

IDLIB CITY

From emergency response to local resilience

A five-minute city case for the International Disaster Resilience Leaders Forum 2026

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Core message

Idlib can become a practical model of risk-informed recovery when drainage, roads, shelters, early warning and municipal capacity are funded as one system.



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MINISTRY OF EMERGENCY AND
DISASTER MANAGEMENT



Why Idlib needs a resilience lens

37%

of preliminary Syria earthquake direct damages were estimated in Idlib governorate.

>19k

people affected in Aleppo and Idlib by March 2026 flooding, with shelters damaged.

120

roads blocked across several provinces during March 2026 storm response operations.

One system

roads, drainage, shelters, health and warning systems must be planned together.

Idlib City is a service hub for a governorate carrying one of Syria's heaviest displacement and return pressures. The priority is not only repairing assets; it is restoring the city's capacity to absorb shocks.



Layered urban risk

- Conflict damage left roads, drainage, water and public buildings fragile.
- The 2023 earthquake added structural risk and recovery needs.
- Recent heavy rains showed that weak drainage can quickly become a city-wide mobility and access crisis.

Sources in speaker notes

The flood lesson: access fails before services fail



When water overwhelms streets, the city loses more than mobility.

1

Heavy rain

low areas fill quickly

2

Blocked drainage

culverts, side channels and street inlets fail

3

Road closures

ambulances, pumps and aid face delays

4

Service disruption

schools, clinics, markets and shelters are affected

5

Higher losses

vulnerable households and returnees absorb the impact

Priority shift: from repeated emergency pumping to planned drainage, road access, evacuation routes and pre-positioned equipment before winter.

A practical 24-month resilience package

Idlib needs a sequenced package that turns flood response into risk-informed urban recovery.

1

Risk & engineering baseline

City flood/drainage mapping, road access points, damage and asset inventory, priority locations.

2

Drainage, roads & culverts

Clear, repair and upgrade critical drains, low points, side channels and first-priority streets.

3

Operations & early warning

Rainfall thresholds, GIS dashboard, SOPs, alerts, incident command and inter-agency coordination.

4

Shelters & evacuation

Pre-designated shelters, evacuation routes, basic stocks, WASH, protection and accessibility measures.

5

Community readiness

Neighbourhood committees, drills, school awareness and accountability feedback loops.

Suggested investment envelope: USD 10–15 million over 24 months, combining capital works, equipment, technical assistance and training.

What support would unlock impact?



City-to-city and donor partnership can deliver three outcomes:

- A city flood and access risk profile for Idlib, owned by local authorities and linked to national early warning.
- Priority drainage and road access works completed before the next high-risk rainy season.
- A trained local response and shelter system that can act before small shocks become city disruptions.

Ask: technical assistance + seed capital + peer city learning

Idlib's resilience message

The city does not need to wait for the next flood to learn the same lesson again.

With the right partnership, Idlib can turn emergency experience into a local resilience model: cleaner drainage, open roads, safer shelters, clearer warnings and stronger communities.

Contact

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