

Rapid Displacement Overview: Displacement from Syria

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

Update: as of 24 October 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 fourth output reflects data collected in Al Walid and Sahila on 22, 23 and 24 October 2019. In total, 147 KIs were interviewed on behalf of their travel groups (3,037 displaced individuals). As data is collected through KIs, results should be considered indicative and are not therefore statistically representative.

Displacement Figures

Total number of registered refugees arriving to assessed area since 9 October 2019: **8,428**.¹

By date of arrival:

22 October: 1,692

23 October: 1,209

24 October: 1,735

Key findings	Change since last update*	% change
Top priority need: shelter	▼	-6%
Top priority need: food	▲	+13%
Top priority need: healthcare	▼	-12%
Top priority need: drinking water	▲	+29%
Intend to stay in camps in the next 2 weeks	►	-2%
Have no identification papers (% of individuals)	▼	-22%

Location Map



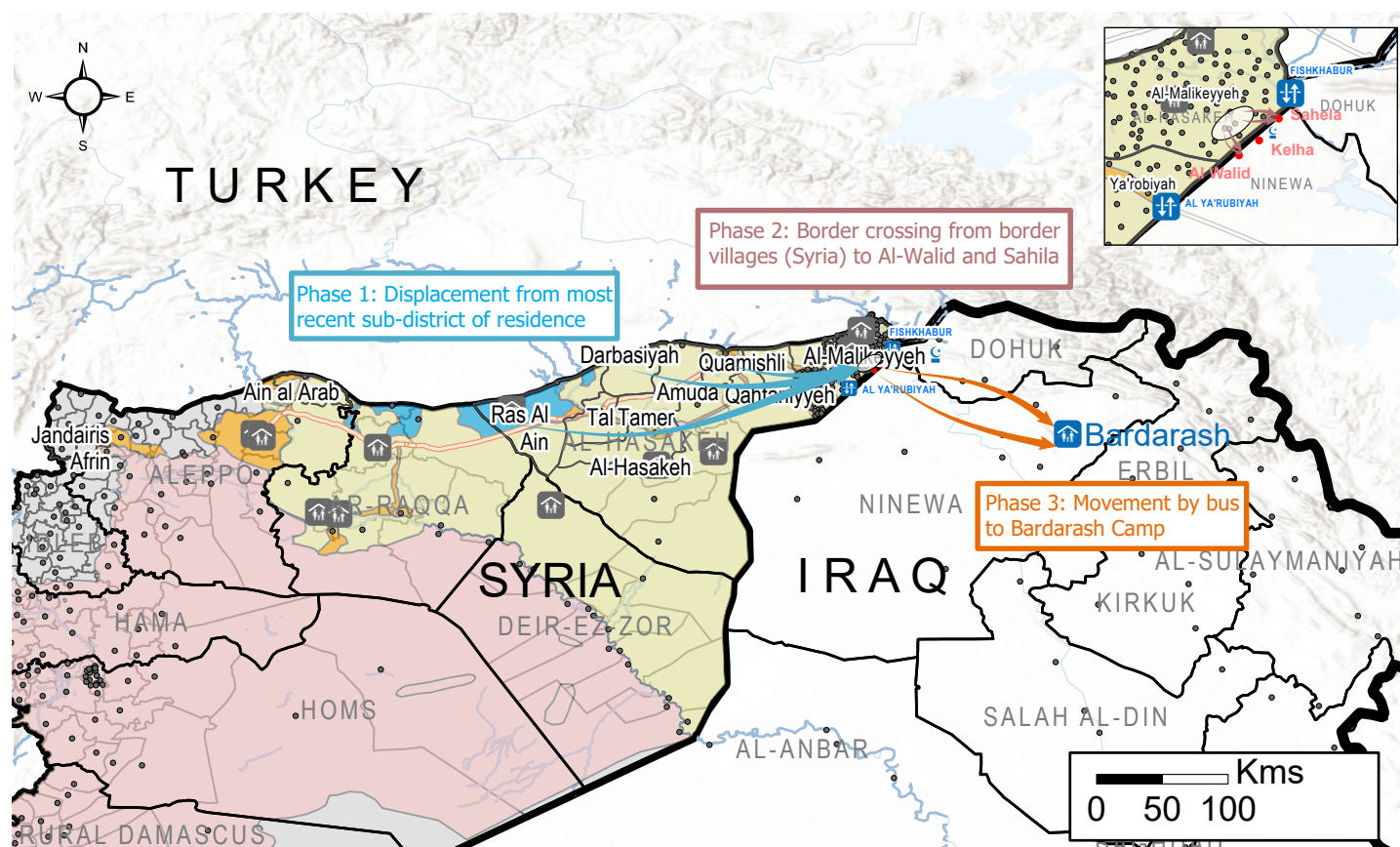
* A percent change of +/- 1-5% is considered as 'no change'

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 24 October, the UN estimates that near 180,000 people² have been displaced, with 8,428¹ refugees crossing the border into the KR-I. Despite the ceasefire agreement reached on 17 October,³ displacement has continued.

Compared to the 19 October update, the number of arrivals has doubled from an average of 731 new arrivals per day to an average of 1,545 per day. These populations are still predominantly originating from Ras al-Ain and Qamishli sub-districts, although some have come from as far as Ain-al-Arab. They have followed broadly similar displacement routes, stopping along the way in Al-Hasakeh, Qamishli and Al-Malikeyyeh sub-districts, as these routes are reportedly perceived as safe. As of 24 October 2019, 8,428 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 camp for registration. The number of refugees entering the KR-I appears to be increasing despite the relative de-escalation of conflict since 17 October; an understanding of displacement trends, future movement intentions and immediate needs remains critical.

Patterns of Displacement Map



¹ Based on the information received from UNHCR and IOM.

² OCHA. Northeast Syria – As half a million people gradually regain access to safe water – the number of displaced people nears 180,000. 22 October 2019

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

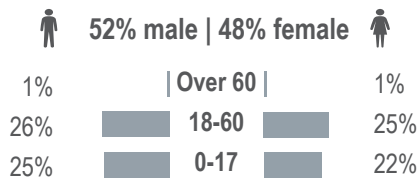
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Demographics

Demographics of the Displaced Groups

21 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:

- 2% of children were unaccompanied or separated.
- 1% of travel group members were physically disabled.
- 16% of women were pregnant or lactating.

Population Left Behind

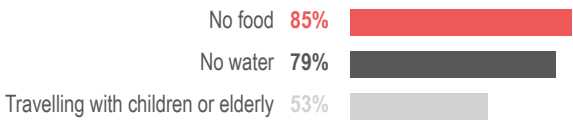
90% of KIs reported that within their travel group at least one member had left at least one family member behind in their previous residence.

Displacement

The near totality of KIs (95%) reported that travel groups had to pay someone to cross from Syria, an increase compared to previous updates. Travel groups reportedly paid on average 3,140 USD per group (with a median of 2,450 USD). This is nearly twice the average price reported in the 19 October update; however, average group size also was more than twice the average size reported then. Once in the KR-I, waiting times at screening points were reportedly between 8 and 24 hours for 85% of travel groups, similar to what was reported in previous updates.

Displacement Routes

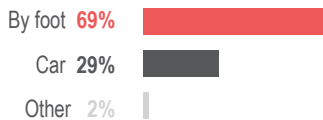
Most commonly reported difficulties experienced on the journey, according to KIs*:



Three most commonly 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:

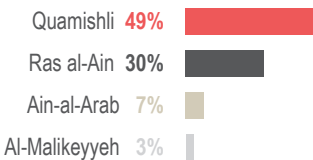


Secondary Displacement

45% 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:



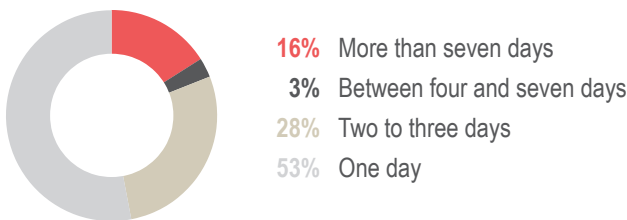
Duration of Displacement Stages

20% of KIs reported less than 6 hours between the decision to leave their most recent location of residence and departing.

37% of KIs reported a waiting time of more than eight hours at crossing point from Syria to KR-I.

41% 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:

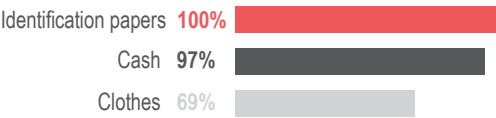


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Needs and Assistance

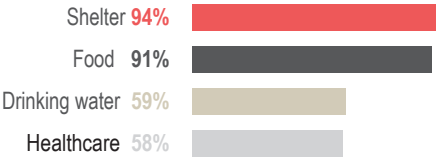
Humanitarian Needs

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



28% of group members did not carry any form of identification papers, as indicated by KIs.

Four most commonly reported priority needs, according to KIs*:

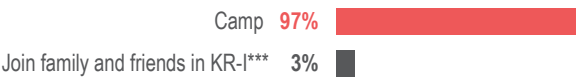


Movement Intentions

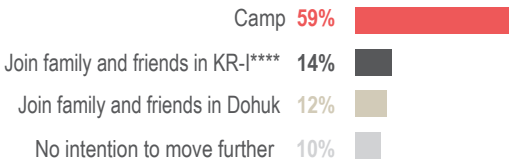
Movement Intentions

After refugees transition through screening points, they are transported to Bardarash camp for registration. More than half of KIs reported that travel group members intended to remain in camps in the following two weeks (57% overall), similarly to what was reported in previous updates. Travel group members intending to remain in camps, reportedly had no other choice. Camp preparedness and basic services provision remain critical priorities over the coming weeks. KIs reported that, among travel group members not intending to remain in camps, a majority were planning to move to Erbil, Dohuk, Sumail and Rania districts.

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

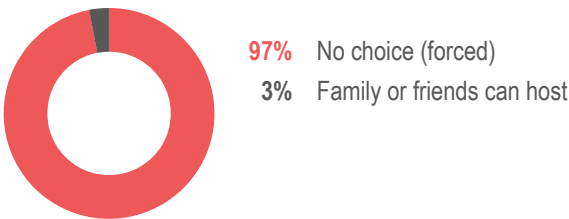


Most commonly reported movement intentions of travel groups in the two weeks following date of interview, according to KIs**:

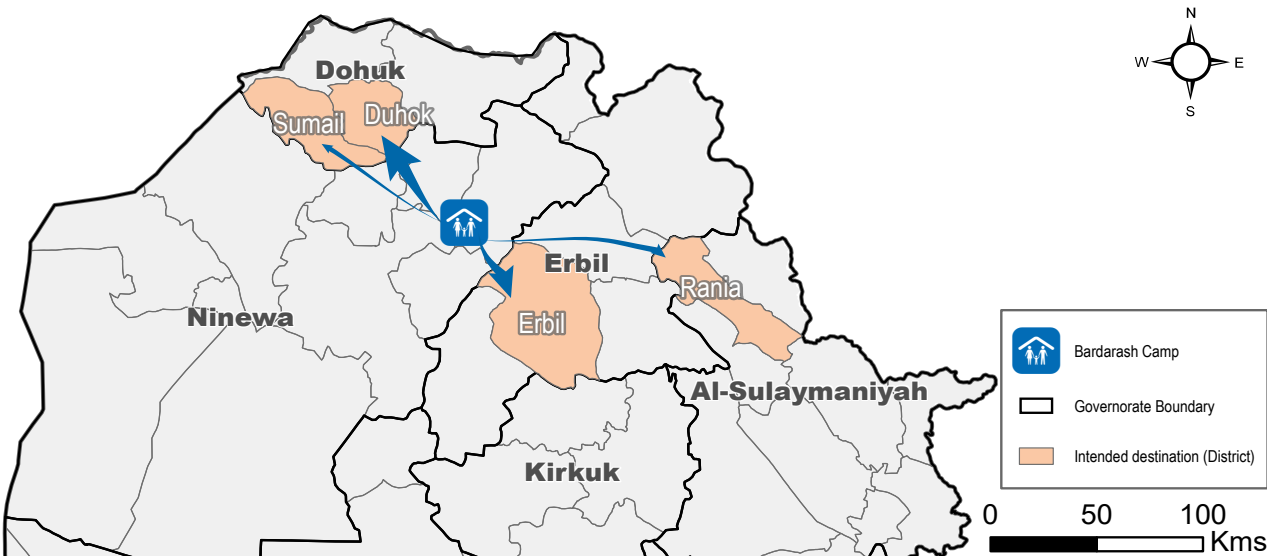


1% of KIs indicated that at least one member of their group intends to return back to Syria in the two weeks following date of interview.

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



Movement Intentions Map



* KIs could select multiple needs or reasons. Therefore, results may exceed 100%.

** Movement 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.

*** No intention to move further is based on the reported intentions in the two weeks following data collection.

**** This response option covers locations in the KR-I other than those in Dohuk governorate (i.e. locations within Erbil or Sulaymaniyah governorates)