generally available, intermittent sanitation services (e. g. garbage collection), low availability of clean water and summer months being the high transmission season will likely result in an increase in the number of new cases.

People in need: According to the Dynamo, close to 130,000 people were in need of health assistance. The SINA found close to 360,000 people in need of health assistance. ¹ ([Dynamo 2014/05/02](#), [SINA 2014/01](#))

People in need of health assistance – SINA 2013

Source	People in Moderate Need	People in Acute Need	Total in Need	Assessment Coverage	Total Population assessed
SINA	290,710	68,195	358,905	81%	1,882,439
Dynamo	98,350	31,175	129,525	54%	776,272

In Idlib, the general severity of needs decreased between April and November 2013, apart from in Armanaz and Ma'arat an Numan, partly due to severe access constraints in these locations. ([JRANS II 2013/03](#), [SINA 2014/01](#))

Most affected areas: Of the 7 sub-districts that reported life-threatening health problems during the SINA (out of 111 sub-districts in northern Syria), 2 are in Idlib. In Ariha and Dana sub-districts the health situation was reportedly particularly severe, with very limited access to health care. The pressure on health facilities in the south of the governorate was found to be particularly high, due to the high number of individuals with conflict-related injuries from the Hama frontline.

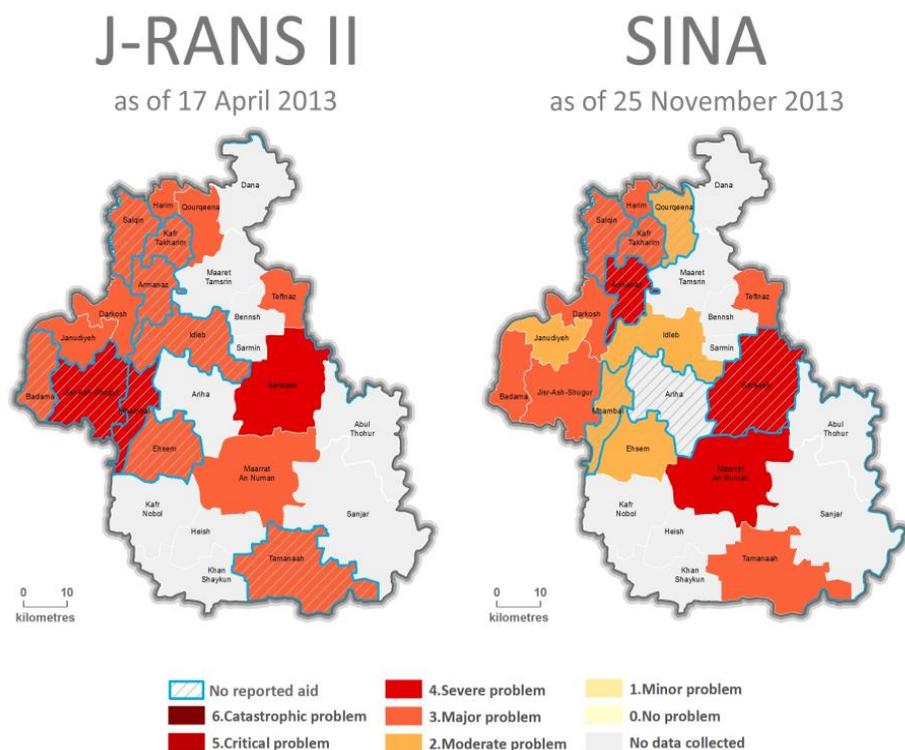
Health and nutrition

Key messages

- The main health problems in the governorate relate to the lack of available medicine and the outbreak of vaccine-preventable diseases, including measles.

¹ The discrepancy between the SINA and Dynamo figures can be explained by the difference in assessment coverage. While SINA covers 21 out of 26 sub-districts or 81% of the governorate, Dynamo covers only 54% and thus almost 1 million people less.

Severity of health needs and absence of health aid sub-district assessed in both JRANS II and SINA



- Due to fuel shortages and lack of electricity, the water production in some areas of Idlib has drastically dropped.
- With pipe networks destroyed and/or the water supply through the network having been cut, the dependency on water trucking has increased.
- Because of the limited water supply, households need to prioritise their water needs.
- The WASH situation in schools – whether used as IDP shelters or for education - is critical. In some schools no water is available, in others many people share one toilet / latrine.
- Sewage disposal is a critical issue reported in various locations across the governorate. Those most affected are living in open spaces where there are cases of surface run-off of sewage water, causing serious health issues.
- Garbage collection and disposal are constrained by the lack of staff, equipment and fuel for tractors that collect the garbage. Where there is no functioning garbage collection, people dump the garbage at random or burn it.
- Information gaps exist especially with respect to water supply, water quality and coping mechanisms.

Most Affected areas

Ma'arat an Nurman, Tamanaah, Heish and Dana.

WASH

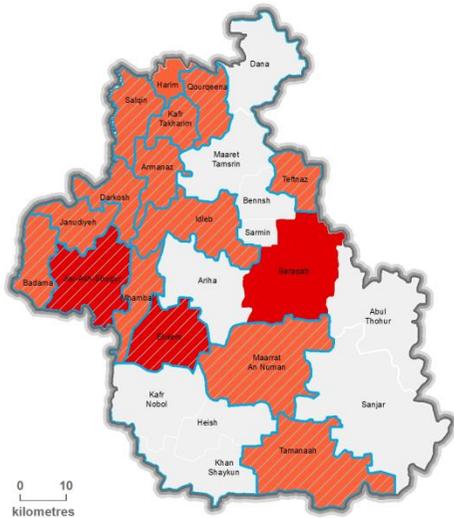
Key messages:

- According to the SINA, 71% of sub-districts assessed in Idlib in November 2013 have experienced serious problems with water; the water situation is hampered by limited supply and accessibility of clean drinking water.

Severity of water needs and absence of water aid sub-district assessed in both JRANS II and SINA

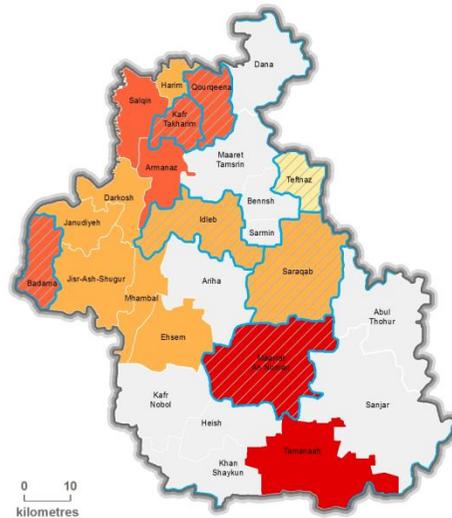
J-RANS II

as of 17 April 2013



SINA

as of 25 November 2013



People in need: According to the SINA, around 550,000 people in the 21 sub-districts covered in the assessment were in need of safe water support, at least 35,000 of whom had an acute and immediate need. The SINA recorded an increase in the number of people with acute needs, with Ma'arat an Nurman and

Tamanaah experiencing the greatest problem with water access ([SINA 2014/01](#), [JRANS II, 2013/05](#), [Dynamo 2014/05/02](#)).²

People in need of safe water support – SINA 2013

Source	People in Moderate Need	People in Acute Need	Total in Need	Assessment Coverage	Total Population assessed
SINA	513,647	35,630	549,304	81%	1,882,439
Dynamo	166,000	65,400	231,400	54%	776,272

Shelter & NFI

Key messages:

- There are an insufficient number of adequate shelters available for IDPs, leading to overcrowding of schools, shelters or host families.
- IDPs staying in communal shelters are not able to afford to rent a place.
- There is a lack of electricity supply, while the fuel required to run generators is too expensive and unaffordable for many.
- The lack of electricity can affect food storage in the summer months and the lack of cooking gas affects meal preparation.
- Shelter needs and the availability and affordability of electricity, fuel, clothes and other NFI should be further assessed.

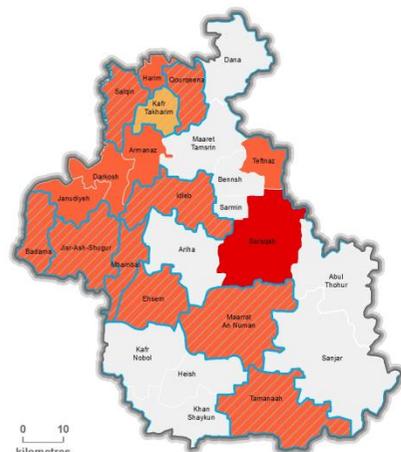
Most affected areas: Dana, Heish, Idleb, Ariha, Badama and Saraqeb due to the level of destruction and the high number of IDPs.

² The discrepancy between the SINA and Dynamo figures can be explained by the difference in assessment coverage. While SINA covers 21 out of 26 sub-districts or 81% of the governorate, Dynamo covers only 54% and thus almost 1 million people less.

Severity of needs for shelter/NFI assistance sub-district assessed in both JRANS II and SINA

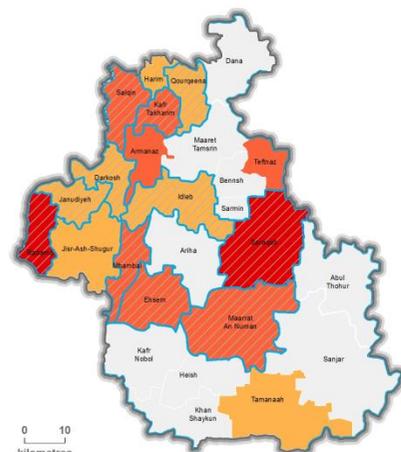
J-RANS II

as of 17 April 2013



SINA

as of 25 November 2013



People in need: The SINA found that in November 2013 almost 230,000 people in Idleb were in need of shelter assistance.

The severity of shelter needs in Idleb has generally decreased between the J-RANS II in April 2013 and the SINA in November 2013. In the high conflict intensity area of Saraqeb, the life-threatening situation identified in April 2013 remained acute at the time the SINA was carried out (SINA 2014/01, JRANS II, 2013/05).

Camp Coordination and Management

Key messages:

- The number of IDPs and IDP camps in Idleb has increased over the last few months; there were 17% more IDPs in May compared to the previous month

and 15 new camps were identified in the last month. IDP numbers are expected to rise further as a consequence of continued conflict in Aleppo and Hama governorates.

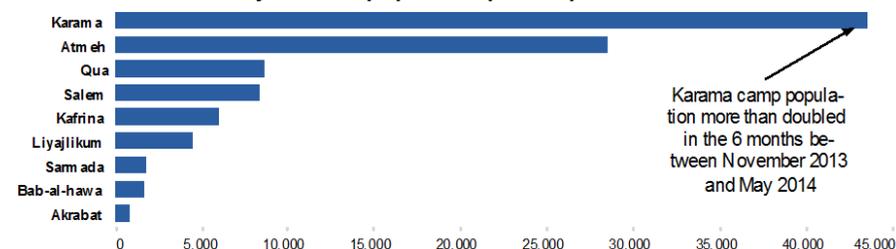
- Food and Shelter provision in camps has been identified as a high priority.
- There are gaps in service coverage in the camps.

Camp number and Population: In May, Idleb hosted 9 camp clusters comprised of 85 camps in total. Around 104,000 of the almost 155,000 people in organized camps in Northern Syria were residing in one of the Idleb camps (CCCM 2014/05). Only 6 months earlier, the SINA reported 28 camps, a third of the current number (SINA 2014/01).

Overall, the recorded population in the Idleb camps has increased between February and May, reflecting the ongoing displacement and shelter-seeking of people in the northern part of the Governorate due to continued fighting. The biggest camp cluster in Idleb, Karama, more than doubled in resident population from November 2013 to May 2014; in the Kafirina cluster of camps the numbers were almost twice as high too. (SINA 2014/01, CCCM 2014/05).

May 2014 IDP population per camp cluster

Source: CCCM



Projections for situation development: With continued displacement and limited remaining safe spaces available in the Governorate, the number and size of IDP camps is expected to further increase in the next months, putting pressure on existing camp facilities and service provision. Camps are the last-resort destination for the IDPs. In the majority of cases, people living in camps are the most vulnerable IDPs, who cannot afford any other solution. According to CCCM, as a result of the increased vulnerability of IDPs in general, there are indications that, increasingly, displaced people who had the financial means to previously rent accommodation are running out of money and see themselves forced to move into camps (CCCM 2014/06).

Camp management: The majority of the IDP camps are self-settled camps. The Complementary Operational Analysis Report (COAR) of the SINA notes that some camp leaders have been observed to be obstructive to humanitarian intervention (COAR 2014/01/24). The SINA reports that those managing camps are local landowners, IDPs themselves, NGO staff or other local actors (SINA 2014/01). COAR also notes that the camp management does not always adhere to humanitarian principles and that there is a lack of camp management practices such as site planning, registration, participatory mechanisms and community mobilisation - all of which have affected the level of service provision (COAR 2014/01/24). The provision of needs-based humanitarian assistance is further hampered by lack of access and lack of engagement mechanisms with different camp leaders (CCCM 2014/06). The CCCM members are working to mitigate this by enforcing the establishment of camp committees, providing trainings on camp management and providing context-tailored technical tools and advice. To the extent possible, they communicate with camp leaders and negotiate access for assessments.

Service coverage: The assessment of service coverage in the camps is an ongoing process and has not yet been possible for all sectors and all camps. Differences in service coverage between different camp cluster locations have not been detected. Where water supply has been assessed, very good coverage has been noted, as has been the case for NFI distribution and to a lesser extent for sanitation services. The coverage of food services has not been assessed widely as of yet, but numbers indicate that the proportion of camp residents reached is usually about one third; only in a few camps are 50%-100% of people reached. The SINA reported that food was ranked the highest priority need in camps, followed by shelter and NFIs, WASH and Health, with the camp cluster in Karama showing the highest severity of cross sector needs across 11 surveyed clusters (including all Idleb clusters) (SINA 2014/01). In all cases, analysis of service coverage needs to be considered together with other factors such as access to camps through liaising with camp management so that a more complete picture of the provision of services to people in the camps emerges.

Protection

Key messages:

- With the intensification of violence in recent months, physical security, including protection from indiscriminate attacks, remains a key concern.

- Although there is insufficient data on the topic, it can be assumed that children are increasingly engaged in income-generating activities to support their families.
- Information on protection issues in Idleb has not been collected systematically, and thus significant information gaps on major protection issues remain, including the effects of continued violence, psychological consequences of continued problems with disease symptoms, disappearances, detention, lack of freedom of movement, persecution of minorities and gender based violence.

Most affected areas: The physical security of people is most critical in areas where intense fighting has occurred in the last few months and is continuing, including Khan Sheikhoun, the surrounds of Idleb city and the city itself and areas along the road between Lattakia and Idleb. No clear pattern has emerged related to other protection concerns, including the situation of children, women and other vulnerable groups.

Education

Key messages

- Education in Idleb continues to be hampered with more and more safe and functional learning spaces damaged or destroyed in air attacks or used as shelter by IDPs. Some of the damaged schools are being repaired through local initiatives to make them functional learning spaces again.
- In several sub-districts school attendance rates were low even pre-crisis; in others, such as Idleb sub-district, attendance rates have fallen as a consequence of conflict and displacement.
- The quality of education in areas affected by violence is perceived as low, mainly due to a lack of qualified teachers, curricula and educational materials. Many students remain without certification as exit exams are not offered.
- In areas where children no longer attend school, boys have been observed to help make a living by working as street vendors.
- Information gaps exist regarding the number of children attending school, the number of functional learning spaces, the availability of qualified teachers and of educational material.