

Rapid Displacement Overview: Displacement from Syria

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

Update: as of 24 February 2020

Background and Methodology

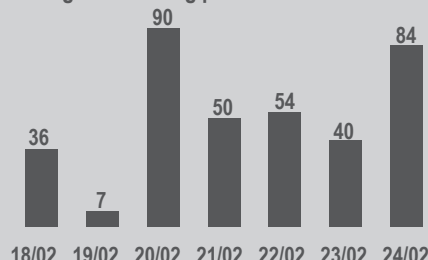
Due to the worsening security situation inside Syria, REACH Initiative (REACH) is conducting rapid assessments to monitor the influx and needs of Syrian refugees recently displaced to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). In order to inform and provide an evidence-base for humanitarian planning, the REACH 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 24th output reflects data collected in Sahila on 18-20 and 22-24 of February 2020. In total, 55 KIs were interviewed on behalf of their travel groups (307 displaced individuals). As data is collected through KIs and only on specific days, results should be considered indicative and are not statistically representative.

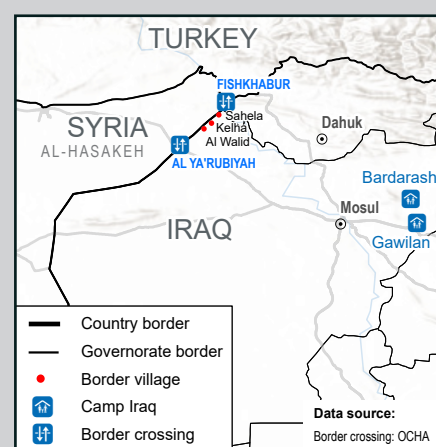
Displacement Figures

Total number of registered refugees arriving to assessed area since 9 October 2019: **21,089**.¹

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



Location Map



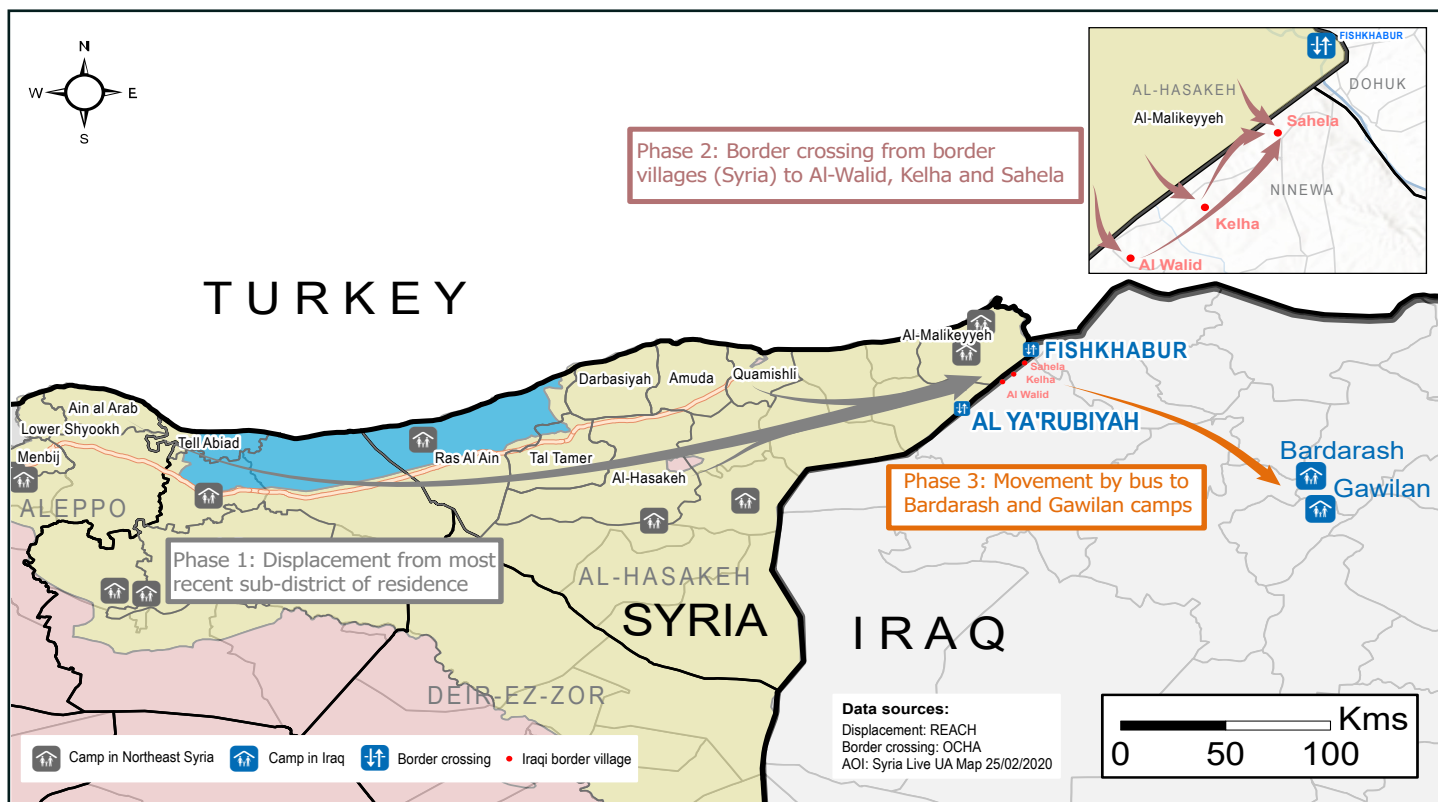
*The findings in this factsheet do not include travel groups who arrived on 21 February, as no interviews were conducted on that day.

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 18 December 2019, the UN estimated that 70,590 people² remain displaced, while UNHCR reported 21,089 refugees¹ crossing into the KR-I between 9 October and 24 February. 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 in Sahila village 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 an increase compared to the previous week. Numbers have been fluctuating, but an increase occurred on the 20 and 24 February due to the weather improvement that is making it easier on the people to go through the journey. In this update, the most commonly reported recent districts of residence in Syria were Quamishli, Ain Al-Arab, Al-Hasakeh and Ras Al-Ain. Furthermore, travelling by foot remained the primary mode of transportation, and was reported by 87% of KIs. Fifty eight percent (58%) of the groups were able to finish the journey in a day, while 42% of the groups 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 lack of livelihood, airstrikes and fear of conscription 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

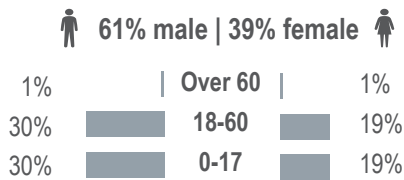
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Demographics

Demographics of the Displaced Groups

Average size of travel groups as indicated by KIs: **6**

Demographic breakdown by age and gender as reported by KIs:



Vulnerable Groups

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

- 5%** of children were unaccompanied or separated.
- 3%** of travel group members were physically disabled.
- 32%** of women were pregnant or lactating.

Population Left Behind

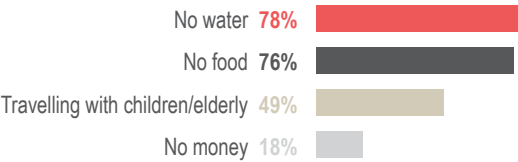
80% of KIs reported that within their travel group at least one member had left at least one family member behind in their previous residence.

Displacement

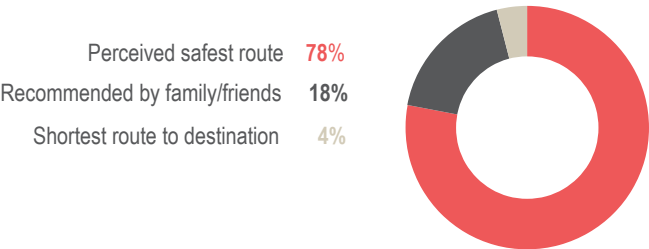
Most KIs (96%) reported that travel groups had to pay someone to cross from Syria, as was reported in previous updates. Travel groups reportedly paid on average 120 USD per person (724 USD per group), which is a slight decrease compared to recent updates. Most KIs reported no water (78%) and no food (76%) as difficulties experienced on the journey. Five percent (5%) of the travel groups had reportedly travelled for more than seven days, compared to 20% in the last round and 7% in the one before it.

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:

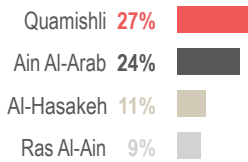


Secondary Displacement

35% 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:



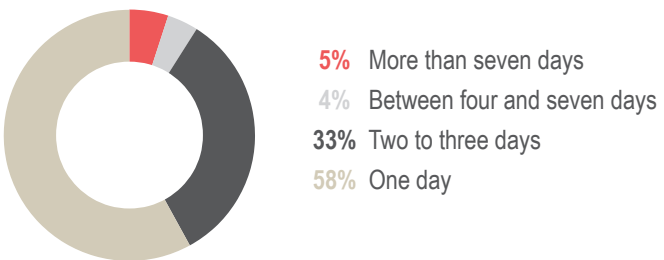
Duration of Displacement Stages

2% of KIs reported less than 6 hours between the decision to leave their most recent location of residence and departing.

0% 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:



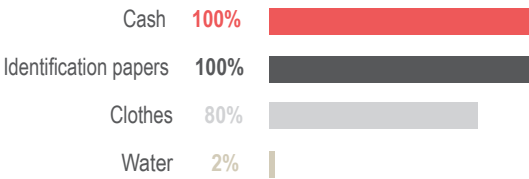
⁴KIs could select multiple needs or reasons. Therefore, results may exceed 100%.

Rapid Displacement Overview: Displacement from Syria

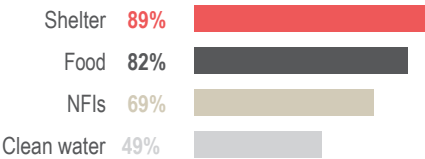
Needs and Assistance

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:



27% of group members did not carry any form of identification papers, as indicated by KIs⁵.

Movement Intentions

KIs were asked about the intentions of their travel groups both in the short term (in the two days following their arrival) and in the intermediate term (in the two weeks following data collection).

When asked about movement intentions of travel groups in the **two days** following data collection, 100% of KIs reported that they intend to stay in camps.

When asked about movement intentions of travel groups in the **two weeks** following data collection, most of KIs (75%) reported their intention to join family or friends in KR-I within this timeframe, while 18% reported intending to stay in the camps and 7% were unsure.

Short-Term Intentions

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



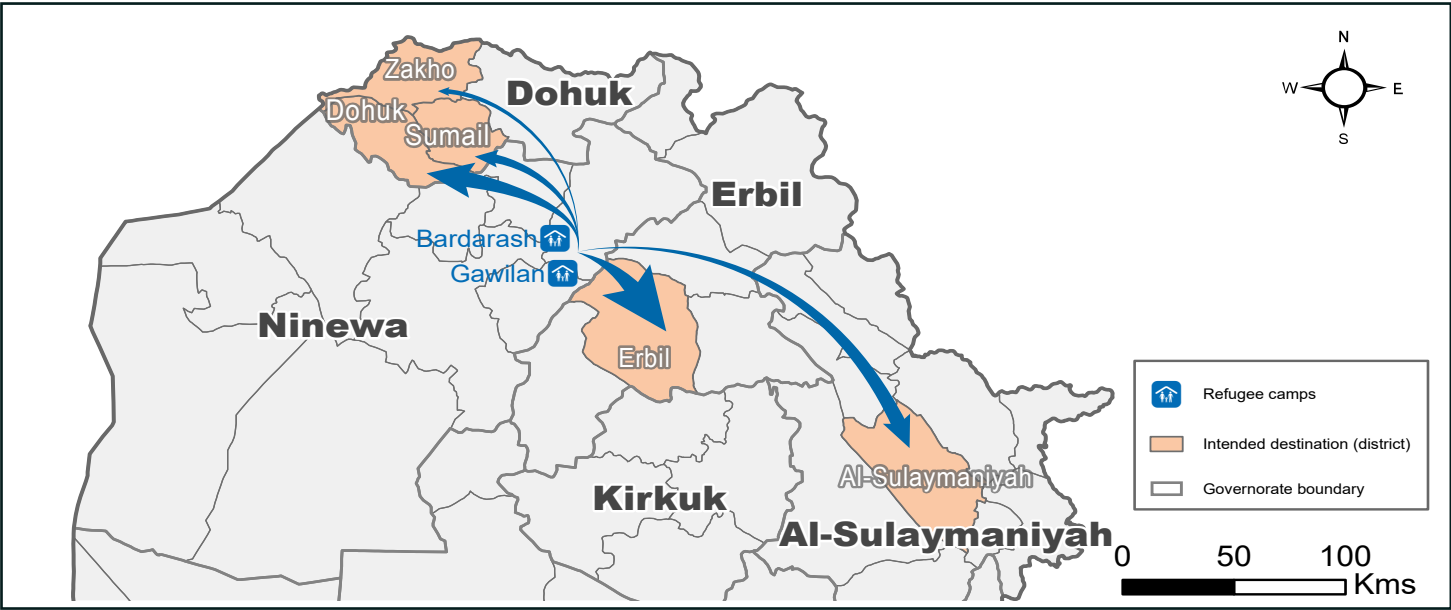
Intermediate-Term Intentions

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



98% of KIs indicated that no member of their group intends to return back to Syria in the two weeks following date of interview.

Movement Intentions Map



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