

Rapid Displacement Overview: Displacement from Syria

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

Update: as of 23 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 19th output reflects data collected in Sahila between 17-20 and 22-23 December 2019. In total, 64 KIs were interviewed on behalf of their travel groups (345 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: **18,602**.¹

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



Location Map



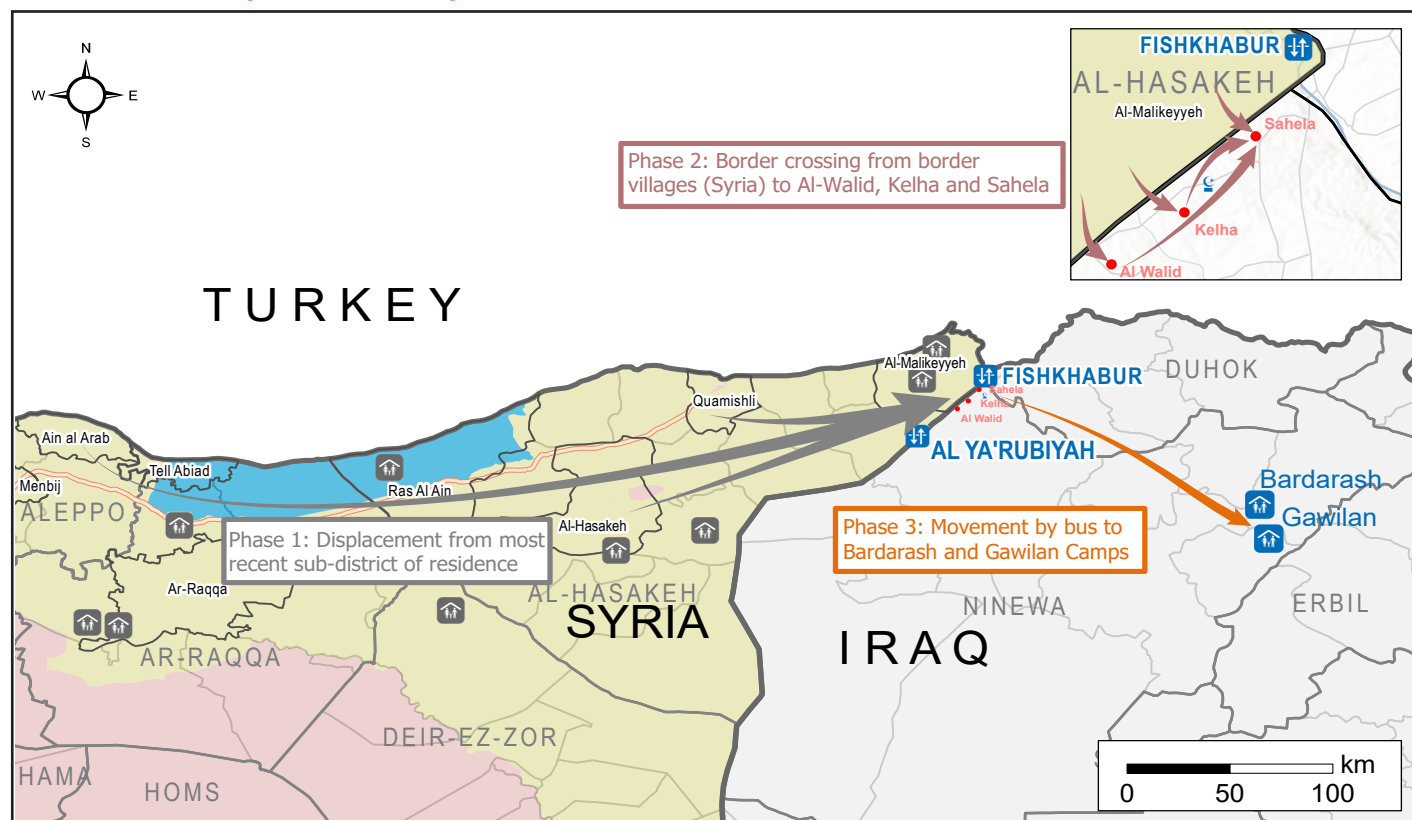
*The findings in this factsheet do not include travel groups who arrived on 21 December, as no interviews were conducted on that day.

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 18,602 refugees¹ crossing into the KR-I between 9 October and 23 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.

The number of arrivals was similar to recent rounds, with an average of 54 new arrivals per day over the last week. Male arrivals (60%) continue to outnumber female arrivals (40%) as has consistently been the case since early November. In this update, the most commonly reported recent places of residence in Syria were Ain Al-Arab, Quamishli and Al-Hasakeh. Furthermore, travelling by foot remained the primary mode of transportation and was reported by 81% of KIs. Most travel groups were able to complete the journey to the border in a day, though 44% reported having to travel for several days. For almost all travel groups, lack of water and food were reported as the most commonly encountered difficulties on the journey. Airstrikes remained the most common push factor to leave their place of residence in Syria, though in recent weeks reasons have diversified compared to previously to include the destruction of homes, lack of livelihood opportunities, the arrival of armed actors and fear of conscription.

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

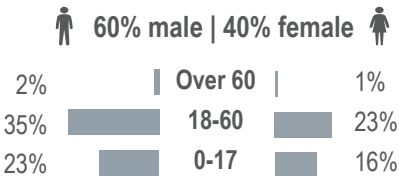
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Demographics

Demographics of the Displaced Groups

5 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:

- 6%** of children were unaccompanied or separated.
- 1%** of travel group members were physically disabled.
- 30%** of women were pregnant or lactating.

Population Left Behind

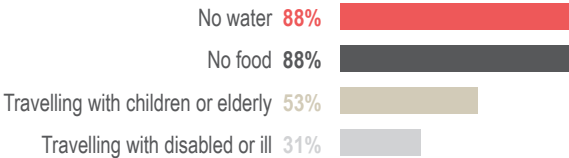
88% of KIs reported that within their travel group at least one member had left at least one family member behind in their previous residence.

Displacement

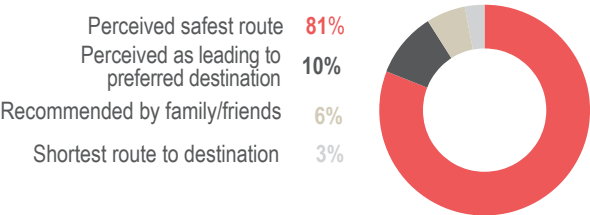
All KIs except one reported that travel groups had to pay someone to cross from Syria. Travel groups reportedly paid on average 164 USD per person (887 USD per group), which is similar to former updates. Most KIs reported no water (88%) and no food (88%) as difficulties experienced on the journey. Most travel groups were able to complete the journey to the border in a day, though 44% reported having to travel 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:

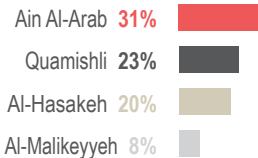


Secondary Displacement

22% 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:



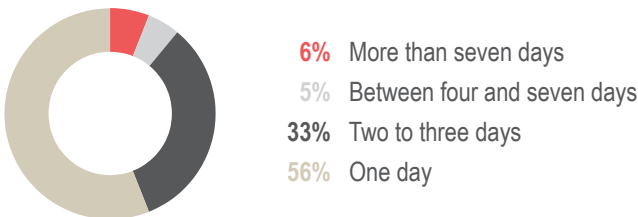
Duration of Displacement Stages

19% of KIs reported less than six hours between the decision to leave their most recent location of residence and departing.

24% 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:

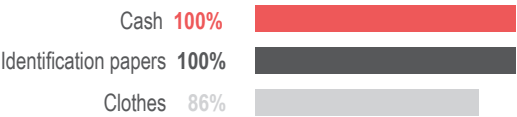


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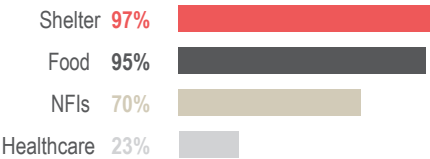
Needs and Assistance

Humanitarian Needs

Most commonly reported items brought by the majority of travel group members, according to KIs⁴:



Four most commonly reported priority needs, according to KIs⁴:



34% of group members did not carry any form of identification papers, as indicated by KIs^{5,6}.

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.

About half (47%) reported having no intentions to move further from the camp in the two weeks following the interview, while 36% reported wanting to join family and friends in KR-I. The remaining 17% were unsure about their intentions for the two-week timeframe.

Most commonly reported movement intentions of travel groups in the two weeks following date of interview, according to KIs⁷:

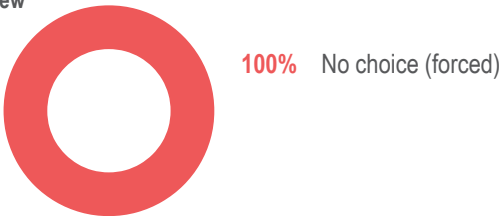


3% of KIs indicated that at least one member of their group intends to return back to Syria in the two weeks following date of interview.

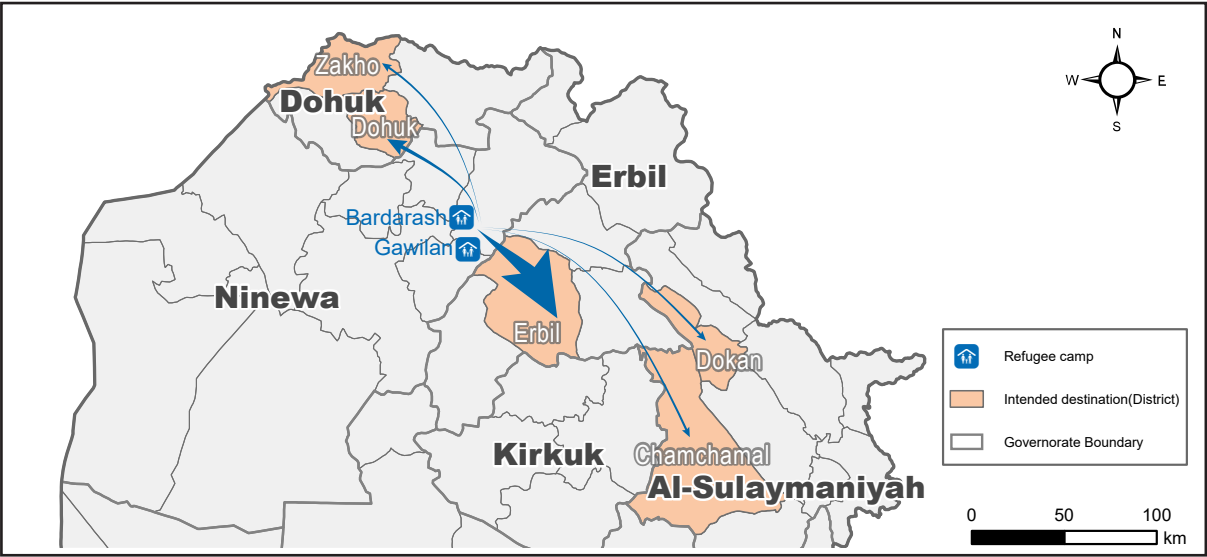
Most commonly reported movement intentions of travel groups in the two days following date of interview, according to KIs:



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



Movement Intentions Map



⁴KIs could select multiple needs or reasons. Therefore, results may exceed 100%.
⁵While 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.
⁶The 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.
⁷Movement 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.