

Rapid Displacement Overview: Displacement from Syria

Al Walid, Sahila and Kalhi Villages, Dohuk Governorate, Iraq

Update: as of 16 December 2019

Background and Methodology

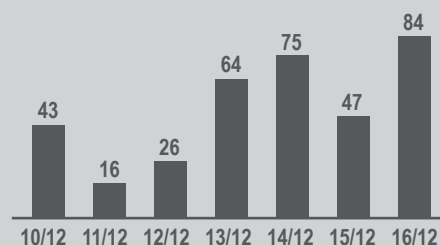
Due to the worsening security situation inside Syria, REACH Initiative (REACH) is conducting rapid assessments to monitor the influx and needs of Syrian refugees recently displaced to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). In order to inform and provide an evidence-base for humanitarian planning, the REACH Iraq team launched data collection close to the Syrian border, to capture the demographics, needs and displacement history of those crossing from Syria into the areas surrounding Al Walid, Sahila and Kalhi villages in the KR-I. To gather this information, REACH conducted Key Informant (KI) interviews, with one nominated KI per travel group responding on behalf of the travel group.

This 18th output reflects data collected in Sahila on between 10-13 and 15-16 December 2019. In total, 47 KIs were interviewed on behalf of their travel groups (280 displaced individuals). As data is collected through KIs and only on specific days, results should be considered indicative and are not statistically representative.

Displacement Figures

Total number of registered refugees arriving to assessed area since 9 October: **18,223**.¹

Total reported daily numbers of individuals arriving to screening points:¹



Location Map



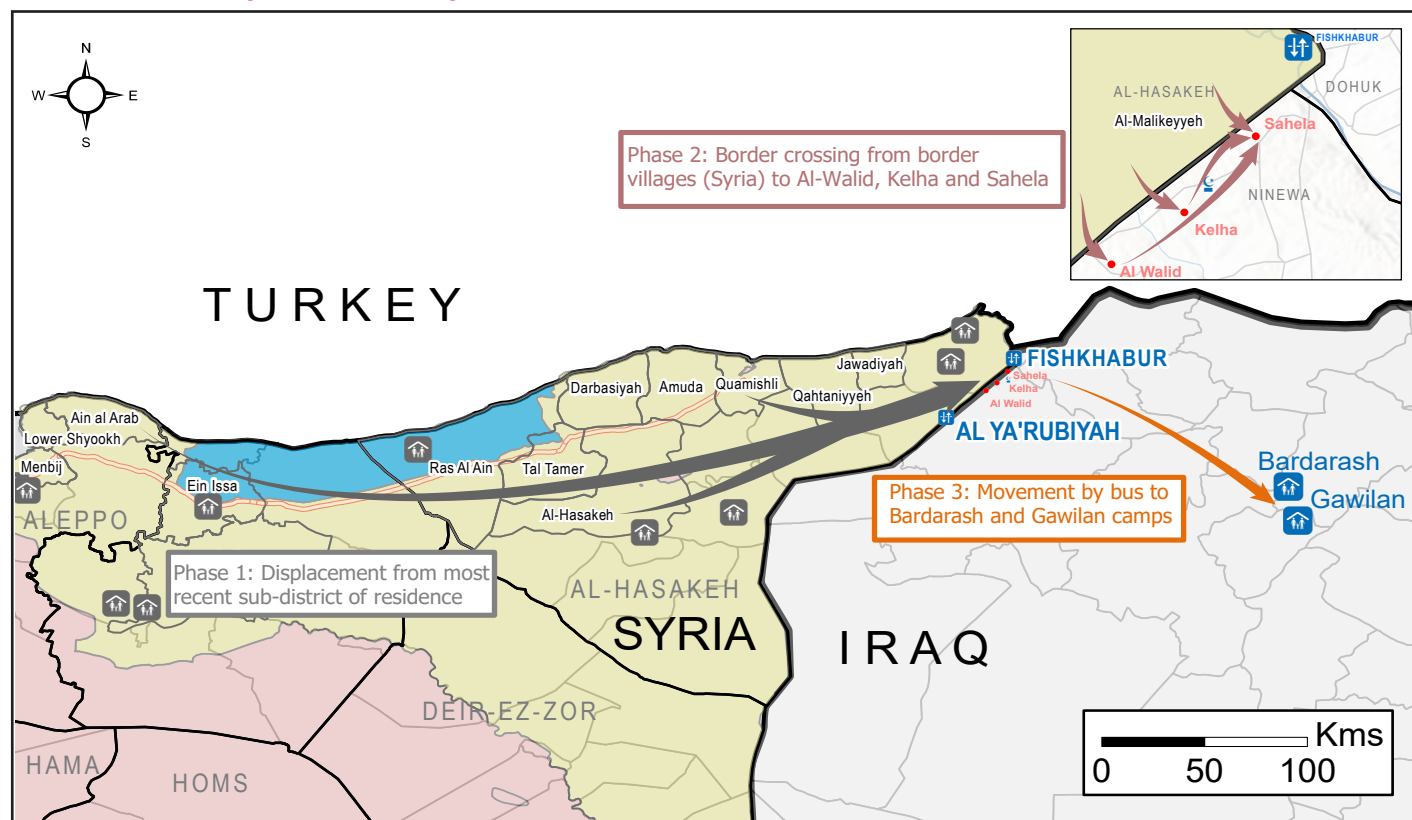
*The findings in this factsheet do not include travel groups who arrived on 14 December, as no interviews were conducted on that day.

Situation Overview

Since the outbreak of conflict on 9 October 2019, residents of Northeast Syria (NES) are experiencing a new humanitarian crisis, resulting in massive displacement from the region, both internally and, to a lesser extent, towards the KR-I. As of 19 November, the UN estimated that nearly 75,438 people² remain displaced, while UNHCR reported 18,223 refugees¹ crossing into the KR-I between 9 October and 16 December. Days after a ceasefire agreement was reached on 17 October,³ a sharp decrease in daily refugee arrivals was observed. New refugee arrivals have been screened between the villages of Al Walid, Sahila and Kalhi in the KR-I, and have then been moved to Bardarash and Gawilan camps for registration.

There were on average 51 new arrivals per day over the last week, which is a slight decrease compared to previous weeks. Numbers have been fluctuating on a daily basis, which may in part be due to adverse weather conditions. In this update, the most commonly reported recent districts of residence in Syria were Ain Al-Arab and Qamishli. This is similar to previous rounds. Furthermore, travelling by foot remained the primary mode of transportation, and was reported by 81% of KIs. Most groups were able to complete the journey to the border in a day, though 41% reported having travelled for several days. For most travel groups, lack of water, lack of food and challenges of travelling with children and elderly were reported as the most commonly encountered difficulties on the journey. Similar to former updates, KIs reported that the arrival of armed groups and airstrikes were the most common push factors to leave their place of residence in Syria.

Patterns of Displacement Map



¹ Based on information received from UNHCR

² OCHA. Syria Flash Update #12, Humanitarian impact of the military operation in north-eastern Syria, 1-19 November 2019

³ OCHA. Syria Flash Update #7, Humanitarian impact of the military operation in north-eastern Syria, 16-18 October 2019



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

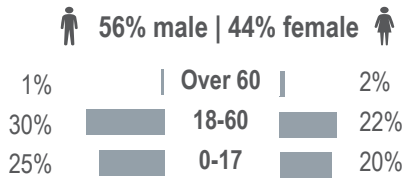
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Demographics

Demographics of the Displaced Groups

6 Average size of travel groups as indicated by KIs.

Demographic breakdown by age and gender as reported by KIs:



Vulnerable Groups

Proportion of travel group members identified as vulnerable as indicated by KIs:

- 9% of children were unaccompanied or separated.
- 1% of travel group members were physically disabled.
- 23% of women were pregnant or lactating.

Population Left Behind

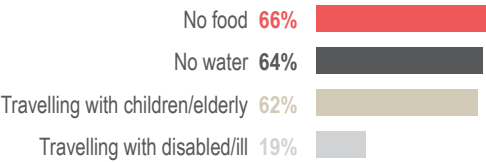
94% of KIs reported that within their travel group at least one member had left at least one family member behind in their previous residence.

Displacement

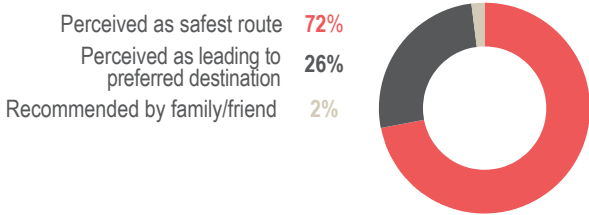
All KIs reported that travel groups had to pay someone to cross from Syria, as was reported in previous updates. Travel groups reportedly paid on average 155 USD per person (929 USD per group), which is lower than former updates. Most KIs reported no food (66%), no water (64%) and challenges of travelling with children and elderly group members (62%) as difficulties experienced on the journey. The majority of groups were able to complete the journey in a day, though 41% reported having travelled for several days.

Displacement Routes

Most commonly reported difficulties experienced on the journey, according to KIs⁴:



Reported reasons for choice of displacement route, according to KIs:



Most commonly reported primary modes of transport travel groups used to crossing point from most recent residence location, according to KIs:

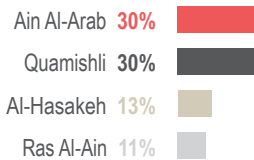


Secondary Displacement

30% of KIs reported that the majority of their travel group members were living in displacement in their previous residence.

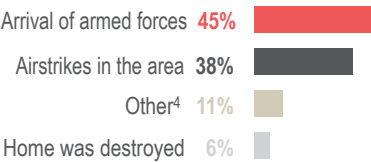
Previous Location in Syria

Most commonly reported districts of most recent residence in Syria:



Push Factors

Most commonly reported reasons for displacement from Syria:



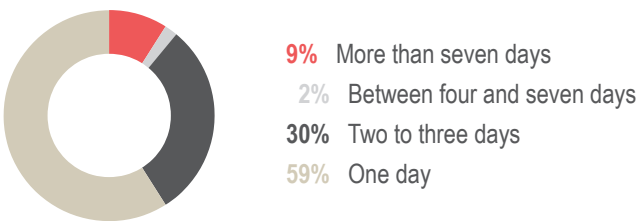
Duration of Displacement Stages

32% of KIs reported less than 6 hours between the decision to leave their most recent location of residence and departing.

31% of KIs reported a waiting time of more than eight hours at crossing point from Syria to KR-I.

2% of KIs reported having spent more than eight hours at screening point in the villages of Al-Walid, Sahila and Kalhi in KR-I.

Time since leaving previous residence:



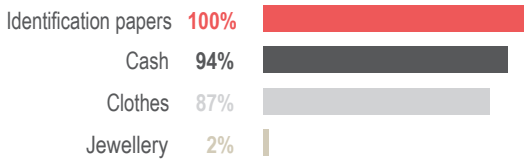
⁴“Other” included fear of conscription and the lack of economic opportunities in the area of most recent residence.

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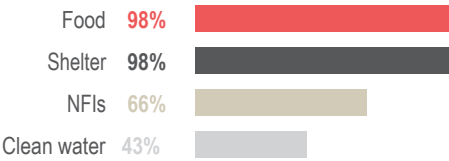
Needs and Assistance

Humanitarian Needs

Most commonly reported items brought by the majority of travel group members, according to KIs⁵:



Four most commonly reported priority needs, according to KIs⁵:



37% of group members did not carry any form of identification papers, as indicated by KIs^{6,7}.

Movement Intentions

Movement Intentions

After refugees transitioned through screening points, they were transported to Bardarash and Gawilan camps for registration. When asked about movement intentions of travel groups in the two days following data collection, all KIs reported not having any other choice than staying in camps.

Just under half (44%) reported having no intentions to move further in the two weeks following the interview, while 28% reportedly wanted to join family or friends in KR-I and the remaining 28% were unsure about their intentions.

Most commonly reported movement intentions of travel groups in the two weeks following date of interview, according to KIs⁸:

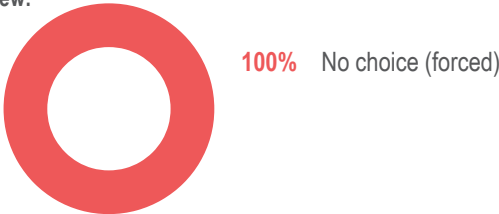


6% of KIs indicated that at least one member of their group intends to return back to Syria in the two weeks following date of interview.

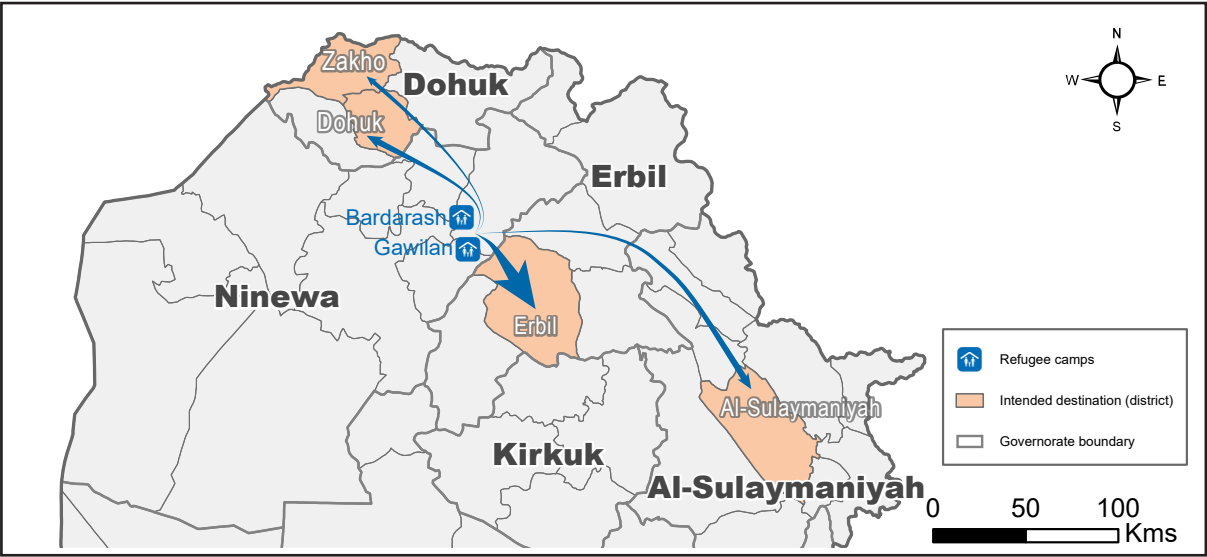
Most commonly reported movement intentions of travel groups in the two days following date of interview, according to KIs:



Main reasons reported by KIs for intentions in the two days following date of interview:



Movement Intentions Map



⁵KIs could select multiple needs or reasons. Therefore, results may exceed 100%.
⁶While all KIs reported that the majority of their travel group members were able to bring identification papers with them, 30% of group members did reportedly not carry any form of identification papers with them.
⁷The most commonly reported reason for travel group members to not bring identification papers was that they were too young to have individual personal identification documents.
⁸Movement intentions of travel groups in the next two weeks were only asked to respondents who had indicated that they intended to move to a camp or options other than joining family and friends in KR-I or Dohuk in the next two days.