

Statement

Urgent Appeal for Aid after the Extensive Damages that Effected IDPs Camps due to Heavy Rainfall and Floodings in Syria

Monday 09 February 2026



The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, independent group that is considered a primary source for the OHCHR on all death toll-related analyzes in Syria.

Damascus – The Syrian Network for Human Rights:

On February 7 and 8, 2026, several areas of Syria witnessed heavy rainfalls and torrential floods that led to the submergence and damage of a large number of IDPs camps, mainly in the western parts of Idlib Governorate. These camps were built on lower grounds and close to seasonal waterways, making them high-risk areas for torrential floods.

EXTENT OF DAMAGES AND HUMAN LOSS

Preliminary information recorded by SNHR shows:

- Due to the torrential floods, hundreds of tents were submerged in water or destroyed leading to the repeated displacement of hundreds of families that were forced to evacuate their tents in an extremely cold weather and continued rainfall.
- Around 24 IDPs camps were damaged to varying degrees. The damages included soil erosion, collapse of tents, primitive drainage networks shutdown, in addition to the waste of mattresses, bedcovers, and food inside the tents.
- Around 931 families who are residents of the damaged camps have been affected, including 494 families that lost their residence and belongings.
- Torrential floods also damaged the dirt roads leading to a number of tents impeding the rescue and aid teams in the early hours of the emergency raising the difficulty of aid-response operations.
- Some families sought refuge in schools and mosques as temporary shelters in the absence of safe residential substitutes.

The damages camps are part of around **1150 IDPs Camps** that are still set up in Northern Syria, including **801 in Idlib suburbs** and **349 camps** in Aleppo suburbs. These camps shelter over a million internally displaced persons that continue to live under extremely severe humanitarian and weather conditions, with an extreme deficiency of the required infrastructure, drainage networks, and weather-related emergency response mechanisms.

This disaster comes as part of a recurring humanitarian crisis, where:

- Most IDPs camps rely on tattered tents and temporary structures that doesn't provide enough protection against rainfall or floods.
- The incidents of erosion or submergence are repeated every winter, while permanent solutions remain missing as hundreds of thousands of civilians continue to be in unsafe locations.
- These conditions are a continued violations of the right to adequate housing and protection from dangers, especially children, women, and the elderly.

THE STATUS OF THE AID AND RESPONSE TEAMS

The Civil Defense teams and local response teams started rescue and evacuation processes, which included:

- Extraction of families that were stuck in submerged tents.
- Draining the water and opening the damaged roads.
- Provide first-aid assistance and transporting the injured.

However, these teams are working in extremely difficult circumstances, with a severe shortage in equipment, vehicles, and fuel, which limits their ability to effectively respond to the disaster as the number of damaged camps increase in continuation of weather-induced risks.

URGENT CALL AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the aforementioned state of disaster, SNHR's urgent appeal for aid calls for:

1. Immediate and coordinated action by the international and UN humanitarian organizations to secure:
 - Weather-resistant tents and temporary shelters.
 - Covers, winter clothes, blankets, food, and essential medications for affected IDPs.
2. Urgent international support for the civil defense teams and local response teams with heavy equipment, water pumps, and fuel supplies, to ensure the continuity of rescue and evacuation operations in hazardous weather conditions.
3. Securing safe temporary shelters within approved infrastructure, to accommodate families who have lost their tents, taking into account protection and privacy standards, especially for children, women and the elderly.
4. The Syrian government should work on preventive and sustainable solutions, including:
 - Establishing and improving temporary drainage networks and safe access routes.
 - Reassessing flood-prone camp locations and relocating them to less disaster-prone sites.
 - Supporting projects for a phased transition to safer housing.
5. The Syrian government should issue an urgent appeal to donors and influential countries to provide rapid and flexible funding to meet the escalating humanitarian needs and bridge the humanitarian funding gap that is hindering an effective response.



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