

Rapid Displacement Overview: Displacement from Syria

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

Update: as of 4 November 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 seventh output reflects data collected in Sahila on 2, 3 and 4 November 2019. In total, 48 KIs were interviewed on behalf of their travel groups (539 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: **14,040**.¹

By date of arrival:¹

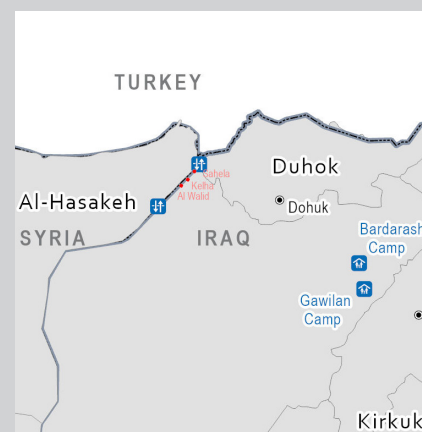
2 November: 259

3 November: 258

4 November: 147

Key findings	Change since last update*	% point difference
Top priority need: shelter	▲	+7
Top priority need: food	▶	0
Top priority need: healthcare	▲	+6
Top priority need: water	▼	-6
Intend to stay in camps in the next 2 weeks	▲	+26
Have no identification papers (% of individuals)	▶	+2

Location Map



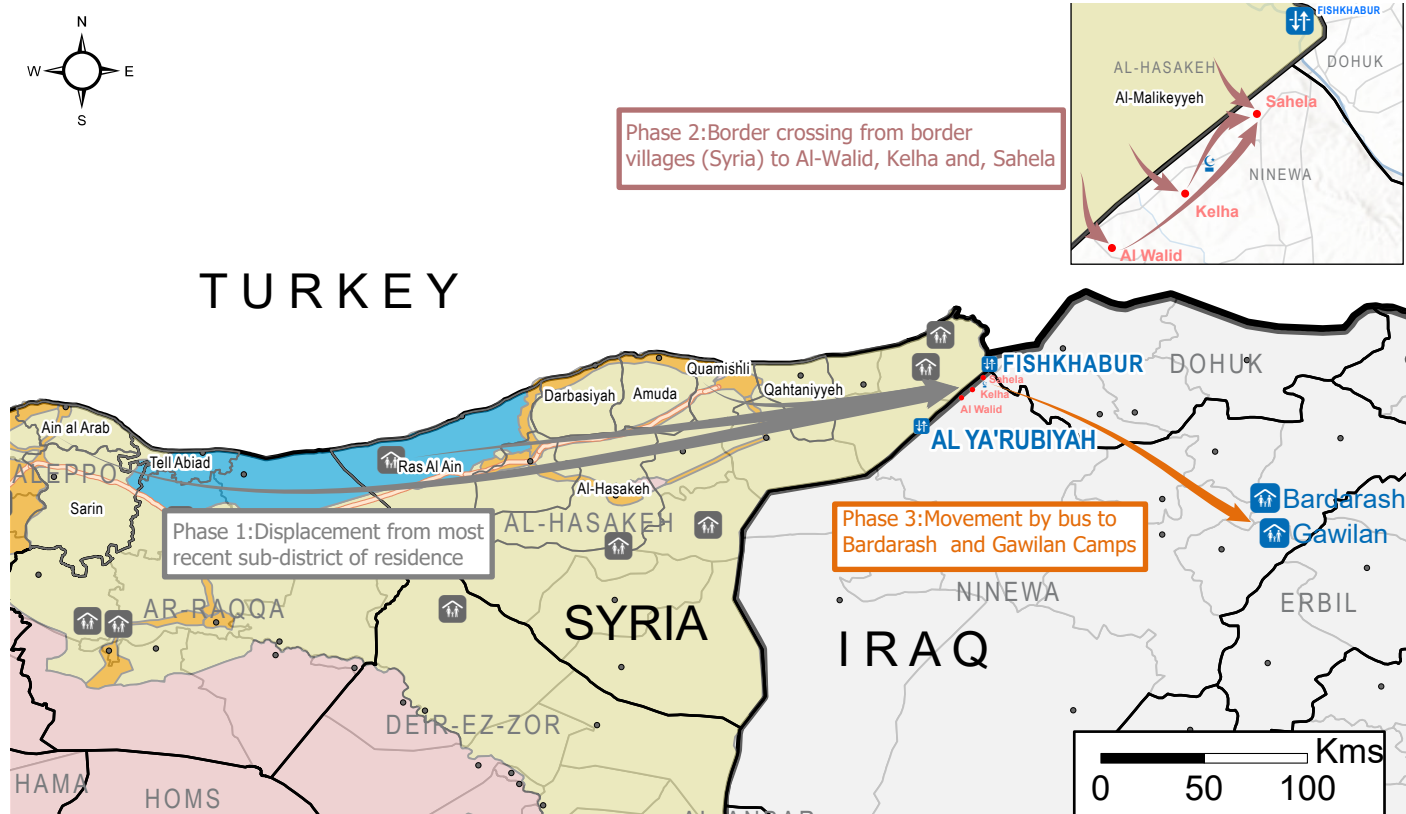
* A point difference of +/- 1-5% is considered as 'no change'

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 31 October, the UN estimated that nearly 108,514 people² remain displaced, while UNHCR reported 14,040 refugees¹ crossing into the KR-I between 9 October and 4 November. 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 refugees entering the KR-I appears to be decreasing since 25 October.

The number of arrivals has remained relatively low, with an average 221 new arrivals per day. Area of most recent residence has remained consistent with the last reporting, with over a third of arrivals originating from Ras al-Ain. However, there was an increase in the proportion of groups travelling for more than four days, from roughly half (48%) to almost two third (63%). Travelling by foot remained the primary mode of transportation, and was reported by 71% of KIs. Whilst there has been a slight reduction in groups reporting critical needs such as lack of water or food as difficulties encountered on the journey, these are still reported as primary needs when they arrived. Airstrikes in the area remain the most commonly reported reason for displacement (85%).

Patterns of Displacement Map



¹ Based on information received from UNHCR

² OCHA. Syria Flash Update #10, Humanitarian impact of the military operation in north-eastern Syria, 29-31 October 2019

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

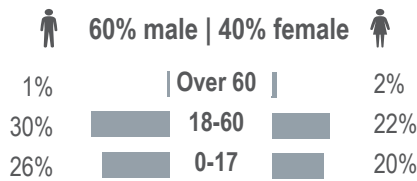
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Demographics

Demographics of the Displaced Groups

11 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:

- 7% of children were unaccompanied or separated.
- 2% of travel group members were physically disabled.
- 23% of women were pregnant or lactating.

Population Left Behind

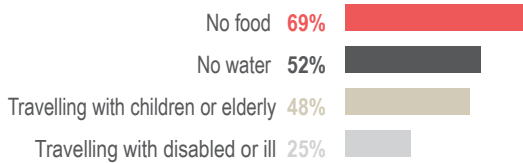
85% of KIs reported that within their travel group at least one member had left at least one family member behind in their previous residence.

Displacement

Whilst the vast majority of KIs (83%) did report that travel groups had to pay to cross from Syria, there was a slight reduction compared to reporting in previous updates (95% or higher). Travel groups reportedly paid on average 164 USD per person (1,840 USD per group), which shows a reduction compared to the last update, but is similar to earlier updates. Travelling with children, elderly, disabled or ill group members was one of the most commonly reported difficulties experienced on the journey. In the previous update 25% of the KIs reported blocked routes as one of the difficulties experienced on the journey, which decreased slightly to 21%.

Displacement Routes

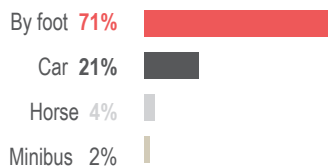
Most commonly reported difficulties experienced on the journey, according to KIs⁴:



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:

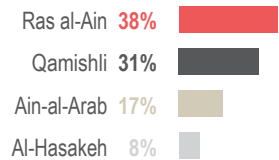


Secondary Displacement

25% of KIs reported that the majority of their travel group members were living in displacement in their previous residence.

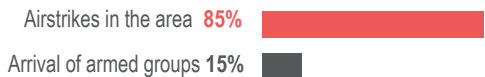
Previous Location in Syria

Most commonly reported districts of most recent residence in Syria:



Push Factors

Most commonly reported reasons for displacement from Syria:



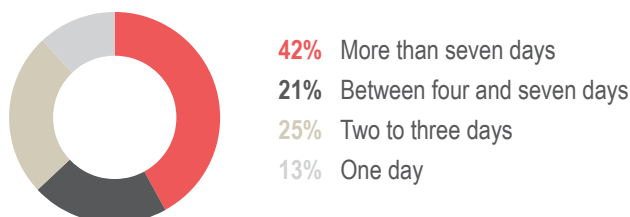
Duration of Displacement Stages

19% of KIs reported less than 6 hours between the decision to leave their most recent location of residence and departing.

29% of KIs reported a waiting time of more than eight hours at crossing point from Syria to KR-I.

13% 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:

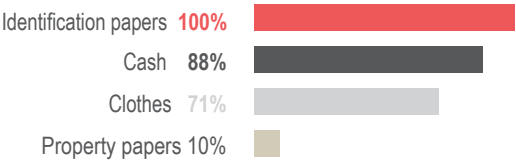


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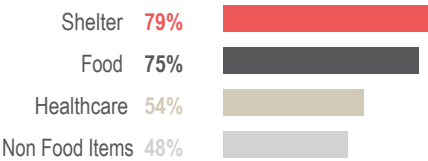
Needs and Assistance

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:



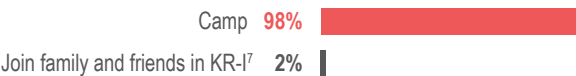
31% of group members did not carry any form of identification papers, as indicated by KIs.

Movement Intentions

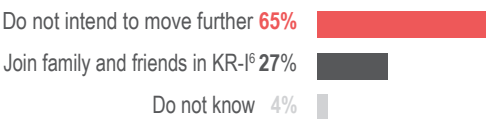
Movement Intentions

After refugees transition through screening points, they are transported to Bardarash and Gawilan camps for registration. When asked about the main reason for intentions in the two days following data collection, the vast majority of KIs reported having no other option, while 8% reported family and friends can host them. 64% of KIs (overall) reported that travel groups intend to stay in camps, which is an increase compared to the previous update (35% overall). The percentages of travel group intending to stay in camp have been fluctuating over the past weeks.

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

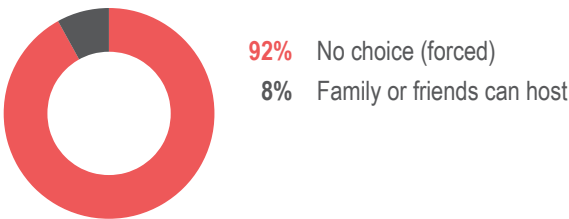


Most commonly reported movement intentions of travel groups in the two weeks following date of interview, according to KIs⁵:

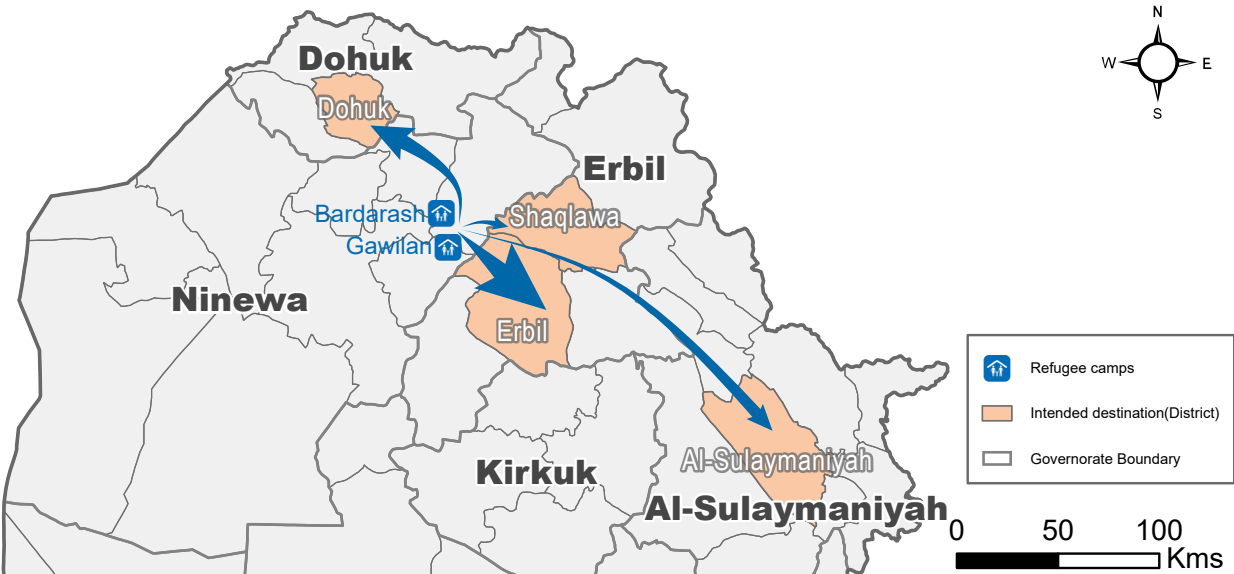


0% of KIs indicated that at least one member of their group intends to return back to Syria in the two weeks following date of interview.

Main reasons reported by KIs for intentions in the two days following date of interview⁸:



Movement Intentions Map



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

⁵Movement 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.

⁶This response option covers locations in the KR-I other than those in Dohuk governorate (i.e. locations within Erbil or Sulaymaniyah governorates)

⁷No intention to move further is based on the reported intentions in the two weeks following data collection.

⁸Questions on intentions in the following two days and on main reasons for intentions are not linked in the survey. As such, discrepancies may be observed.