



emissa

Fostering Community Resilience

WATER CRISIS IN NORTHWEST SYRIA

Report on the Water Crisis in Northern Syria's Displacement Camps

Overview

This report addresses the severe water crisis affecting Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps in northern Syria. The situation has drastically worsened since the beginning of 2024, with over 991 camps experiencing a complete lack of water and 318 other camps suffering from insufficient water supply. Additionally, over 829 camps lack necessary sanitation facilities. The crisis has significant implications for the health, social stability, and economic conditions of the displaced populations.

Crisis Background

Water Shortage

- **Total Camps Affected:** 1,309
- **Complete Lack of Water:** 991 camps
- **Insufficient Water Supply:** 318 camps

Sanitation Deficiencies

- **Total Camps Lacking Necessary Sanitation:** 829
- **Open Sewage:** Prevalent in 63% of camps
- **Inadequate Bathroom Facilities:** One bathroom for every 60 people in many camps

Impact on Health and Well-being

Disease Outbreaks

- **Camps Reporting Disease Cases:** 487
- **Types of Diseases:** Predominantly skin diseases, with potential risks of waterborne diseases such as cholera and dysentery

Financial Burden

- **Income Spent on Water in Winter:** 25%
- **Income Spent on Water in Summer:** 39%

Environmental and Social Consequences

Rising Temperatures

- Increased temperatures have exacerbated water needs, making the lack of water more critical during the summer months.

Waste Accumulation

- The cessation of sanitation services has led to significant waste accumulation, posing further health risks and degrading living conditions.

Migration Risks

- The crisis threatens social and economic stability, potentially forcing displaced persons to migrate again in search of sustainable living conditions.

Broader Implications

Social Stability

- The lack of access to clean water and sanitation can destabilize communities, leading to increased tensions and potential conflicts over resources.

Economic Impact

- High costs and limited availability of water place a significant financial strain on displaced families, undermining their ability to meet other essential needs.

Call to Action

Emergency Measures

1. **Immediate Water Supply:** Provision of clean water through water trucking, temporary water tanks, and water purification tablets.
2. **Sanitation Facilities:** Construction of additional latrines, establishment of waste management systems, and regular waste collection and disposal.
3. **Health and Hygiene Education:** Comprehensive campaigns to prevent disease spread, including distribution of hygiene kits and promotion of safe water practices.

Long-term Solutions

1. **Sustainable Water Infrastructure:** Investment in boreholes and permanent water distribution systems to ensure reliable access to water.
2. **Financial Assistance:** Support for displaced families to help them manage the high costs of water and other essential needs.

Conclusion

The water crisis in northern Syria's IDP camps is an urgent humanitarian issue requiring immediate and sustained intervention. Addressing the water and sanitation needs of the displaced populations is crucial to prevent the spread of diseases, maintain social stability, and support the economic well-being of these vulnerable communities.

Recommendations

1. **International Aid:** Increased support from international aid organizations to provide immediate relief and long-term solutions.
2. **Local and National Authorities:** Enhanced cooperation with local and national authorities to implement sustainable water and sanitation infrastructure.
3. **Donor Countries:** Mobilization of resources and funding from donor countries to support emergency and long-term initiatives.

Urgent Appeal

Your prompt response and support are essential to alleviating this humanitarian crisis and ensuring the well-being of thousands of vulnerable individuals in northern Syria. Immediate intervention is necessary to provide sufficient quantities of clean water and proper sanitation facilities, safeguarding the health and dignity of the displaced population.