

# Rapid Displacement Overview: Displacement from Syria

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

Update: as of 27 January 2020

## Background and Methodology

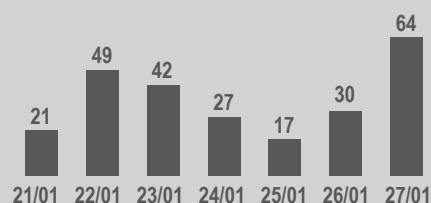
Due to the worsening security situation inside Syria, REACH Initiative (REACH) is conducting rapid assessments to monitor the influx and needs of Syrian refugees recently displaced to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). In order to inform and provide an evidence-base for humanitarian planning, the REACH 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 their travel group.

This 20th output reflects data collected in Sahila in between 21-23 and 25-27 January 2020. In total, 39 KIs were interviewed on behalf of their travel groups (213 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: **19,999**.<sup>1</sup>

Total reported daily numbers of individuals arriving to screening points:<sup>1</sup>



## Location Map



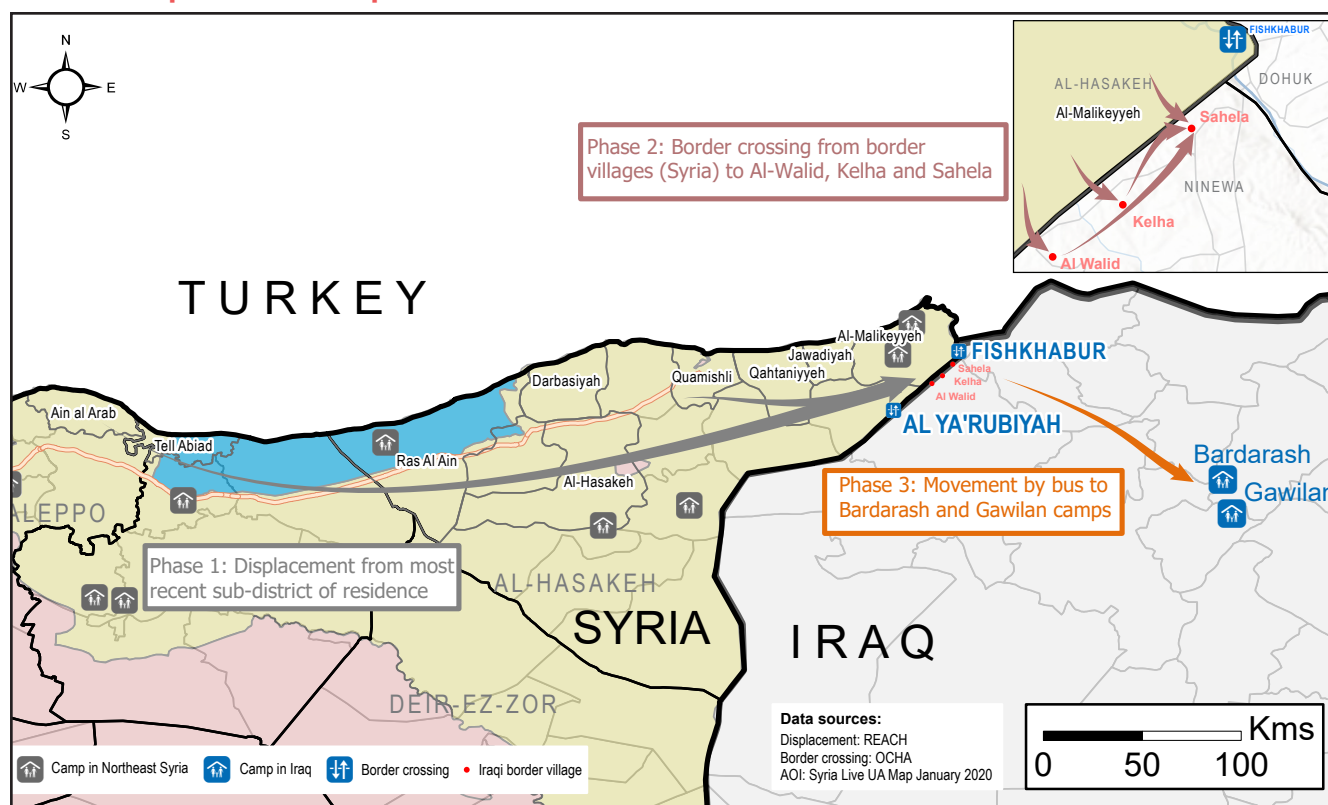
Note: The findings in this factsheet do not include travel groups who arrived on 24 January, as no interviews were conducted on that day.

## 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 people<sup>2</sup> remain displaced, while UNHCR reported 19,999 refugees<sup>3</sup> crossing into the KR-I between 9 October 2019 and 27 January 2020. Days after a ceasefire agreement was reached on 17 October,<sup>3</sup> 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 36 new arrivals per day over the last week, which is a continuation of the decrease in average daily arrivals that was seen in the last months of 2019. Numbers continued, however, to fluctuate 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 80% of KIs. Just over half (56%) of travel groups reported having travelled for several days. The most common duration was two to three days (reported by 38% of KIs) though 10% reported having been underway for seven or more 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. KIs reported that airstrikes, a lack of livelihood opportunities and the arrival of armed groups were the most common push factors to leave their place of residence in Syria.

## Patterns of Displacement Map



<sup>1</sup> Based on information received from UNHCR

<sup>2</sup> OCHA. North East Syria Displacement, 18 December 2019

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

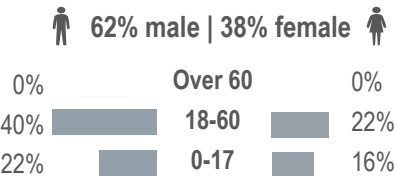
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## Demographics

### Demographics of the Displaced Groups

Average size of travel groups as indicated by KIs: **5**

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.
- 20%** of women were pregnant or lactating.

### Population Left Behind

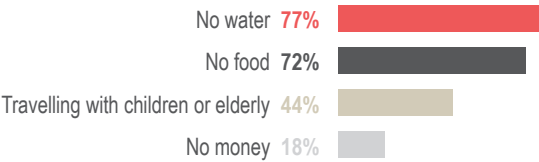
**69%** of KIs reported that, within their travel group, at least one member had left at least one family member behind in their previous residence.

## Displacement

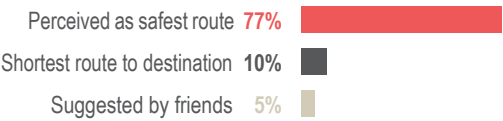
All KIs except two reported that their group had to pay someone to cross from Syria. Among those paying, groups reportedly paid on average 164 USD per person (902 USD per group), which is similar to recent updates in late 2019. Some groups reported that family members had paid for them as they did not have the money to pay themselves. Most KIs reported no water (77%) and no food (72%) as difficulties experienced on the journey. Just over half (56%) of travel groups reported having travelled for several days, with 10% reportedly having been underway for seven or more days.

### Displacement Routes

Most commonly reported difficulties experienced on the journey, according to KIs<sup>4</sup>:



Most commonly reported reasons for choice of displacement route:



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

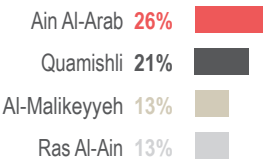


### Secondary Displacement

**18%** 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:



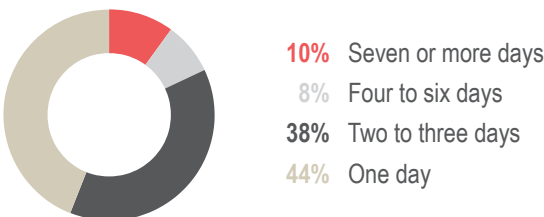
### Duration of Displacement Stages

**18%** of KIs reported less than 6 hours between the decision to leave their most recent location of residence and departing.

**36%** of KIs reported a waiting time of more than eight hours at crossing point from Syria to KR-I.

**10%** 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:

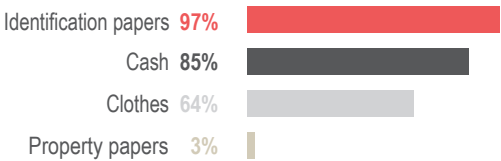


<sup>4</sup>KIs could select multiple needs or reasons. Therefore, results may exceed 100%.

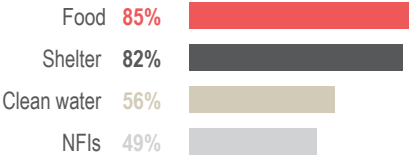
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## Needs and Assistance

Most commonly reported items brought by the majority of travel group members, according to KIs<sup>5</sup>:



Four most commonly reported priority needs, according to KIs<sup>5</sup>:



16% of group members did not carry any form of identification papers, as indicated by KIs.<sup>6</sup>

## 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).

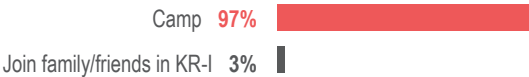
When asked about movement intentions of travel groups in the **two days** following data collection, all KIs except one reported not having any other choice than staying in camps. The other KI reported intending to join family or friends in KR-I.

When asked about movement intentions of travel groups in the **two weeks** following data collection, just over half (53%) of KIs reported intending to join family or friends in KR-I within this timeframe, while 26% reported intending to stay in the camps and 21% were unsure.

0% 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.

### Short-Term Intentions

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

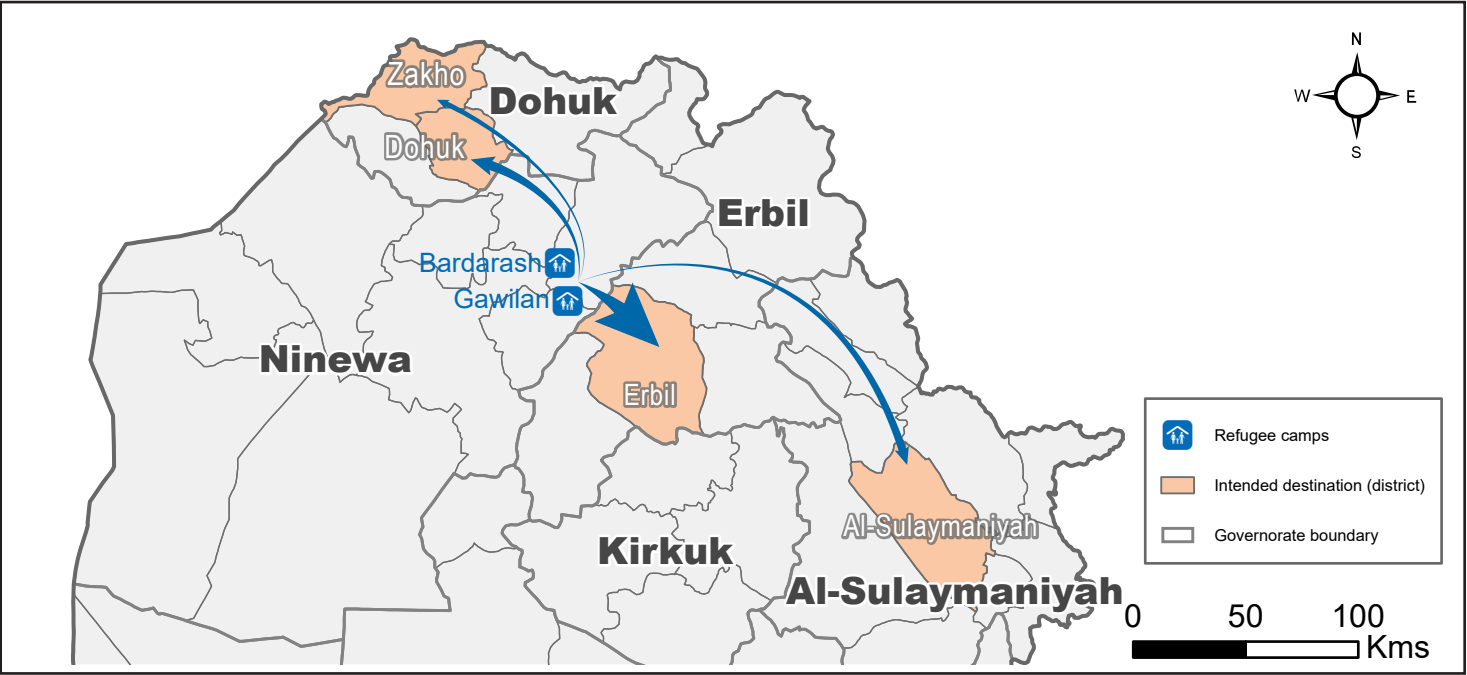


### Intermediate-Term Intentions

Most commonly reported movement intentions of travel groups in the **two weeks** following date of interview, according to KIs<sup>7</sup>:



## Movement Intentions Map



<sup>5</sup>KIs could select multiple needs or reasons. Therefore, results may exceed 100%.

<sup>6</sup>The 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.

<sup>7</sup>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.