

Situation Overview: Transit/Reception Centres in north-west Syria

September 2017 - September 2018

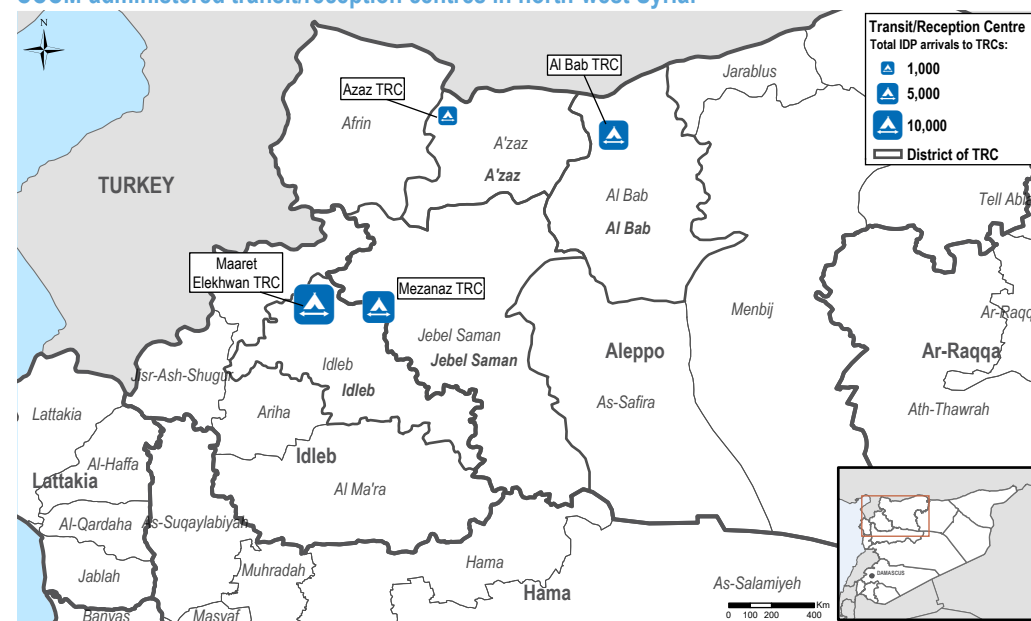
Introduction

Between August and December 2017, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster began coordinating four transit/reception centres as part of the response to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in north-west Syria.¹ Between then and late 2018, many parts of the country witnessed major escalations of conflict that resulted in large-scale displacements into opposition-held parts of Idlib, Aleppo and Hama governorates. In particular, between March and August 2018, significant cross-line displacement waves took place towards the region, following escalations of conflict between Government of Syria (GoS)-allied forces and armed opposition groups (AOGs) in several parts of southern and central Syria.² In addition, many parts of north-west Syria witnessed displacement waves following renewed clashes and widespread insecurity in Idlib, western Aleppo and northern Hama governorates – most prominently between December 2017 and February 2018,³ and again between August and September 2018.⁴ The four CCCM transit/reception centres of Al Bab, Azaz, Maaret Elekhwan and Mezanaz played a role in response to each of these as well as other displacement waves. This situation overview aims to provide a movement overview of IDPs that arrived to and departed from these transit/reception centres between September 2017 and September 2018, and a summary of the role served by the transit/reception centres in response to the major displacement waves affecting north-west Syria during this period.

Main Findings

- A total of 39,717 IDP arrivals and 26,462 IDP departures^{12,13} were reported in the four CCCM transit/reception centres in north-west Syria between 1 September 2017 and 30 September 2018.
- The majority of IDPs that arrived to the centres were displaced following territorial shifts and relocation agreements from other parts of Syria. More than a third (35%) of all arrivals were reported from Rural Damascus (14,019) governorate, in addition to large cross-line displacement waves arriving from southern Hama and northern Homs (6,527), Dar'a and Quneitra (5,225), and Damascus (2,142) governorates.
- With 14,899 (38%) IDPs, Maaret Elekhwan Transit/Reception Centre experienced the highest total IDP arrivals over the reporting period. The vast majority (97%) of these occurred between January and July 2018. Monthly arrival figures exceeded 2,000 IDPs in three of these seven months, namely: March (2,935), May (4,192) and July (4,254) 2018.
- In parallel, Mezanaz Transit/Reception Centre received 10,839 IDPs throughout the reporting period, accounting for 27% of the total across all centres. More than three quarters (80%) of these arrived during three months: September 2017 (2,476), March 2018 (3,591), and May 2018 (2,588).
- Meanwhile, Al Bab Transit/Reception Centre experienced a total of 9,602 (24%) IDP arrivals. The centre received all of these in the roughly five and a half month period between early December 2017 and mid-May 2018, after which no further IDP arrivals were reported. In April 2018, it experienced the highest arrival wave (4,349) in a single month to any centre.
- With 4,377 IDP arrivals, Azaz Transit/Reception Centre received the lowest overall number of IDPs, accounting for 11% of the total across the four centres. More than three quarters (76%) of displacements reported to the centre occurred in April (2,013) and May (1,330) 2018.

CCCM-administered transit/reception centres in north-west Syria:



Methodology

Under the framework of the IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI) – an initiative of the CCCM Cluster, implemented by REACH and supported by other cluster members – REACH has conducted a secondary data review as part of this thematic assessment. Data used in this overview comes from three main sources. First, data on the number of individual IDP arrivals to, and departures from, Al Bab, A'zaz, Maaret Elekhwan and Mezanaz transit/reception centres, as well as their last known places of departure and intended destinations was used to provide an overview of the major movements to and from the four centres. This data was collected on a daily basis by the respective CCCM member agencies administering each centre between 1 September and 30 September 2018. However, comparable IDP arrival and departure data is not available for the entire assessment period as data was only collected from the date at which the centre was established or first administered by the agency. Furthermore, Al Bab Transit/Reception Centre was closed in June 2018.¹⁸ Secondly, data on the total numbers and demographic profiles of IDP populations in the four centres as of the final day of each month was used, and was collected by CCCM member agencies as part of the CCCM Cluster IDP Sites Integrated Monitoring Matrix (ISIMM).¹⁹ Finally, data collected over the same reporting period as part of ad hoc, bi-weekly and monthly assessment cycles through the ISMI enumerator and key informant (KI) network was used to triangulate population and movement information and to situate displacements to and from each centre within wider regional patterns.

Key Events

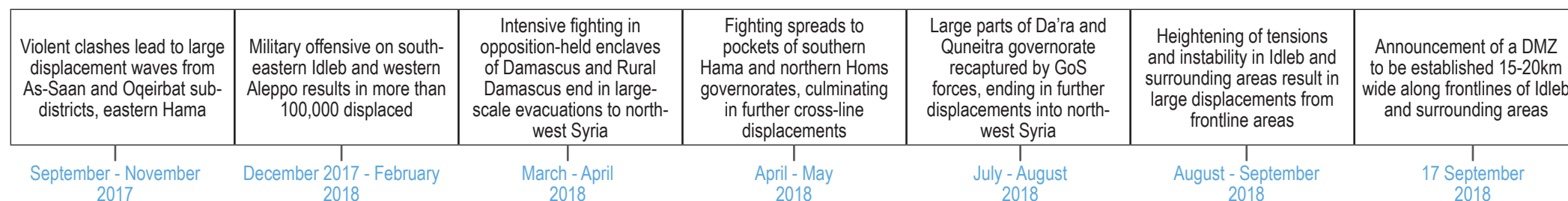
The first major displacement wave in which CCCM transit/reception centres provided shelter and multi-sectoral humanitarian support to IDPs occurred in September 2017, shortly after the first two centres were established. Following **violent clashes in eastern Hama governorate between GoS-allied forces and the group known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)**,⁵ 2,476 IDPs arrived to the centres, predominantly from **As-Saan and Oqeirbat sub-districts in As-Salamiyeh district**.

In turn, **between December 2017 and mid-February 2018**, several parts of **south-eastern Idleb and western Aleppo governorates experienced an intensification of conflict** as a major military offensive was launched to recapture parts of Abul Thohur sub-district from AOGs.³ Heavy fighting resulted in **substantial displacement waves away from frontlines and areas experiencing heavy aerial bombardments**, with 2,369 IDPs reportedly arriving to CCCM centres from affected districts during this period.

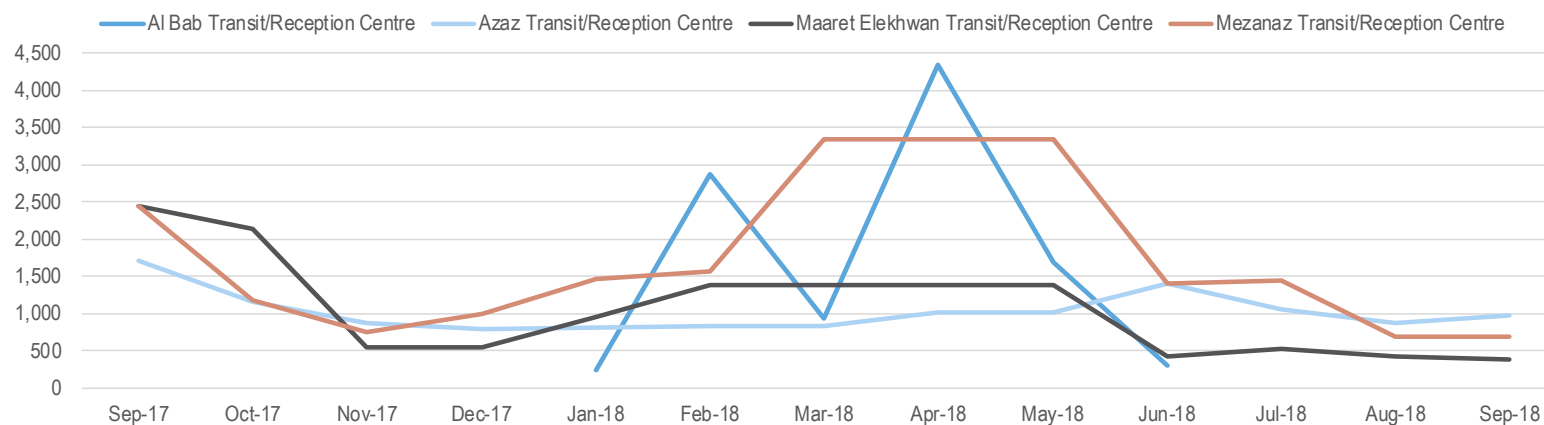
Subsequently, **throughout the spring and summer of 2018**, heavy fighting and major territorial shifts took place in several parts of central and southern Syria. **Between March and April**, major cross-line displacements were reported into north-west Syria from the formerly opposition-held enclave of Eastern Ghouta in Rural Damascus governorate (14,019 IDPs), as well as **Al Qadam (935), Yarmuk (770) and other areas of Damascus governorate**, following prolonged clashes in both areas.⁶

Between **late April and May**, northern Homs and southern Hama governorates became the next **epicentres of conflict**, with large numbers of IDPs arriving to the centres in particular from **Ar-Rastan (4,054) and Homs (1,402) districts**.⁷ **Between July and August 2018**, large parts of **Dar'a and Quneitra governorates then witnessed a significant escalation of conflict**,⁸ with large cross-line displacements taking place towards north-west Syria. Of these, **5,225 IDPs were reported arriving to CCCM transit/reception centres**. Many IDPs also arrived to CCCM centres across the reporting period from several other conflict-affected parts of the country, most commonly, Al Mayadin (476) and Abu Kamal (132) districts in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, Menbij (413) and As-Safira (208) districts in eastern Aleppo governorate, and Al-Malikeyyeh (230) district in Al-Hasakeh governorate.

Lastly, **between August and mid-September 2018**, concerns grew around **another major escalation of conflict in Idleb governorate and the surrounding areas of western Aleppo and northern Hama governorates**. Heightened clashes, aerial bombardments and anticipation of further conflict escalation resulted in significant displacement waves,⁴ with **557 IDPs reportedly arriving to centres** from the affected areas. On **17 September, a demilitarised zone (DMZ) was announced**, to be implemented along major conflict lines in the region.⁹ Between this announcement and the end of September, the region saw a decrease in the overall number of new displacements.¹⁰



Total IDP populations residing in transit/reception centres as of the final day of the month, September 2017 - September 2018:



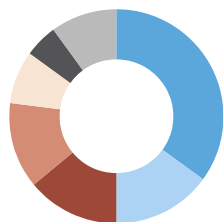
Overview of IDP Arrivals to Transit/Reception Centres

Total number of IDP arrivals to transit/reception centres, September 2017 – September 2018:

39,717

Between 1 September 2017 and 30 September 2018, the four CCCM-administered transit/reception centres of north-west Syria received a total of **39,717** IDPs. Almost **two thirds (65%)** of these arrived to **Maaret Elekhwan (14,899) Transit/Reception Centre** in north-eastern Idleb governorate, and **Mezanaz (10,839) Transit/Reception Centre**, in neighbouring western Aleppo governorate. The remaining 35% of IDP arrivals were to Al Bab (9,602) and Azaz (4,377) Transit/Reception Centres in northern Aleppo governorate. **More than half (60%)** of all IDPs arrived during three consecutive months - **March (7,543), April (7,471) and May (8,780) 2018**. Further significant arrival waves were reported in July (5,036) and February (3,769) 2018, as well as September (2,536) 2017.

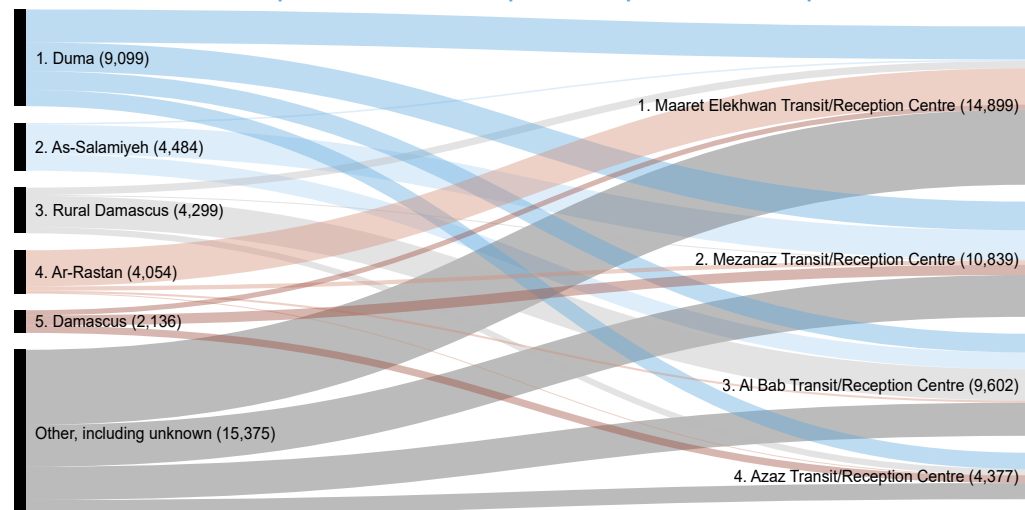
IDP arrivals' last governorate of departure:



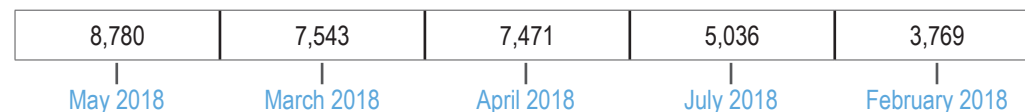
Rural Damascus 35%
Homs 15%
Hama 14%
Dar'a/Quneitra¹¹ 13%
Idleb 8%
Damascus 5%
Other/unknown 10%

The majority of IDP arrivals to transit/reception centres over the reporting period were linked to cross-line displacements from formerly opposition-held parts of central and southern Syria. More than a third of IDPs reportedly arrived from **Rural Damascus (14,019) governorate**. The majority of these IDPs arrived **between mid-March and late April from Duma (9,099) and Rural Damascus (4,299) districts**. Many IDPs also arrived to centres as part of cross-line displacement waves from Homs (5,849) and Hama (5,572), Dar'a and Quneitra¹¹ (5,225), and Damascus (2,142) governorates.

Main district to transit/reception centre IDP arrival patterns, September 2017 – September 2018:¹⁷



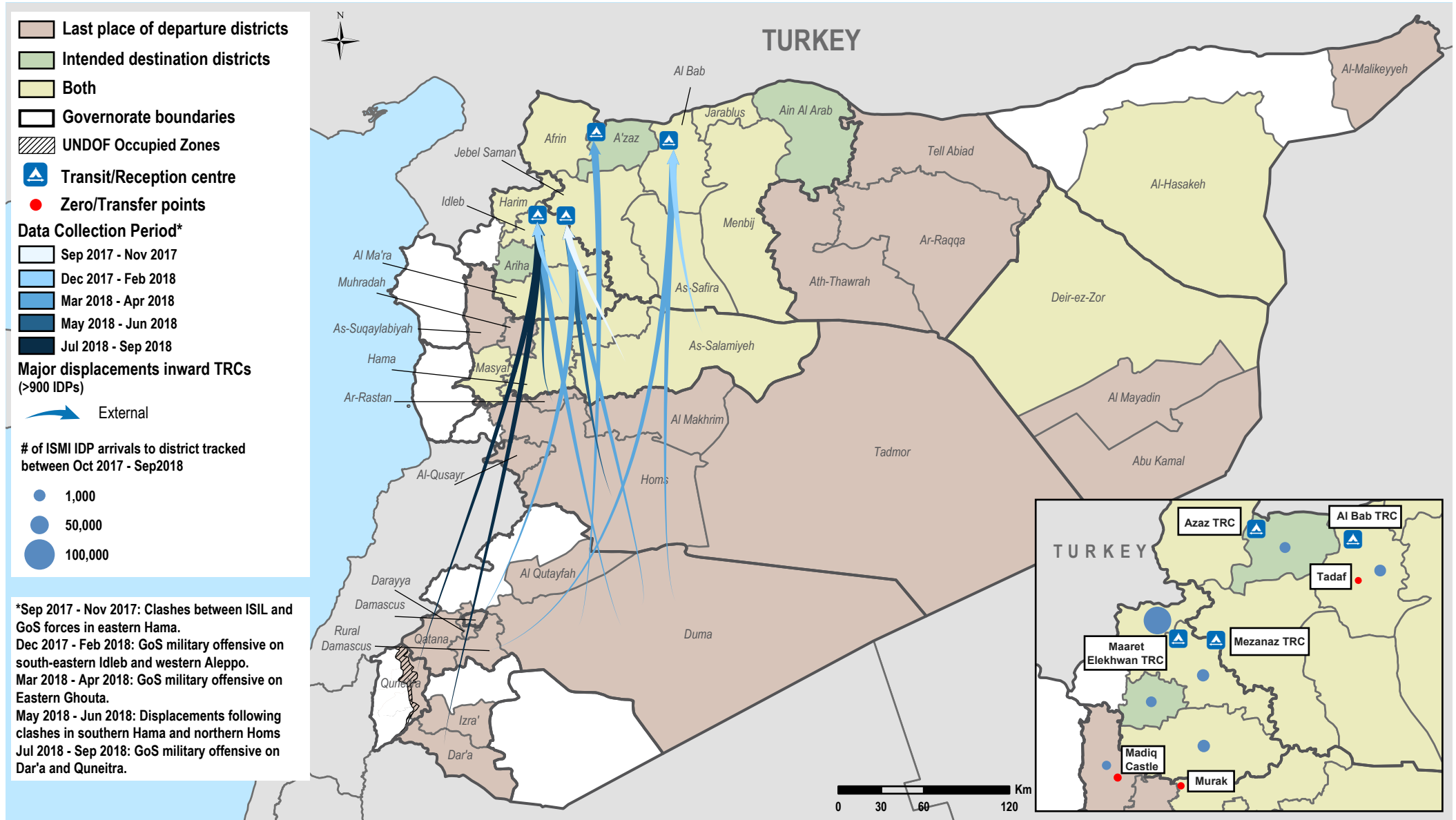
Top five highest monthly IDP arrivals to transit/reception centres (# IDPs):



Total number of IDP arrivals to transit/reception centres by month and governorate of last departure, September 2017 – September 2018:

Governorate of Last Departure	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18	Total By Governorate
Rural Damascus	-	-	-	27	73	-	5,248	6,768	1,717	56	60	15	55	14,019
Homs	-	-	-	-	9	327	52	21	5,357	60	10	4	9	5,849
Hama	2,530	25	3	164	52	1,202	535	123	702	13	16	41	166	5,572
Dar'a/Quneitra ¹¹	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	1	4,904	264	51	5,225
Idleb	-	-	-	87	1,335	882	27	-	73	133	-	376	75	2,988
Damascus	-	-	-	-	-	1	1,270	48	752	29	5	13	24	2,142
Aleppo	-	-	8	36	75	819	146	53	22	4	33	29	32	1,257
Deir-ez-Zor	6	-	55	150	121	114	213	27	11	1	6	8	1	713
Al-Hasakeh	-	-	-	-	3	210	16	4	-	-	-	-	-	233
Ar-Raqqa	-	-	-	-	2	148	3	-	-	4	2	-	2	161
Other/unknown	-	-	90	557	170	65	33	423	146	22	-	22	30	1,558
Total by Month	2,536	25	156	1,021	1,840	3,769	7,543	7,471	8,780	323	5,036	772	445	39,717

Major IDP arrivals to CCCM transit/reception centres in north-west Syria, September 2017 - September 2018:



Overview of IDP Departures from Transit/Reception Centres

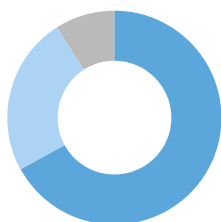
Total number of IDP departures from transit/reception centres, September 2017 – September 2018:¹²

26,462

One of the main objectives of transit/reception centres is to provide shelter and multi-sectoral humanitarian support to newly displaced persons (please see Annex A for an overview of services), for a limited period of time immediately after their displacement. In line with this, a majority of the 39,717 IDPs who arrived to CCCM-administered centres between 1 September 2017 and 30 September 2018 are believed to have also departed those centres during this time. In total, **26,462 IDP departures were reported from the four transit/reception centres throughout the reporting period.**¹² The five months that witnessed the highest IDP arrivals to centres were also those with the highest departures, namely: **February (3,240), March (3,501), April (7,443), May (4,415) and July (2,291) of 2018.** Together, these accounted for 79% of the total departures throughout the reporting period.

Mezanaz Transit/Reception Centre had the highest number of IDP departures (**9,991**) reported from any centre, followed by **Al Bab Transit/Reception Centre**, where **all IDPs (9,602) that arrived to the centre also departed during the coverage period.** Meanwhile, **Azaz Transit/Reception Centre** experienced a total of **4,530 IDP departures** over the coverage period.¹³ Comprehensive departure data was only available for **Maaret Elekhwan Transit/Reception Centre** for 1 June to 30 September 2018 with a total of **2,339 IDP departures.**

IDP departures' governorate of intended destination:



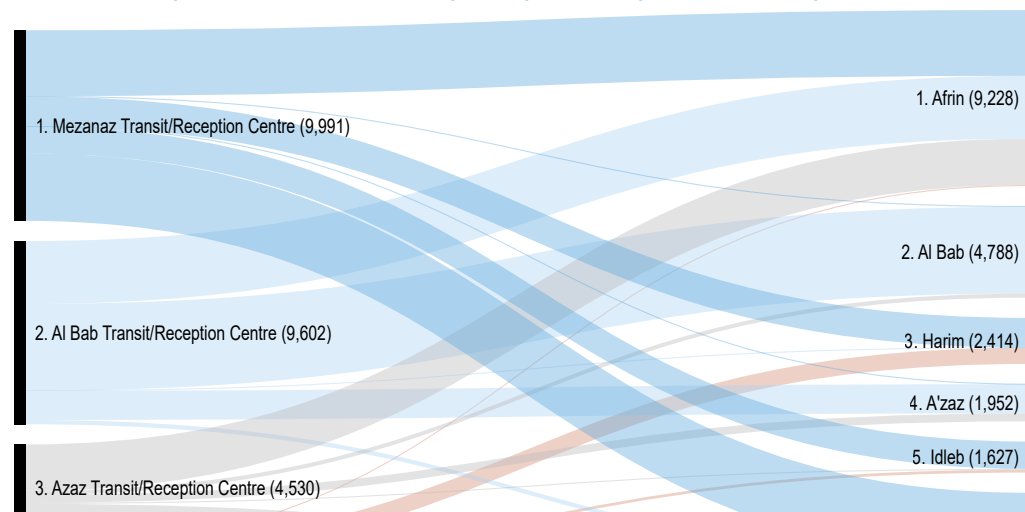
Aleppo 67%
Idlib 24%
Other/unknown 9%

A large majority (91%) of IDPs that left CCCM centres were expected to travel to other parts of **Aleppo (17,627) and Idlib (6,370) governorates.**¹⁴ Many of these reportedly intended to move to major cities in the region, likely due to their perceived relative stability, as well as better access to goods, services and humanitarian assistance. The most common district IDPs were expected to go to was **Afrin (9,228)**, accounting for 35% of all intended destinations.

Total number of IDP departures from transit/reception centres by month and governorate of intended destination, September 2017 – September 2018:¹²

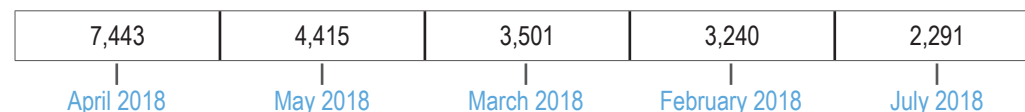
Governorate of Intended Destination	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18	Total By Governorate
Aleppo	-	132	57	657	370	2,868	1,351	6,906	4,000	727	183	142	234	17,627
Idlib	259	1,048	405	-	70	250	1,265	528	414	-	1,794	192	145	6,370
Deir-ez-Zor	-	-	-	-	8	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Hama	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	8
Damascus	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Al-Hasakeh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other/unknown	-	-	-	-	248	122	882	-	1	-	314	749	115	2,441
Total by Month	259	1,180	462	667	700	3,240	3,501	7,443	4,415	727	2,291	1,083	494	26,462

Main transit/reception centre to district IDP departure patterns, September 2017 – September 2018:¹⁷

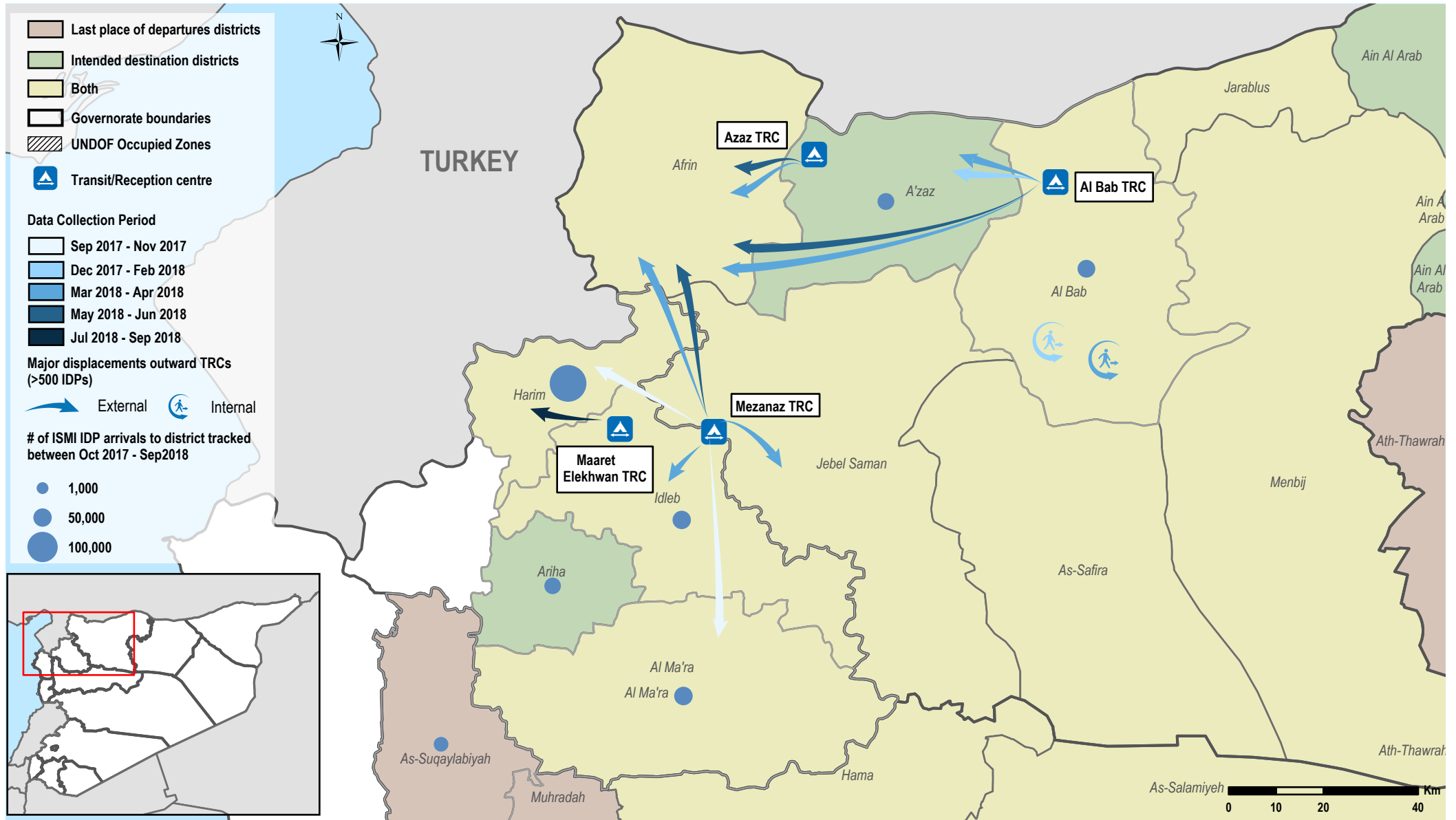


The next three most common districts of intended destination were other border areas in northern Aleppo and northern Idlib governorates, namely **Al Bab (4,788), Harim (2,414) and A'zaz (1,952).**

Top five highest monthly IDP departures from transit/reception centres (# IDPs):



Major IDP departures from CCCM transit/reception centres in north-west Syria, September 2017 - September 2018:



AI Bab Transit/Reception Centre

Total number of reported IDP movements:



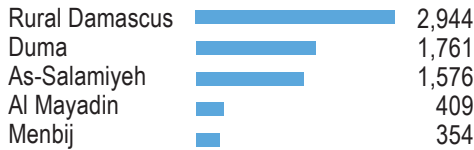
IDP arrivals: 9,602
IDP departures: 9,602



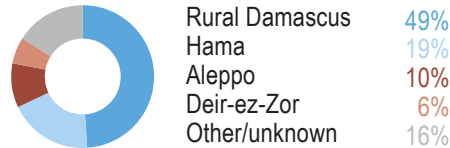
Ar-Ra'ee sub-district,
northern Aleppo governorate
Opened 4 December 2017

Comprehensive arrival data for AI Bab Transit/Reception Centre, located in Ar-Ra'ee sub-district of northern Aleppo governorate was only available between 4 December 2017 and 13 May 2018 with a total of 9,602 IDP arrivals. In April 2018, it received the highest number of IDPs (4,349) in a single month to any centre, accounting for 45% of its reported arrivals. Between early April and mid-May, 4,705 IDPs arrived to the centre from Rural Damascus governorate in south-west Syria. All of these were reported from Rural Damascus (2,944) and Duma (1,761) districts, following weeks of conflict in Eastern Ghouta that culminated in large cross-line displacements into opposition-held parts of north-west Syria.⁶ Notably, between 4 and 5 April, the centre received a large influx of 2,114 IDPs from Rural Damascus district. These were followed by further large displacements from the region, with 1,496 IDPs arriving at the centre from Duma district on 12 and 14 April. Displaced populations then continued to arrive from the region before a last influx of 493 IDPs from Rural Damascus district was received on 13 May.

Last district of departure of arrivals (# IDPs):

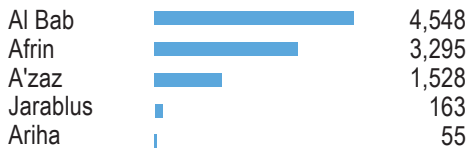


Last governorate of departure (% arrivals):

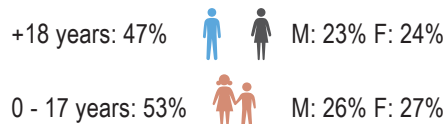


Many IDPs also arrived from Hama governorate, but in contrast to the planned evacuations from Eastern Ghouta, these were generally sporadic and spread across February and March. Between 1 February and 2 April 2018, a total of 1,805 IDPs reportedly arrived to AI Bab Transit/Reception Centre from eastern Hama governorate. The majority of these were from As-Samaliyeh (1,576) district, following violent clashes in the region concentrated in As-Saan (669) and Oqeirbat (604) sub-districts. In addition, between December 2017 and May 2018, AI Bab centre welcomed IDPs from several other regions, most commonly, Menbij (354) and As-Safira (179) districts in eastern Aleppo governorate, as well as Al Mayadin (409) and Abu Kamal (97) districts in Deir-ez-Zor governorate. Many IDPs also arrived from Homs (539) governorate, with the arrival of 195 IDPs from Tadmor district in February, and 141 IDPs from Ar-Rastan district in April.⁷

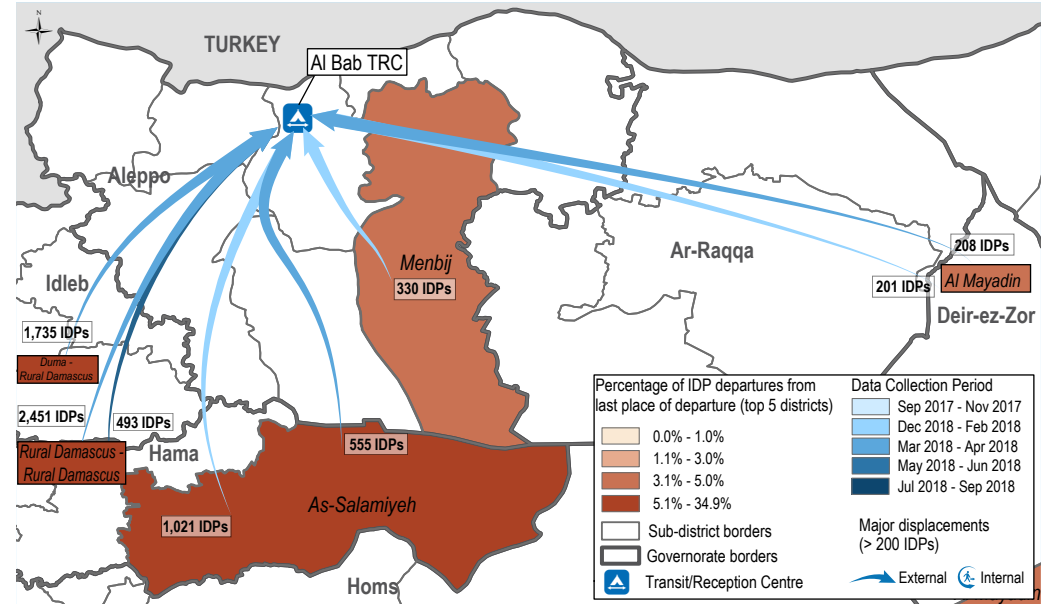
Top intended district of departures (# IDPs):



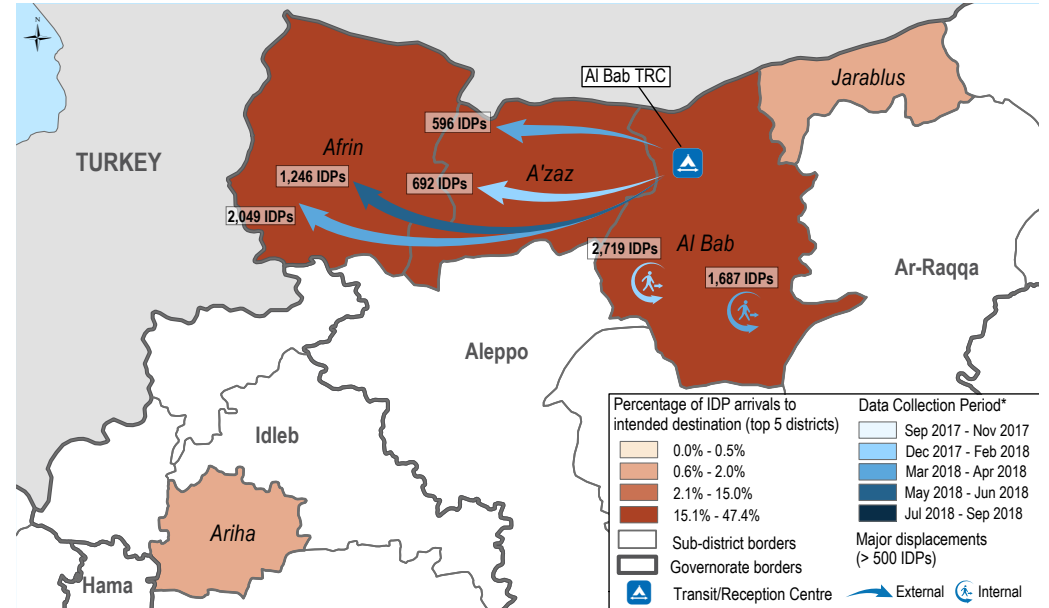
Age distribution of IDPs in centre:



IDP arrivals to AI Bab Transit/Reception Centre during the reporting period:



IDP departures from AI Bab Transit/Reception Centre during the reporting period:



Over the two months in which Al Bab Transit/Reception centre witnessed its highest IDP arrivals (February and April 2018), it also saw its **highest departures (2,798 and 3,628, respectively)**. The **vast majority (99%) of the 9,602 IDPs** that left the centre reportedly intended to travel **elsewhere in Aleppo (9,541)** governorate. Many of these were expected to move elsewhere in **Al Bab (4,548) district**, most commonly to **Ar-Ra'ee (2,572) and Al Bab (1,953) sub-districts**. Two other sub-districts in northern Aleppo, namely **Raju (3,286) and A'zaz (1,202)**, were also common intended destinations of IDPs that left the centre. As of **26 June 2018**, all IDPs that arrived over the reporting period had departed from Al Bab Transit/Reception Centre.

Azaz Transit/Reception Centre

Total number of reported IDP movements:

	IDP arrivals:	4,377
	IDP departures: ¹³	4,530








A'zaz sub-district,
northern Aleppo governorate



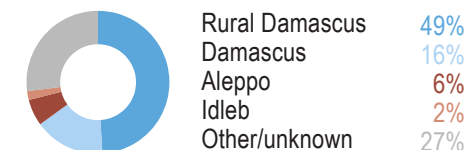
Opened 24 November 2017

From **24 November 2017 to 30 September 2018**, Azaz Transit/Reception Centre, located west of Al Bab, in A'zaz sub-district of northern Aleppo governorate, received a total of **4,377 IDPs**, accounting for 11% of arrivals across all centres. More than three quarters (76%) of displacements to the centre were reported in **April (2,013) and May (1,330) 2018**, with the **largest daily arrival numbers reported on 7 May (941)**. As with Al Bab centre, these arrivals were predominantly linked to **cross-line displacements from Eastern Ghouta, with 2,160 IDPs (49%) arriving from Rural Damascus governorate**. Following local evacuation agreements and large cross-line displacements, more than a third (35%) of IDP arrivals to the centre reportedly came from **Duma (1,537) district**, the largest urban area of the formerly opposition-held Eastern Ghouta enclave, many of whom first arrived to the centre on 5 April.⁶ On the community level, IDPs from the wider Rural Damascus governorate areas most commonly arrived from **Duma (1,239), Yalda (276) and Babella (231)**.

Last district of departure of arrivals (# IDPs):






Duma		1,537
Damascus		688
Rural Damascus		587
Jebel Saman		97
Idleb		76

Last governorate of departure (% arrivals):

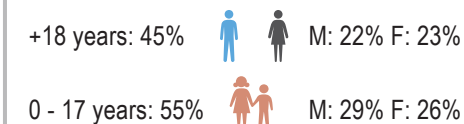


In addition, many IDPs also arrived **from Damascus (693) governorate**, accounting for **16% of the centre's total IDP arrivals**. A large majority (86%) of these reportedly came from **Yarmuk (597)**, in the south of the governorate, following the recapture of Yarmuk camp by GoS-allied forces in early May.¹⁵ Furthermore, Azaz Transit/Reception Centre hosted populations displaced from various other regions, namely, **Ar-Rastan (46), Tadmor (24), Homs (22), Deir-ez-Zor (26), Abu Kamal (19) and Hama (19) districts**, as well as from elsewhere in Aleppo governorate, most commonly **Jebel Saman (97), Al Bab (66) and Menbij (65) districts**.

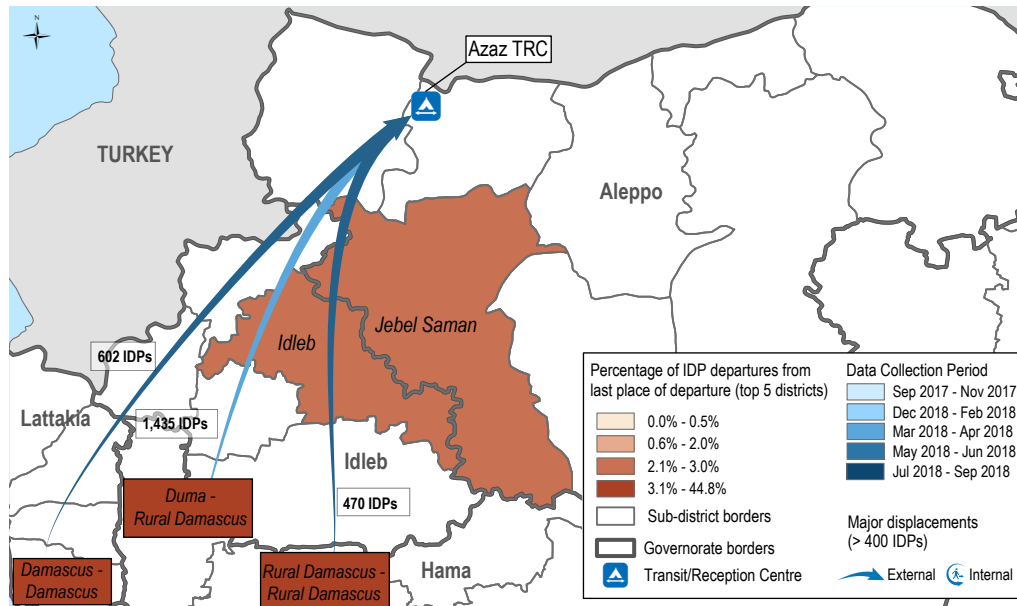
Top intended district of departures (# IDPs):

Afrin		2,425
A'zaz		419
Al Bab		216
Menbij		82
Idleb		51

Age distribution of IDPs in centre:

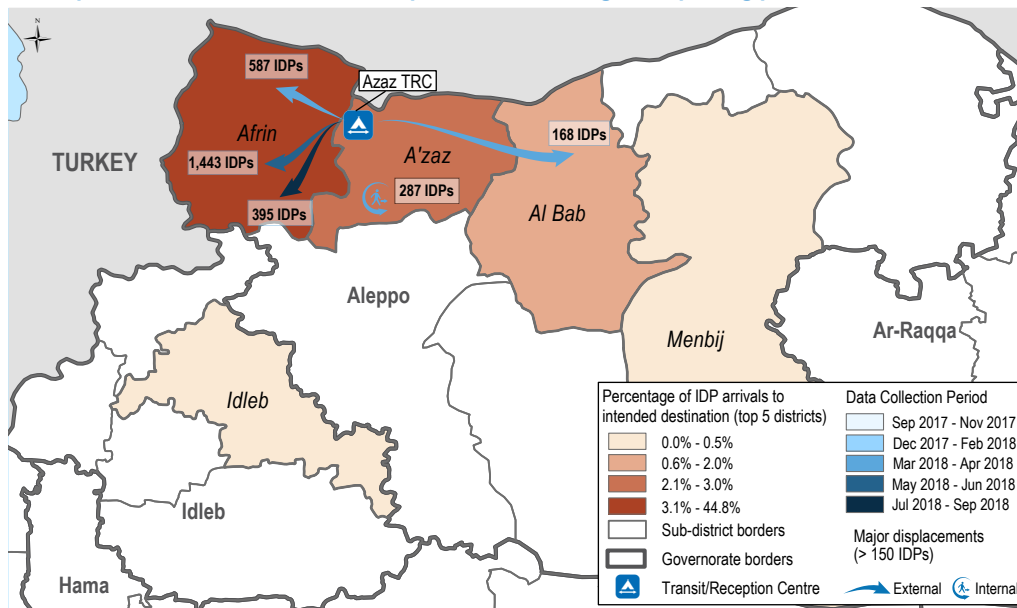


IDP arrivals to Azaz Transit/Reception Centre during the reporting period:



Meanwhile, almost half (48%) of IDP departures from Azaz Transit/Reception Centre reportedly occurred in April (1,079) and May (1,086) 2018. As with departures from Al Bab Transit/Reception Centre, the majority (71%) of IDPs intended to travel elsewhere within Aleppo (3,203) governorate. Many of these reportedly intended to move to Afrin (2,253) community, likely driven by perceived stabilisation following the end of a military offensive that began on 20 January in north-western Aleppo governorate.¹⁶ Many IDPs leaving Azaz centre were also expected to move to other major cities in northern Aleppo, namely Azaz (312), Al Bab (216) and Jandairis (216). This trend of IDPs arriving to transit/reception centres from other parts of Syria before moving to major cities may indicate a higher availability of shelter as well as access to goods, services and humanitarian assistance in these areas. Finally, lower numbers of individuals departing Azaz centre reportedly intended to move to Deir-ez-Zor (11), Damascus (4) and Hama (2) governorates, likely reflecting spontaneous return movements to these areas.

IDP departures from Azaz Transit/Reception Centre during the reporting period:



Maaret Elekhwan Transit/Reception Centre

Total number of reported IDP movements:



IDP arrivals: 14,899
IDP departures:¹² 2,339



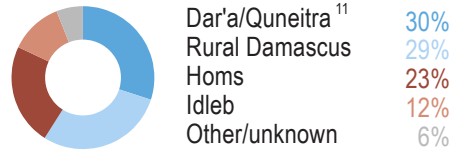
Maaret Tamsrin sub-district, north-eastern Idlib governorate
Opened 1 August 2017

With **14,899 IDP arrivals**, Maaret Elekhwan Transit/Reception Centre, in Maaret Tamsrin sub-district of north-eastern Idlib governorate, received the highest total number of IDPs to any centre over the reporting period. While the vast majority (97%) of these occurred between January and July 2018, the centre hosted IDPs from almost every major displacement wave affecting north-west Syria during the reporting period. The first major influx to the centre was reported between 2 and 17 January 2018, with 1,041 IDPs arriving from Sanjar sub-district in Al Ma'ra district, propelled by escalation of conflict in south-eastern Idlib governorate.³ In February 2018, a further 746 IDPs arrived from the sub-district to Maaret Elekhwan Transit/Reception Centre, as clashes culminated in the recapture of much of Sanjar and neighbouring Abul Thohur sub-districts by GoS forces. Between 23 March and 10 May 2018, Maaret Elekhwan Transit/Reception Centre then saw the arrival of 4,338 IDPs from Rural Damascus governorate. More than half of these reportedly arrived from Harasta (2,229) sub-district in March, followed by large waves from Duma (527) and Jirud (539) in April, and finally Babella (668) in May.⁶

Last district of departure of arrivals (# IDPs):

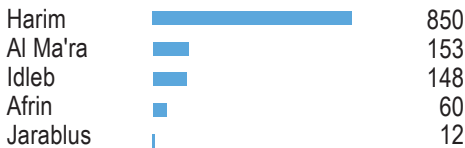


Last governorate of departure (% arrivals):

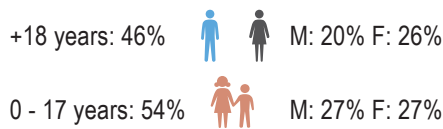


In May 2018, the centre hosted large numbers of IDPs arriving from Talbiseh (2,464) and Ar-Rastan (922) sub-districts in northern Homs governorate. These arrivals, accounting for 23% of the centre's total, followed clashes between GoS-allied forces and AOGs, which culminated in various relocation agreements towards north-west Syria.⁷ In turn, in July 2018, the centre witnessed its highest number of monthly arrivals (4,254) with cross-line displacements from Dar'a and Quneitra governorates in south-west Syria, following major territorial shifts in the area.⁸ In total, the centre received 4,429 IDP arrivals from these two regions¹¹, 90% of whom arrived over two days: 21 July (2,473) and 23 July (1,494) 2018.

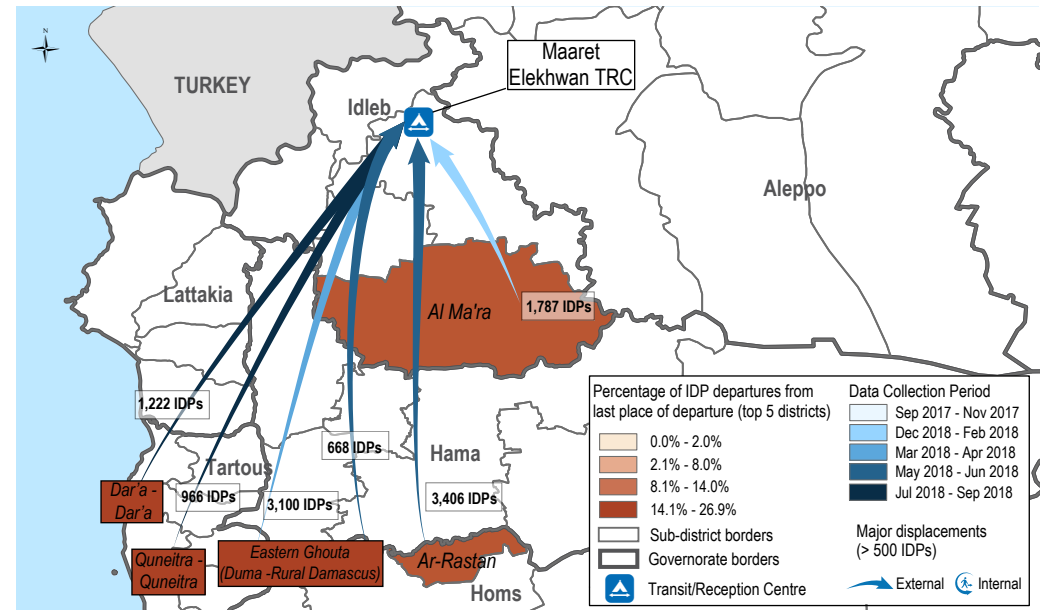
Top intended district of departures (# IDPs):



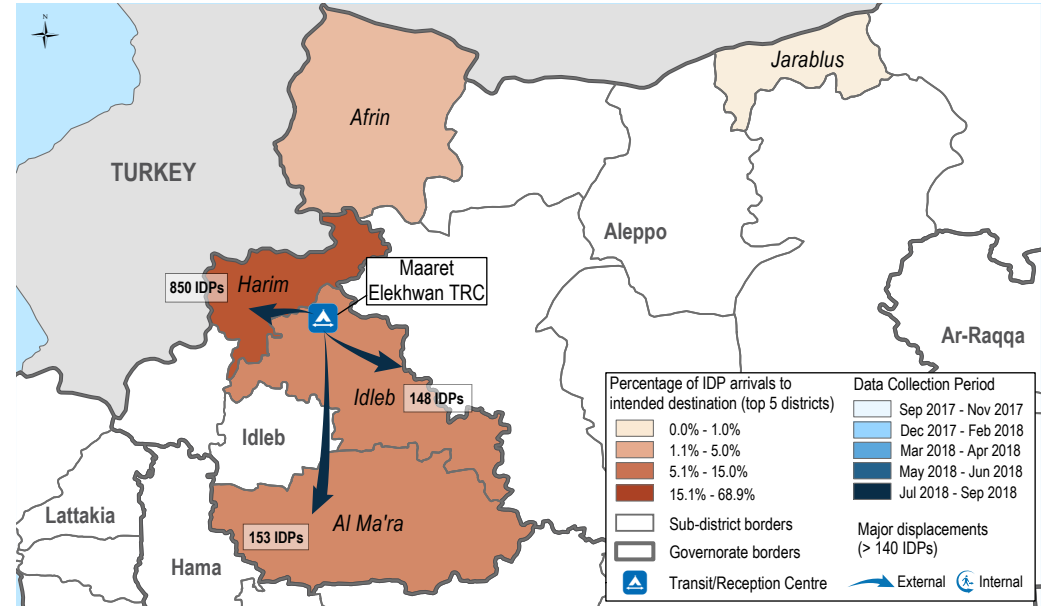
Age distribution of IDPs in centre:



IDP arrivals to Maaret Elekhwan Transit/Reception Centre during the reporting period:



IDP departures from Maaret Elekhwan Transit/Reception Centre during the reporting period:



Of the 2,339 IDP departures reported from Maaret Elekhwan Transit/Reception Centre between 1 July and 30 September 2018, 2,122 (91%) were expected to go to other locations in Idlib governorate. Many of these reportedly intended to go to Harim (850) district along Idlib governorate's northern border with Turkey. At the sub-district level, IDPs were most commonly expected to go to Dana (528) and Harim (294) sub-districts. In addition, movements were expected to Sanjar (153) sub-district in south-east Idlib governorate, possibly indicating spontaneous return movements following perceived improvements in the area's security situation. The highest number of monthly IDP departures occurred in July (1,815), many of which were onward movements of IDPs from previously opposition-held parts of Dar'a and Quneitra governorates.

Mezanaz Transit/Reception Centre

Total number of reported IDP movements:

	IDP arrivals:	10,839
	IDP departures:	9,991



Atareb sub-district,
western Aleppo governorate



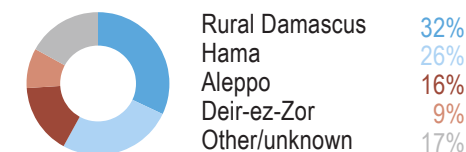
Opened 24 August 2017

Mezanaz Transit/Reception Centre, in Atareb sub-district of western Aleppo governorate, received 10,839 IDPs between September 2017 and September 2018. Like Maaret Elekhwan Transit/Reception Centre, Mezanaz Transit/Reception centre was opened in August 2017 and played a role in response to several major displacement waves throughout the reporting period. In the first of these, between 10 and 28 September 2017, 2,470 IDPs arrived to the centre from Oqeirbat community in As-Salamiyeh district of eastern Hama governorate. Then, in March 2018, the centre received a large number of IDP arrivals from Rural Damascus (2,662) and Damascus (929) governorates. In particular, on 13 March, 823 IDPs arrived from Al Qadam neighbourhood in Damascus governorate. Shortly after, on 24 March, the centre received 2,291 IDPs from Harasta community, Rural Damascus governorate, followed by further streams from Eastern Ghouta over the following week until 30 March.⁶

Last district of departure of arrivals (# IDPs):






As-Salamiyeh		2,756
Duma		2,698
Homs		1,376
Damascus		964
Idlib		772

Last governorate of departure (% arrivals):

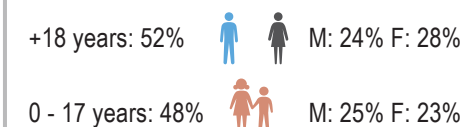


In May 2018, a third large wave of IDP arrivals (2,588) was reported, almost all of whom from northern Homs (1,775) and southern Hama (659) governorates. The majority of IDPs from Homs governorate arrived from Homs (1,089) sub-district, as well as Talbiseh (304), Taldu (287) and Ar-Rastan (95) sub-districts, between 10 and 21 May. Meanwhile, IDPs from Hama arrived on 19 and 20 May, all of whom were reportedly displaced from Talaf (659) community in Harbanifse sub-district.⁷ In turn, between 16 July and 12 August 2018, Mezanaz Transit/Reception Centre received 762 IDPs from Dar'a governorate, following similar displacement patterns witnessed from the area to Maaret Elekhwan Transit/Reception Centre. Finally, between 1 August and 12 September 2018, Mezanaz Transit/Reception Centre hosted 451 IDPs from southern Idlib governorate. Many IDPs reportedly arrived from Ma'arrat An Nu'man (195) and Saraqab (180) sub-districts, triggered by a heightening of clashes and concerns around a major escalation of conflict in the region.⁹

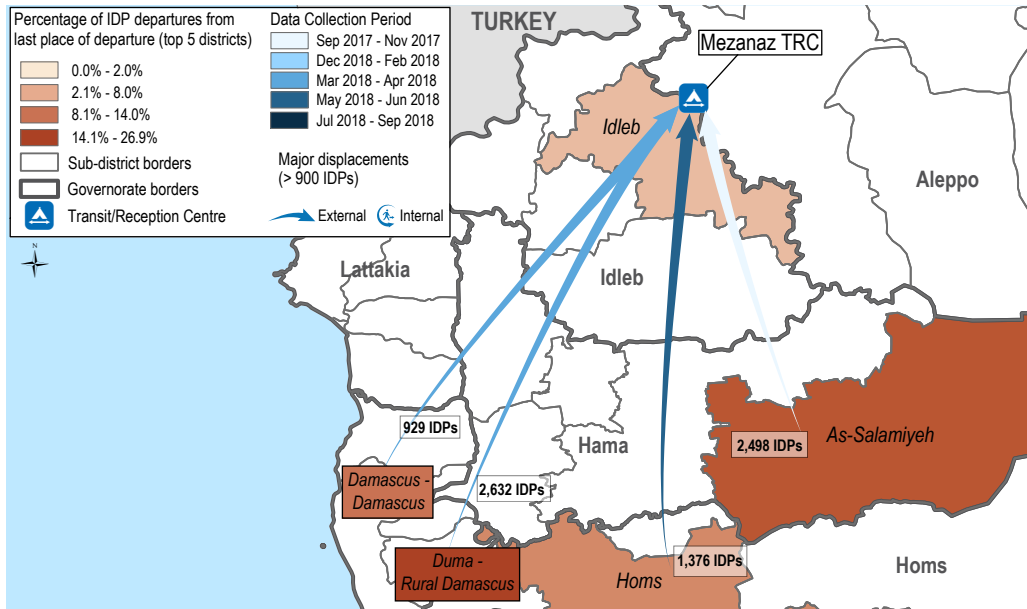
Top intended district of departures (# IDPs):

Afrin		3,448
Harim		1,560
Idlib		1,428
Jebel Saman		1,332
Al Ma'ra		1,032

Age distribution of IDPs in centre:

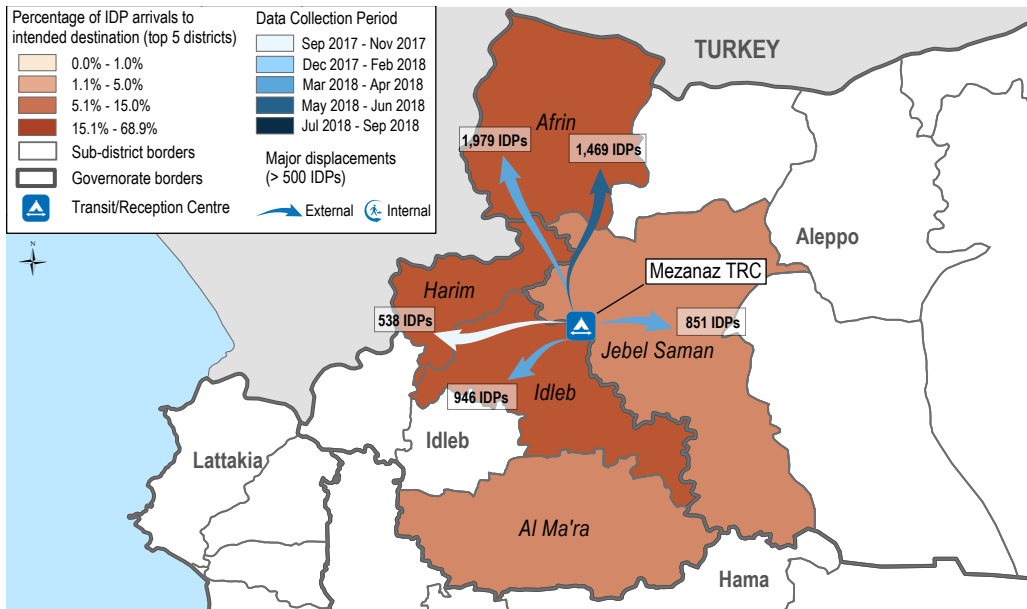


IDP arrivals to Mezanaz Transit/Reception Centre during the reporting period:



In total, throughout the reporting period, **9,991 IDPs left Mezanaz Transit/Reception Centre**. While more than half (**5,463**) reportedly intended to remain in Idleb governorate and the surrounding areas of western Aleppo and northern Hama, over a third (35%) of IDPs were expected to travel to northern Aleppo (3,479) governorate. Many IDPs reportedly left for Harim (1,560), Idleb (1,428) and Jebel Saman (1,332) districts in Idleb and western Aleppo governorates. In contrast, **99% of those departing to northern Aleppo left the centre between 1 April and 27 May**, and intended to go to Jandairis (1,991) and Afrin (1,457) communities, two of the largest cities in the north-west of the region.

IDP departures from Mezanaz Transit/Reception Centre during the reporting period:



Endnotes

¹ For more information on the use of transit/reception centres as part of formal responses to displaced populations see: CCCM, [Iraq IDP Site Typologies & Duties and Responsibilities](#), no date; UNHCR, [The 10 Point Plan in Action Chapter 4: Reception Arrangements](#), 2016.

² REACH, [Situation Overview: Idlib Governorate and Surrounding Areas](#), May 2018; REACH, [Situation Overview: Idlib Governorate and Surrounding Areas](#), August 2018.

³ CCCM/REACH, [ISMI Quarterly Trends Analysis](#), January - March 2018; OHCHR, [Monthly Human Rights Digest | Syria](#), December 2017; BBC, ['Syria war: Assault on rebel stronghold of Idlib' displaces 100,000'](#), 10 January 2018; UNHCR, [Syria: Flash Update on Recent Events](#), 18 January 2018; CCCM/REACH, [ISMI Monthly Displacement Summary](#), January 2018.

⁴ CCCM/REACH, [Idlib and surrounding areas: Population Movement Intentions Overview](#), August – September 2018; CCCM/REACH, [ISMI Monthly Displacement Summary](#), August 2018; September 2018; Reuters, ['Syrian army urges people in Idlib to agree return of state rule'](#), 9 August 2018; Al Jazeera, ['UN renews warning against government offensive in Syria's Idlib'](#), 31 August 2018; IRIN News, ['Idlib briefing: "Humanitarian catastrophe" feared as Syria war reaches final rebel stronghold'](#), 3 September 2018; France 24, ['UN fears 800,000 could be displaced in Syria's rebel-held Idlib'](#), 29 August 2018.

⁵ UNOCHA, [Turkey | Syria: Recent Developments in North-western Syria](#), 28 September 2017; CCCM/REACH, [Humanitarian Situation Overview: Northern Hama, Multi-Sectoral Trends Analysis](#), June - November 2017.

⁶ UNOCHA, [Flash Update No.3: Syria Crisis - East Ghouta](#), 21 March 2018; UNOCHA, [Turkey | Syria: Situation in North-western Syria Report No.1](#), 29 March 2018; CCCM/REACH, [ISMI Rapid Assessment of Evacuations from Eastern Ghouta to North-west Syria](#), 25-31 March 2018; CCCM/REACH, [ISMI Rapid Assessment of Evacuations from Eastern Ghouta to North-West Syria](#), 1-14 April 2018.

⁷ UNOCHA, [Turkey | Syria: Situation in North-western Syria Report No.4](#), 8 May 2018; UNHCR, [Syria: Flash Update on Recent Events](#), 9 May 2018; UNHCR, [Syria: Flash Update on Recent Events](#), 24 May 2018; CCCM/REACH, [ISMI Monthly Displacement Summary](#), May 2018.

⁸ UNOCHA, [Syrian Arab Republic: Dar'a, Qunaitra, Sweida Situation Report No.5](#), 2 August 2018; UNHCR, [Flash Update on Recent Events](#), 9 August 2018; CCCM/REACH, [ISMI Monthly Displacement Summary](#), August 2018.

⁹ United Nations, ['Secretary-General Praises Agreement on Buffer Zone in Idlib, Syria, Urging Parties to Ensure Safe Humanitarian Access'](#), 18 September 2018; Al Jazeera, ['Russia, Turkey agree on borders of demilitarised zone in Idlib'](#), 22 September 2018; United Nations News, ['More time' agreed for buffer zone, to spare three million Syrian civilians in Idlib'](#), 18 October 2018.

¹⁰ CCCM/REACH, ISMI Monthly Displacement Summary, [September 2018](#); [October 2018](#); CCCM/REACH, [ISMI Quarterly Trends Analysis](#), July - September 2018.

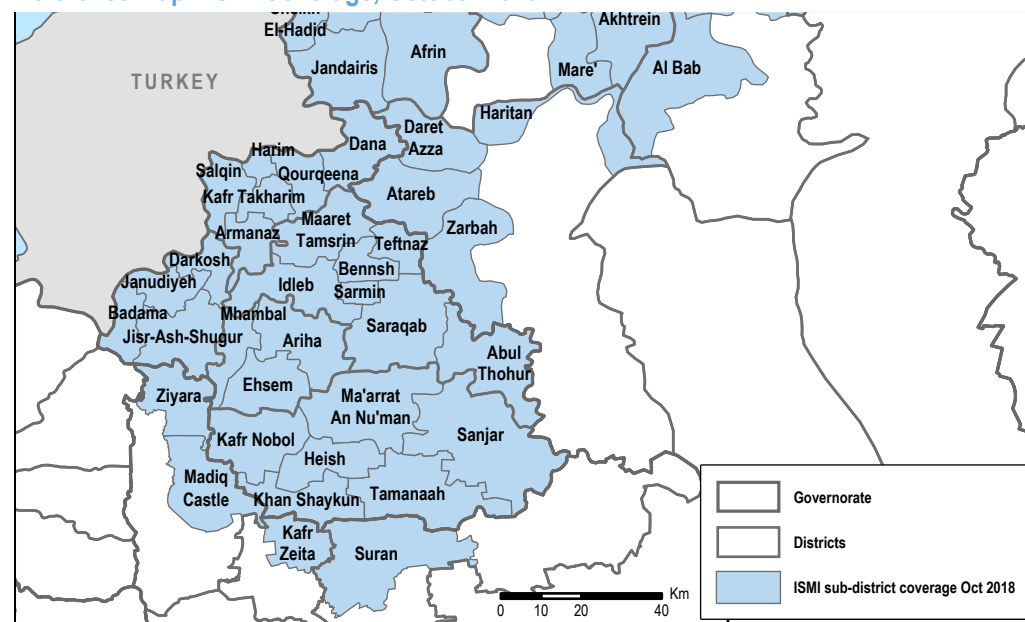
¹¹ Last place of departure information for 2,033 IDP arrivals was reported jointly for Dar'a/Quneitra governorates, likely as a result of the movement patterns and high concentrations in which people were evacuated from these areas. As such, analysis on last places of departure for this section has combined the two governorates.

¹² Data on the number of departures was only available for Maaret Elekhwan Transit/Reception Centre between 1 June and 30 September 2018.

¹³ Discrepancies between the total number of arrivals and departures reported in Azaz Transit/Reception Centre are the result of it only being formerly administered by a CCCM member after 24 November 2017, with some IDPs having already arrived to the centre before this date.

¹⁴ Intended destinations of IDP departures may not reflect their final, but only immediate destinations, as expected by the member agency staff administering the centres.

Reference Map - ISMI Coverage, October 2018



¹⁵ UNICEF, [Syria Crisis Humanitarian Situation Report](#), May 2018; Al Jazeera, ['Estimated 60 percent of Yarmouk destroyed amid violence: Group'](#), 27 April 2018.

¹⁶ UNOCHA, [Turkey | Syria: Latest Developments in North-western Syria](#), 13 March 2018; UNOCHA, [Turkey | Syria: Latest Developments in Afrin District](#), 19 March 2018.

¹⁷ In order to provide more clarity, only the top five districts are listed, while the remaining are aggregated to visualise the remaining IDP movements.

¹⁸ Al Bab Transit/Reception Centre was closed in June 2018 when the last IDP departed from the centre, many of whom likely moved to other communities within the region or returned to their communities of origin.

¹⁹ CCCM, [IDP Sites Integrated Monitoring Matrix \(ISIMM\)](#), October 2019.

About ISMI

The IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI) is an initiative of the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, implemented by REACH and supported by cluster members. Following a baseline assessment conducted at the end of 2016, weekly, bi-weekly, and now monthly data collection cycles were initiated. Displacements are identified through an extensive key informant (KI) network. At least two KIs are interviewed in each community, and collected information is further triangulated through other sources, including CCCM member data and humanitarian updates. Data is collected at the community level to ensure that the area for which KIs are providing information corresponds directly to their actual area of knowledge. Due to differences in methodology and coverage, figures presented in this output may differ from official CCCM Cluster or UNHCR data. All data is for humanitarian use only.

Services Overview: November 2018

	Al Bab Transit/Reception Centre	Azaz Transit/Reception Centre	Maaret Elekhwani Transit/Reception Centre	Mezanaz Transit/Reception Centre
Shelter type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 rub halls (21x10 metres) each housing 80 IDPs. • 1 rub hall (21x10 metres) used as a dining hall. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 rub halls (21x10 metres) each housing 80 IDPs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 rub halls (21x10 metres) each housing 80 IDPs. • 1 rub hall (21x10 metres) used as a dining hall. • 1 rub hall (21x10 metres) used for storage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31 rub halls (21x10 metres) each housing 80 IDPs.
Non-food items (NFIs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mattresses. • Pillows. • Blankets. • Mats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mattresses. • Pillows. • Blankets. • Mats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mattresses. • Pillows. • Blankets. • Mats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mattresses. • Pillows. • Blankets. • Mats.
Food provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One cooked meal per IDP per day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two cooked meals per IDP per day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two cooked meals per IDP per day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two cooked meals per IDP per day.
Healthcare services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided 3 times a week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical centre is available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided 3 times a week.
Education facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 tented school is available.
Protection services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender-based violence interventions. • Psychological social support. • Child protection activities. • Child friendly space. • Communal social area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender-based violence interventions. • Psychological social support. • Child protection activities. • Child friendly space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender-based violence interventions. • Psychological social support. • Child protection activities. • Risk education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender-based violence interventions. • Psychological social support. • Child protection activities. • Child friendly space.
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 (2,000 litres) water tanks. • 25 litres of water per IDP per day. • 17 latrine and shower blocks. • Solar lighting. • Desludging services. • Laundry room under construction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 (2,000 litres) water tanks. • 25 litres of water per IDP per day. • 6 latrine and shower blocks. • Solar lighting. • Laundry room with 2 large and 2 small washing machines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 (2,000 litres) water tanks. • 5 (1,000 litres) water tanks. • 35 litres of water per IDP per day. • 7 latrine and 5 shower blocks. • Electric lighting. • Laundry room with 2 large and 2 small washing machines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 (2,000 litres) water tanks. • 25 litres of water per IDP per day. • 6 latrine and shower blocks. • Solar lighting. • Laundry room with 2 large and 2 small washing machines.