

EXTERNAL EVALUATION

Final Evaluation of the Northwest Syria Joint Response

1. Background of the Joint Response

Since 15 December 2019 hostilities in North West Syria escalated and between then and 31 January 2020 nearly 390,000 individuals (80% of whom are women and children) have been displaced, mainly from southern Idleb and western Aleppo governorates.

The Northwest Syria Joint Response 2020 (NWSJR 2020) targeted IDPs newly displaced due to the increase in conflict and instability in southern Idleb and Aleppo since 15th December 2019. The Acute Crisis Mechanism was triggered to respond to the emergency needs of this specific population, and the host communities who have received an influx of these IDPs, with the resulting pressure on already-stretched services.

This JR is implemented by 4 members of the Dutch Relief Alliance (DRA): CARE (lead), Stichting Vluchteling, War Child, and World Vision. The 4 DRA partners that will implement the JR all have access in the prioritized NGCAs through (a) local partner(s) and/or through own capacity and have been working in North West Syria for a number of years. DRA partners all have activities on the ground to address immediate needs, with either direct implementation or through existing partnerships with local implementers. JR partners aimed an integrated multi-sectoral response addressing immediate needs particularly in WASH, shelter/NFIs, health, and protection, with the provision of multipurpose cash to deliver outcomes where possible. The JR was implemented during the period: 20 February – 19 August 2020 in the Idleb and Aleppo Governorate.

To date, there are four confirmed COVID-19 cases in Northwest Syria (NWS)¹, with the first positive result recorded in Bab Al-Hawa on 9 July. Of the four cases, two are in the Idleb area and two in northern Aleppo governorate and all four patients are health professionals.

The risks remain high, particularly for the growing and densely grouped NWS IDP population. Approximately 960,000 people have been displaced in Idleb and Aleppo since December 2019. IDPs are staying in informal tented settlements and crowded collective shelters with limited ability to maintain strict hygiene practices or implement social distancing/isolation making them very susceptible to a fast rate of transmission of communicable diseases. Concern for a potential catastrophic C-19 driven health emergency in NW Syria is growing. The WHO-UNICEF WASH Technical Note on COVID-19 (6 April 2020) states the necessity for a consistently applied provision of WASH and prevention services as essential to protecting human health during all infectious disease outbreaks, including C-19.

In the NW Syria JR 2020, both CARE and World Vision received additional funding for COVID-Response which is focused on WASH.

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https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/nw_syria_sitrep17_20200713.pdf

2. Purpose of the evaluation

- **Objective 1 (linked to accountability purpose):** Evaluate to what extent the collaborating organizations working in the NW Syria JR have delivered effective, efficient, relevant and timely humanitarian aid to programme participants as set out in the log frame, according to OECD DAC criteria.
- **Objective 2 (linked to learning purpose):** Evaluate and assess how key recommendations of the After Action Review on Gender were addressed during the remainder of the NW Syria JR and evaluate and assess how the COVID-19 pandemic affected NW Syria JR interventions

3. Scope of the evaluation

- The geographical locations of the project are: Various locations in Idleb and Aleppo governorate
- The target groups are IDPs and host communities.
- The sectors addressed are WASH, Health, Shelter Protection, Health, and Multi-Purpose CASH.
- Additional aspects of the evaluation focus on are Gender and COVID-19.

4. Deliverables

- An inception report (outlining the methodology, complete tools, and planned procedure and approach to the evaluation).
- A briefing session on proposed methodologies and tools.
- An in-country debriefing and validation session if possible (otherwise through skype/zoom) to debrief on the major qualitative and quantitative findings before initiating the report
- A draft and final report in English, not exceeding 20 pages (excluding annexes). For a detailed table of content.

The report should include:

- ✓ Executive Summary (max 2 pages)
- ✓ Introduction
- ✓ Background and context
- ✓ Summary description of Methodology, including limitations
- ✓ Main findings
- ✓ Conclusions
- ✓ Lessons learned, best practices, recommendations

Annexes to the report should include:

- ✓ Work schedule

- ✓ Photographs of the evaluation areas (separate file).
- ✓ Bibliography of consulted secondary sources.
- ✓ Finalized data collection tools.
- ✓ List of people interviewed (with consent only)
- ✓ The financial report supported by copies of related invoices

Note: Pictures and consent form signed by all interviewees is mandatory.

6. Required Experience and Competences

- Proven knowledge of humanitarian programmes and principles, including the use of standards, preferably in the sectors Shelter, Protection, Health, WASH, and Multi-purpose Cash.
- Experience of working with participatory approaches and research methodologies
- Ability to process and analyze different types of data in a critical manner
- Able to write concise, yet comprehensive and attractive reports
- Excellent facilitation and reporting skills in English
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision