

Situation Update: Emergency Displacements in Northwest Syria

3-17 October 2023
Greater Idlib

KEY MESSAGES

Between 3-17 October 2023, as reported by key informants (KIs):

- **Departures: 84,093 individuals departed from 58 assessed communities, of whom 59,533 went back (71%) to those communities in the same period**
- **Arrivals: 55,157 individuals arrived in 135 assessed communities, of whom 11,981 went back to their previous communities in the same period**
- IDPs in **49%** of assessed locations of arrivals are **expected to go back to their previous location** in a foreseeable future

78% of IDPs who arrived in assessed locations were still displaced as of 17 October

Main sub-districts of departures

(in % of IDPs who left each sub-district)

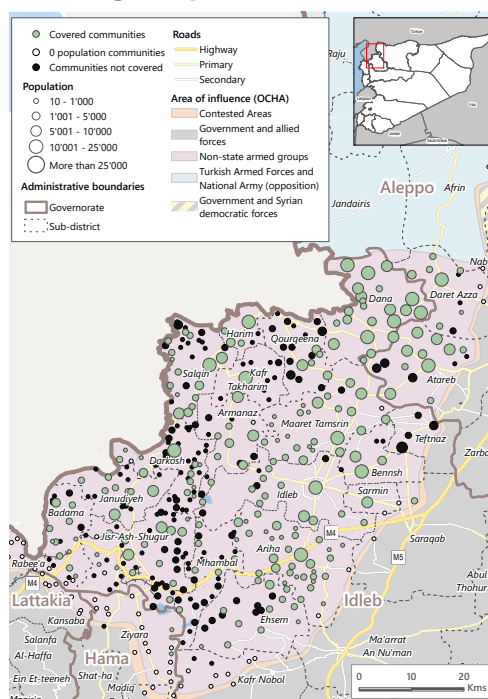
Ariha	29%	■
Sarmin	26%	■
Daret Azza	18%	■

Main sub-districts of arrivals

(in % of IDPs who arrived in each sub-district)

Dana	24%	■
Armanaz	13%	■
Maaret Tamsrin	12%	■

Coverage map



CONTEXT & RATIONALE

Since 5 October 2023, tensions have escalated in Idlib in Northwest Syria (NWS) and led to the largest outburst of violence in NWS since 2019. The subsequent airstrikes and shelling have resulted in deaths and injuries of civilians and led to massive displacements across the Greater Idlib region.¹

As of 13 October, at least 53 people including 15 children were reportedly killed, and local authorities reported 303 injured.²

In this context, this factsheet presents updates on displacement flows and dynamics in 215 communities across Greater Idlib.

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

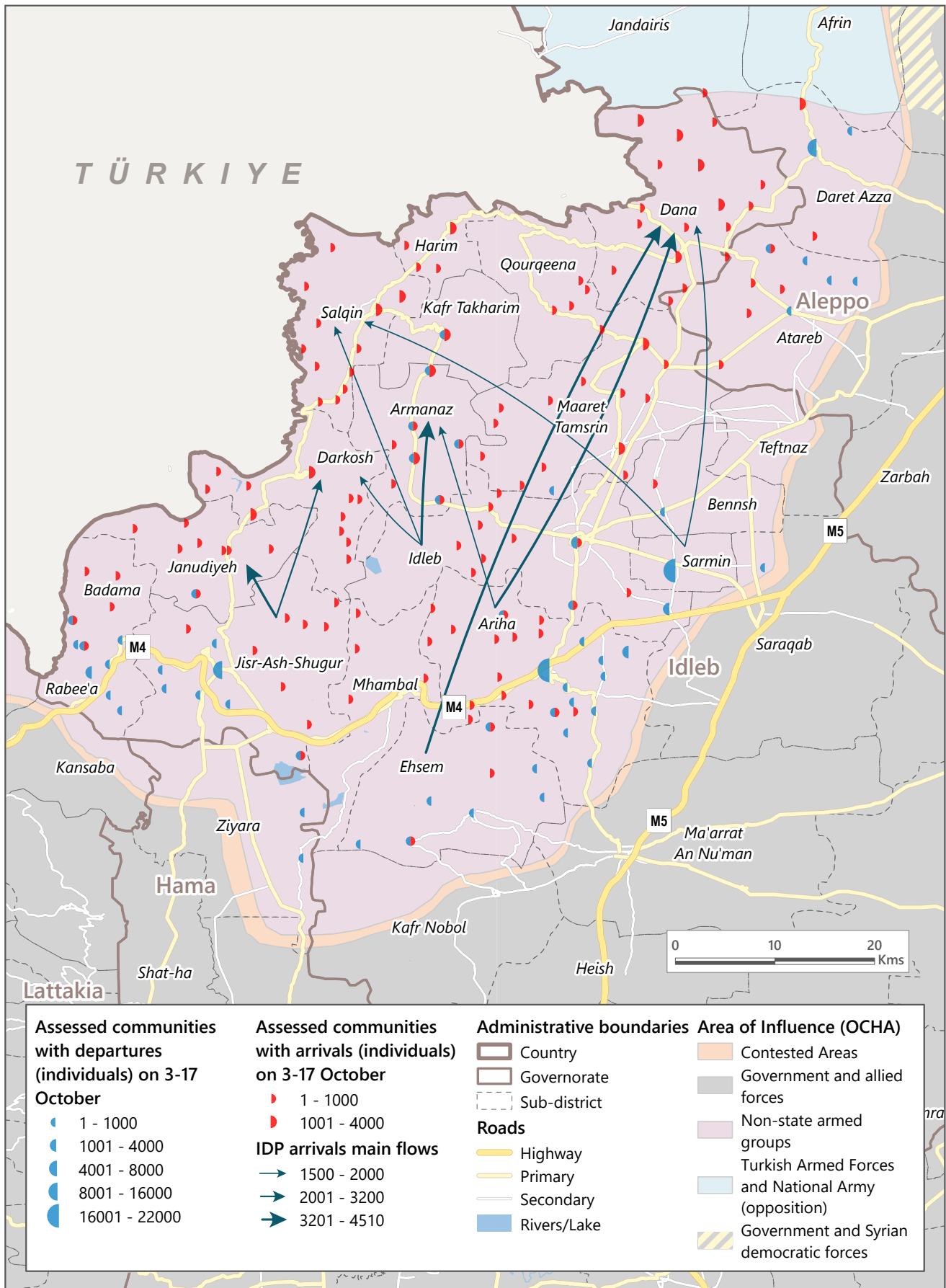
This flash update aims to improve knowledge on displacements that resulted from the hostilities in Northwest Syria, with a view to swiftly adapt the response accordingly.

METHODOLOGY:

This factsheet presents findings from a dedicated Rapid Displacement Tracking data collection on 17 and 18 October 2023. On these days, REACH conducted surveys remotely with key informants in 215 affected communities across Greater Idlib.

The data collected as part of this process focuses on the main displacement flows in communities across Greater Idlib. It includes movements of IDPs back to their previous locations, as well as needs of affected populations. For information on the methodology, please see page 7.

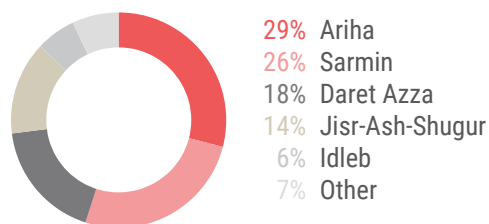
Arrival flows in Greater Idlib between 3 and 17 October



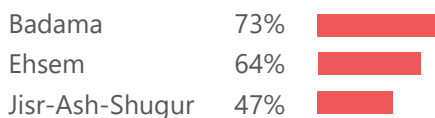
IDP Departures

Main sub-districts of departures

(most common sub-districts where IDP departures were reported, by % of all IDP departure)



(sub-districts where departures were most frequent, by % of assessed communities where KIs reported departures, in sub-districts with more than 10 assessed communities)



Key Findings

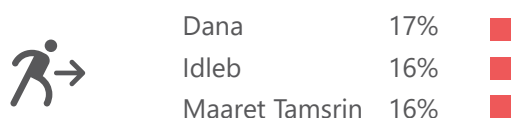
KIs estimated **84,093 departures** from 58 assessed communities, including:

- 24,177 in the Ariha sub-district
- 22,000 in the Sarmin sub-district
- 15,162 in the Darret Azza sub-district

84,093 Individuals departed from assessed locations between 3 and 17 October

Most common sub-districts of destination

(by % of KIs in locations of departures who reported each sub-district as a common destination)

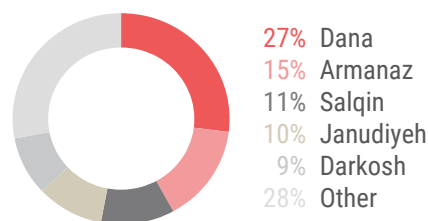


IDP Arrivals

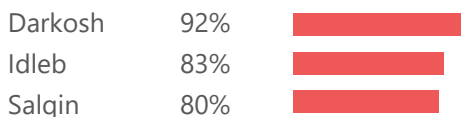
55,157 Individuals arrived to assessed locations between 3 and 17 October

Main sub-districts of arrivals

(most common sub-districts where IDP arrivals were reported, by % of all IDP arrivals)

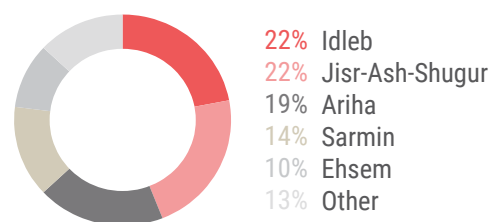


(sub-districts where arrivals were most frequent, by % of assessed communities where KIs reported arrivals, in sub-districts with more than 10 assessed communities)



Main sub-districts of origin

(most common sub-districts from where IDPs arrived, by % of IDP arrivals)



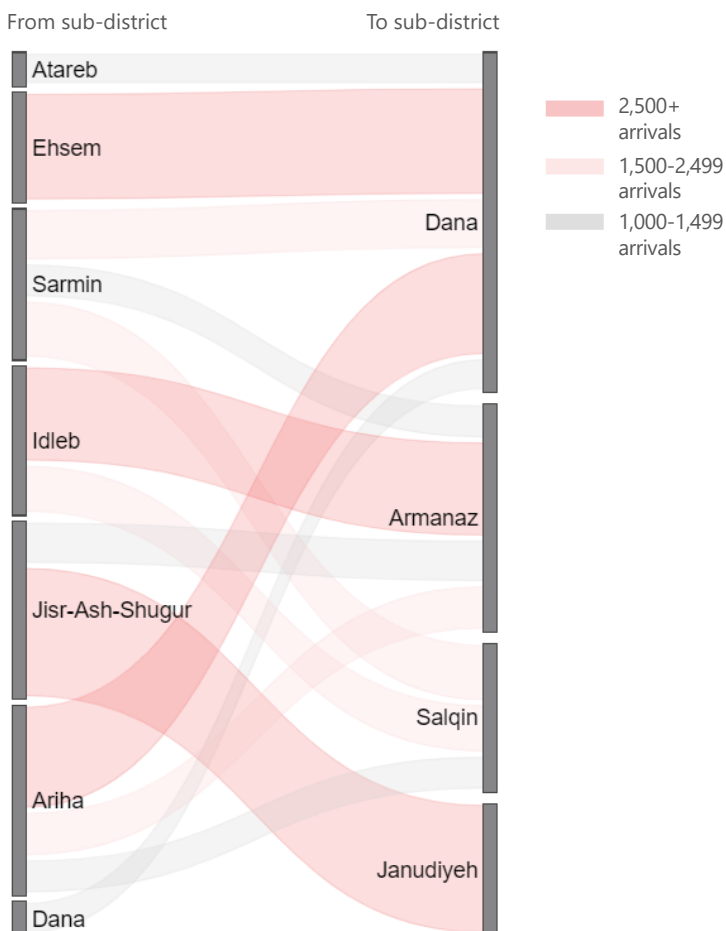
Key Findings

KIs estimated **55,157 arrivals** in 135 assessed communities, including:

- 13,409 in the Dana sub-district
- 7,410 in the Armanaz sub-district
- 6,814 in the Maaret Tamsrin sub-district

Main flows of IDP arrivals

(by numbers of IDP individuals who arrived to the top 4 sub-districts of arrivals between 3-17 October)

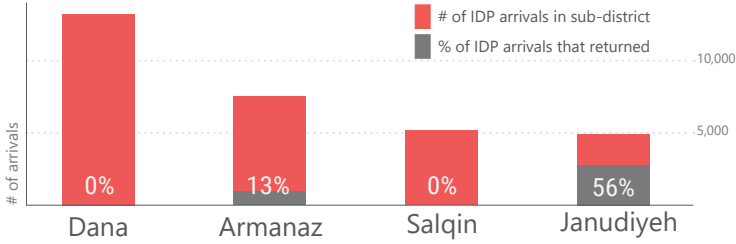


IDP Return Movements ³

78% of IDPs who arrived in assessed locations were still displaced as of 17 October

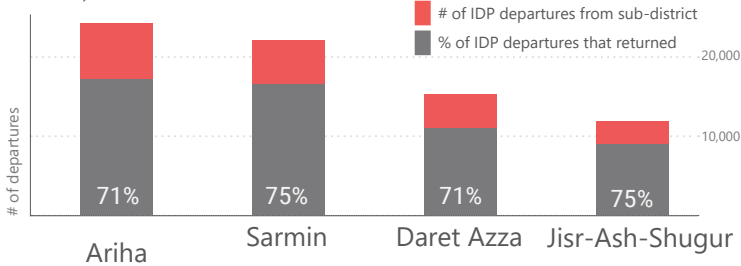
IDP returns from main sub-districts of arrivals

(for each of the top 4 sub-districts with highest numbers of arrivals, share of IDPs who arrived and subsequently moved back to their previous locations between 3-17 October)



IDP returns in main sub-districts of departures

(for each of the top 3 sub-districts with highest numbers of departures, share of IDPs who moved back to the sub-district after departing between 3-17 October)

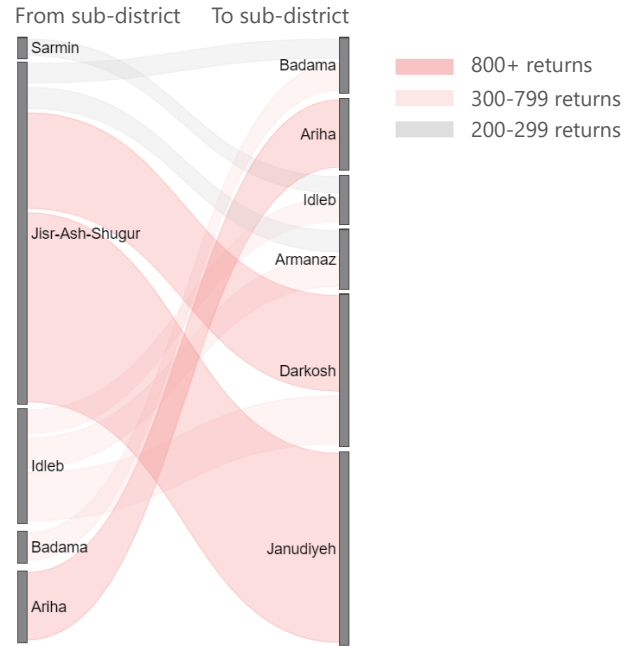


Key Findings

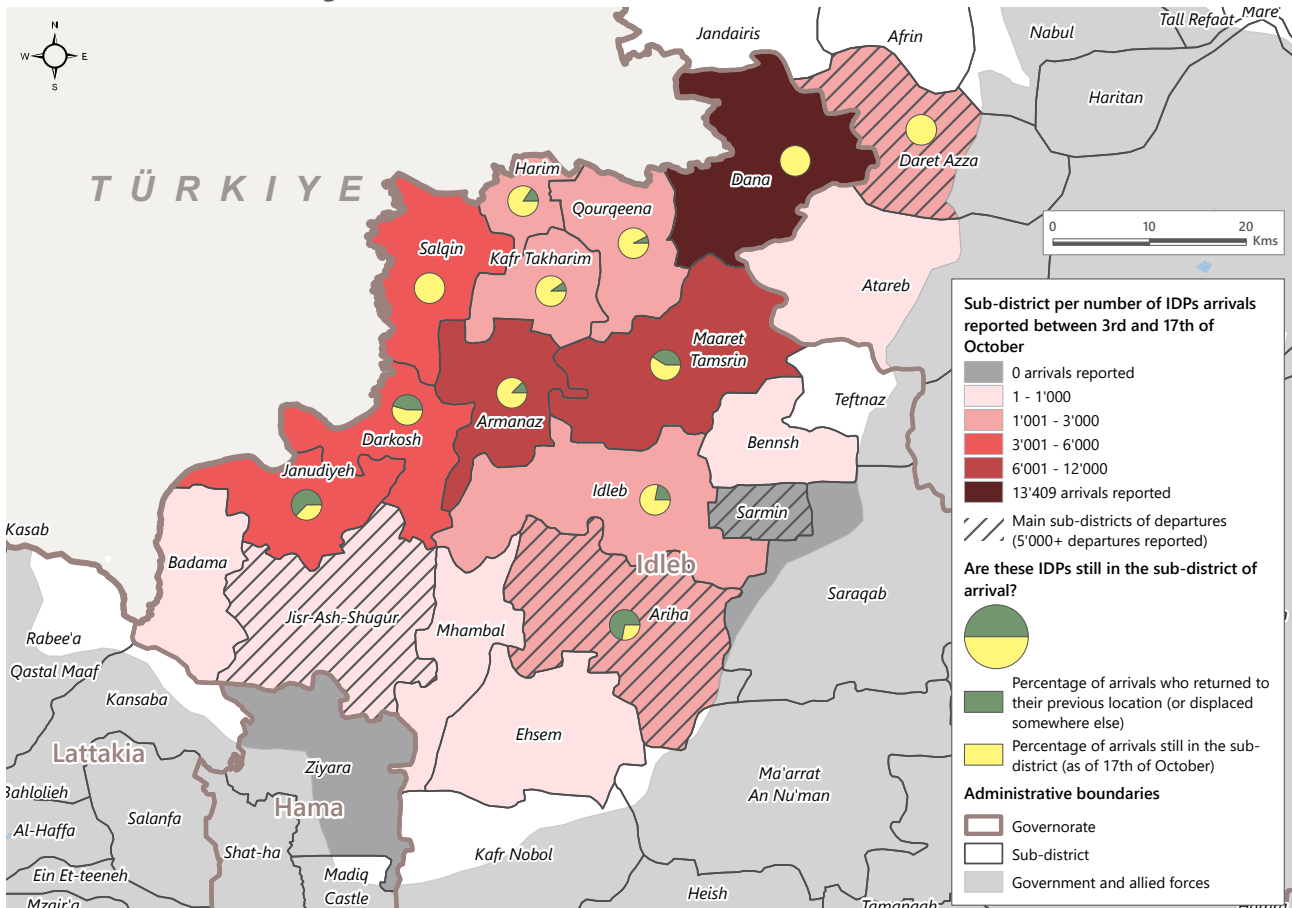
- 59,533 IDPs (71%) who left assessed locations between 3-17 October moved back to these locations during the same period
- 11,981 IDPs (22%) who arrived in assessed locations between 3-17 October moved back to their previous locations during the same period

Main flows of IDP returns from sub-districts of arrival

(by numbers of IDP individuals who arrived to assessed locations and returned to their previous locations between 3-17 October)



Share of IDP arrivals remaining in assessed sub-districts on 17 October



Movement Intentions

49%

of KIs in locations of arrivals reported that they expected IDPs to go back to their previous location in the foreseeable future

1%

of KIs reported that they expected households to leave assessed communities in the next two weeks

Most frequent sub-districts where returns are expected

(by % of sub-districts where KIs reported that they expected IDPs to move back to their previous location in the foreseeable future)

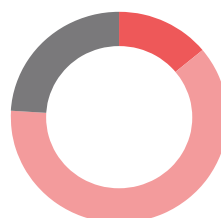
Idleb	26%	■
Sarmin	17%	■
Ariha	15%	■

Key Findings

- **Most KIs** reported that **they did not expect households to leave assessed communities** within the next two weeks
- In locations of arrivals, **most KIs** reported that they expected IDPs who arrived during the assessed period to **stay at least 1 more week**.

Expected timeframe for IDP returns

(by % of KIs who reported that they expected IDPs to move back to their previous location in the foreseeable future)



14% Within 1 week
62% Within 1 month
24% More than 1 month

Push & Pull Factors

58%

of KIs reported that the security situation was a pull factor in communities of arrivals

Key Findings

- All KIs reported that **clashes and hostilities** constituted the **main push factors** for IDP arrivals
- **The security situation** in areas of arrival was considered by most KIs as the **main pull factor**

Most common push factors for IDP arrivals

(by % of KIs who reported each factor)

Escalation of aerial bombardment	77%	■
Escalation of ground-based conflict	17%	■
Anticipation of future conflict escalation	6%	■

Most common pull factors for IDP arrivals⁴

(most reported factors reported by KIs as 1st, 2nd and 3rd most common pull factors)

	1st Pull Factor	2nd Pull Factor	3rd Pull Factor
1.	Security situation in assessed location	Family ties/host community relationships	Access to shelter/shelter support
2.	Family ties/host community relationships	Security situation in assessed location	Proximity to community of origin/last place of departure
3.	Proximity to community of origin/last place of departure	Access to shelter/shelter support	Access to humanitarian assistance

Most common pull factors in main sub-districts of arrivals

(most reported factors reported by KIs as 1st, 2nd and 3rd most common pull factors in sub-districts with highest numbers of arrivals)

	1st Pull Factor	2nd Pull Factor	3rd Pull Factor
Dana	Security situation in assessed location	Access to shelter/shelter support	Access to food
Armanaz	Security situation in assessed location	Family ties/host community relationship	Proximity to community of origin/last place of departure
Salqin	Security situation in assessed location	Access to humanitarian assistance	Family ties/host community relationship

Priority Needs

87%

of KIs reported food as one of the top priorities in assessed locations

Key Findings

- **Food** was reported as a **priority need** by KIs in almost all assessed sub-districts.
- **Shelter** was reported as a **priority need** by KIs in 49% of assessed locations.

Most commonly reported priority needs of affected populations in assessed sub-districts

(most common needs reported by KIs as 1st, 2nd and 3rd priority need)

Assessed locations	1st Priority Need	2nd Priority Need	3rd Priority Need
	Food	NFIs	Winterization
Ariha	Food	NFIs	WASH
Armanaz	Shelter	NFIs	Food
Atareb	NFIs	Food	Safety and Security
Badama	Food	NFIs	Winterization
Bennsh	Food	NFIs	Safety and Security
Dana	Safety and Security	Livelihood	Food
Daret Azza	Protection	NFIs	Safety and Security
Darkosh	Food	NFIs	Winterization
Ehsem	Food	Livelihood	NFIs
Harim	Food	Livelihood/NFIs	Health
Idleb	Food	Livelihood	NFIs
Janudiyeh	Food	NFIs	Winterization
Jisr-Ash-Shugur	Food	NFIs	Shelter
Kafr Takharim	Shelter	NFIs	Food
Maaret Tamsrin	Food	NFIs	Shelter
Mhambal	Shelter	Food	Winterization
Qourqeena	Food	Livelihood	Health/NFIs
Salqin	Shelter	Food	NFIs

METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

On 17 and 18 of October 2023, with a view to support the CCCM Cluster, REACH conducted one structured KI interview in each of the 215 assessed communities across Greater Idlib.

The data was collected using a structured tool built in Kobo. The tool aimed to capture the main displacement flows (arrivals, departures, movements back), as well as displacement intentions, push and pull factors, and priority needs.

REACH enumerators received training on the survey tool. A purposive sampling methodology was employed both for the selection of communities to assess and selection of KI respondents. Communities were selected based on the level of direct (targeted by shelling and violence) and indirect (affected by displacements) impact.

Due to the dynamic nature of sudden-onset displacements, and the limitation to 215 assessed communities, it is possible that respondents could have under- or overestimated the number of arrivals and departures. Please also note that this assessment does not cover displacements to and from camps that might have occurred between 3 and 17 October.

ENDNOTES

¹ CCCM Cluster, [CCCM Cluster Displacement Report \(October 2023\)](#)

² OCHA, [North-west Syria: Escalation of hostilities. Flash update No. 3](#)

³ The term "return" here refers to movements of individuals displaced between 3-17 October who moved back to their previous community during the same period, regardless of their status of IDPs or residents before being displaced.

⁴ KIs were invited to select 3 answers in order of importance for questions related to pull factors and priority needs.

ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).