



Rapid WASH Assessment: Key Findings

IDP sites in North West Syria

Executive Summary

Between March 17th and 21st, CARE conducted a Rapid WASH assessment across 78 IDP sites in Idlib and Aleppo Governorate, together with partners IYD, Shafak and Syria Relief.

The displacement of close to one million people since December 2019 has resulted in a very high number of IDP-sites being setup by families on the move. These sites are not planned and many of them do not have the most basic services or infrastructure available. Other sites have grown significantly as new arrivals have settled next to existing camp-like facilities. Increasingly, reports from the areas have highlighted massive gaps in WASH services across these sites and particularly the lack of safe WASH facilities has been reported as a protection concern for girls and women. Simultaneously, the global COVID-19 outbreak has increased the urgency for gaps in WASH services to be addressed. The lack of access to clean water, handwashing facilities and soap undermines any initiative to prevent large scale outbreaks in North West Syria.

CARE, with its partners, therefore conducted a Rapid WASH Assessment across IDP-sites focusing mainly on two basic aspects: availability/usage/status of latrines and availability/usage of clean water, handwashing facilities and soap.

The assessment highlights that:

- Adequate access to sanitation facilities is available in only 10% of the assessed locations. 45% of sites do not have any latrines. For the 55% of sites with latrines, average is 240 individuals per latrine.
- The assessed IDP sites are critically lacking access to clean water, handwashing facilities and soap. Only 37% of the sites have sufficient and regular access to water supplies. As many as 83% of the sites have no access to handwashing facilities. A catastrophic 91% does not have access to soap.
- Very limited, if any, WASH support has reached the assessed locations. Only 44% of the sites report having received any WASH NFI's in the past two months.

Sanitation, Handwashing, Soap and Hygiene

Out of all IDP sites assessed, 89% of sites do not have adequate sanitation facilities available and only 10% of those sites have some adequate sanitation facilities.

Of the 78 sites, 45% report not having any latrines at for the 55% of the sites with latrines, on average 240 people share one latrine.

83% of camps assessed have no handwashing facilities and 14% of camps had some handwashing facilities. 91% of camps reported having no soap available for handwashing.

While many Syrian had a satisfactory understanding of critical hygiene practices prior to the conflict, the evolving context in which large numbers of people are gathered in IDP sites, often in unhygienic conditions, with the growing risk of COVID-19, means safe hygiene practices are critical.

Out of all respondents with inadequate sanitation, 32% do not have access to a toilet less than 50m from their dwelling, 26% of respondents share a latrine with more than 20 people, 12% do not have separate latrines for males and females, 10% have latrines that are not functional and 11% of respondents have no access to any latrines at all.

Substandard conditions of sanitation facilities are particularly concerning for women and girls, due to greater risks of sexual harassment, sexual violence, humiliation, physical violence and exploitation they face, and adoption of negative menstrual hygiene behavior, as well as for people with disabilities and older people. 77% of camps reported that elderly people and people with disabilities do not have adequate safe access to sanitation facilities.

Water Supplies

With the likelihood of increased conflict in Northwest Syria leading to high numbers of IDPs as well as the risks of COVID-19, the need for emergency water supplies through trucked water and emergency water storage is expected to remain high.

45% of camps assessed report not having enough water supplies to meet their needs in the past 30 days, while 18% of camps had mixed responses, with some residents having enough water supplies and others not. The main reasons respondents reported not having enough water are due to being unable to afford to purchase water and water trucking vendors being unavailable

67% of camps assessed rely on water trucking for all of their water supplies, while 17% report accessing water through a combination of water trucking and from a tap outside the household (shared water network point or distribution tank). 10% of camps report having access to water from a piped water network or well.

58% of camps reported having inadequate water storage available, while 25% of camps assessed reported having some water storage available.

Recommendations

- The lack of adequate sanitation and handwashing facilities poses a serious risk to the health of people residing in IDP sites in NW Syria. When there is a lack of adequate sanitation available, women and girls have increased risks of violence and intimidation which leads to fears of using sanitation facilities. Safe sanitation facilities in close proximity to dwellings including locks inside the doors and adequate lighting are required in order to meet the needs of women and girls especially. There is a need for WASH actors to urgently rehabilitate and install latrines with functioning handwashing facilities.
- Include women, girls, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups when designing the programmatic response to ensure that their voice is heard, and their specific needs are addressed. Include disposable pads in all NFI kits as those items are repeatedly being requested and often overlooked.
- While the risks of COVID-19 remain high, the lack of handwashing facilities poses a risk to the potential rapid spread of the virus. There is a need for WASH actors to urgently increase the availability of handwashing facilities to help mitigate the likelihood of an COVID-19 outbreak.
- The lack of soap availability means that any existing handwashing facilities will be ineffective in stopping the spread of COVID-19 and water borne diseases. WASH actors should ensure soap and other hygiene items are widely available and accessible for IDPs either through cash/vouchers or in-kind distributions. Hygiene messaging should be increased and focus on handwashing and other COVID-19 preventative measures.
- A lack of adequate water supplies leads to reduced hygiene behaviors. WASH actors need to ensure a minimum of 30-35 liters of water is available per person per day (NW Syria WASH Cluster standard increase from 25 liters while the risks of COVID-19 remain). Inadequate water storage results in IDPs being unable to save enough water for their families, even if water trucking is available. WASH actors should also ensure adequate water storage is available to meet minimum standards of water quantities.