

Rapid Displacement Overview: Displacement from Syria

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

Update: as of 9 December 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 17th output reflects data collected in Sahila on 7, 8 and 9 December 2019. In total, 35 KIs were interviewed on behalf of their travel groups (170 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: **17,868**.¹

By date of arrival:¹

7 December: 82

8 December: 33

9 November: 61

Key findings	Change since last update*	% point difference
Top priority need: shelter	▶	0
Top priority need: food	▼	-6
Intend to stay in camps in the next 2 weeks	▼	-16
Have no identification papers (% of individuals)	▶	+3

Location Map



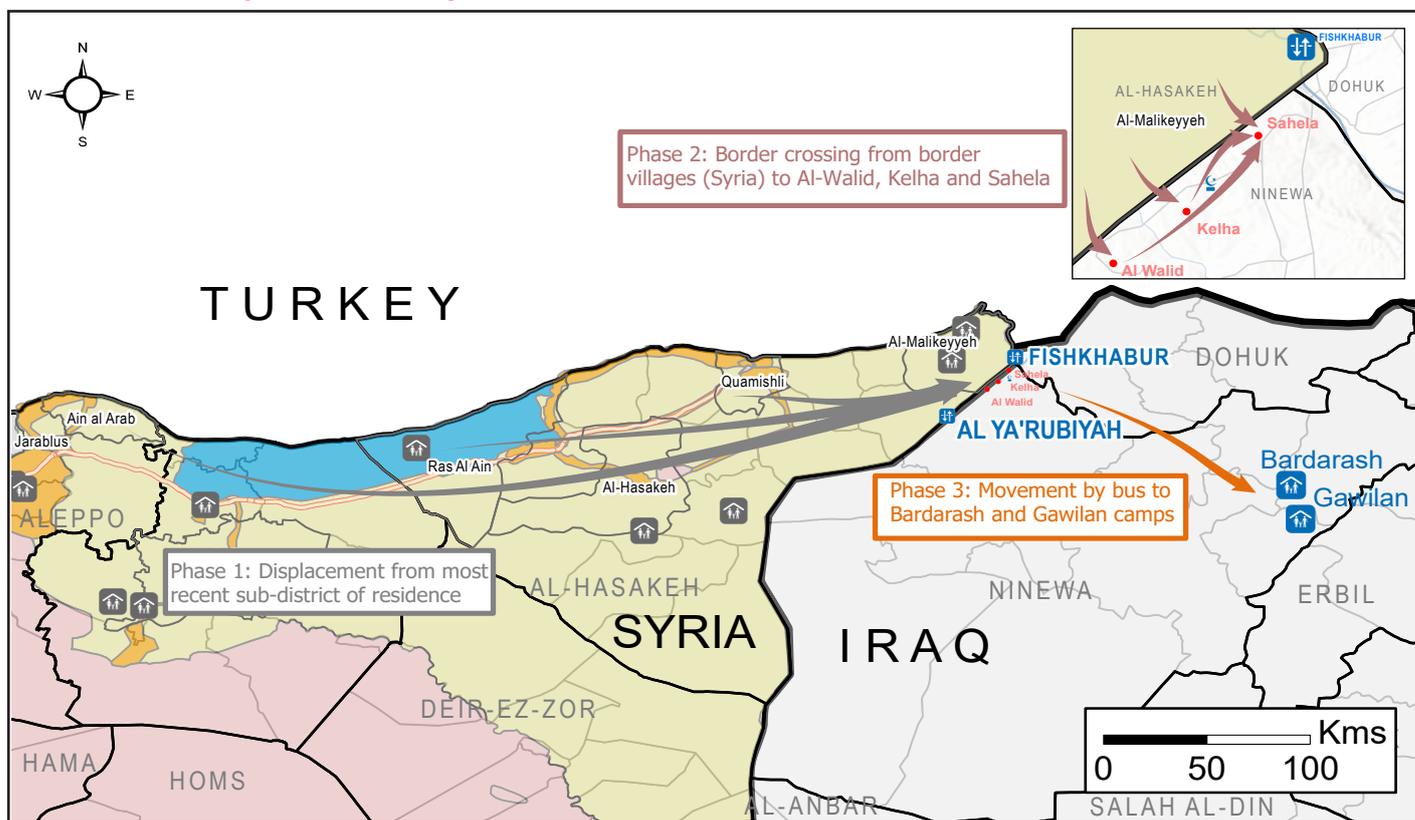
* A point difference of +/- 1-5 is considered as 'no change'

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 17,868 refugees¹ crossing into the KR-I between 9 October and 9 December. 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 average daily number of arrivals in the last 3 days was 59, which is similar to recent updates. In this update, the most commonly reported recent districts of residence in Syria were Qamishli and Ain al-Arab. The most common reasons for displacement remained the arrival of armed forces in the area and airstrikes. Furthermore, travelling by foot remained the primary mode of transportation, and was reported by 86% of KIs, while 14% of groups reportedly travelled by car. Most groups were able to complete the journey in a day, though 40% of KIs reported that their group had been under way for several days. Lack of water and food were reported as most commonly encountered difficulties on the journey. The most commonly reported immediate priority needs of new arrivals were shelter and food, followed by non-food items (NFIs) and clean water.

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

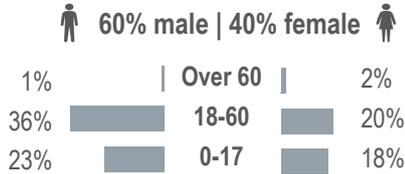
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Demographics

Demographics of the Displaced Groups

5 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:

6% of children were unaccompanied or separated.

1% of travel group members were physically disabled.

17% of women were pregnant or lactating.

Population Left Behind

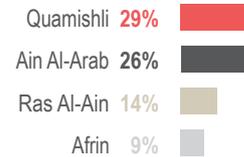
97% of KIs reported that within their travel group at least one member had left at least one family member behind in their previous residence.

Displacement

All KIs reported that travel groups had to pay someone to cross from Syria, as was reported in previous updates. Travel groups reportedly paid on average 180 USD per person (899 USD per group), which is slightly higher than the previous update. Most KIs reported no water (63%) and no food (63%) as difficulties experienced on the journey, while just over half reported challenges related to travelling with children or elderly group members. The most common push factors remain the arrival of armed forces and airstrikes.

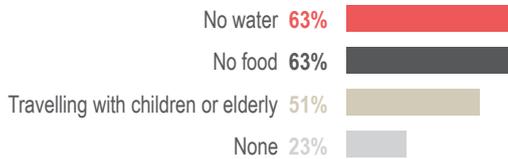
Previous Location in Syria

Most commonly reported districts of most recent residence in Syria:



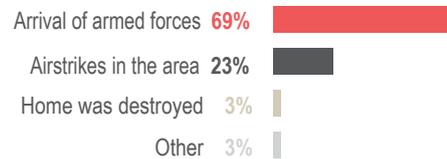
Displacement Routes

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



Push Factors

Most commonly reported reasons for displacement from Syria:



Reported reasons for choice of displacement route, according to KIs:



Duration of Displacement Stages

37% of KIs reported less than 6 hours between the decision to leave their most recent location of residence and departing.

50% of KIs reported a waiting time of more than eight hours at crossing point from Syria to KR-I.

3% of KIs reported having spent more than eight hours at screening point in the villages of Al-Walid, Sahila and Kalhi in KR-I.

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



Secondary Displacement

31% of KIs reported that the majority of their travel group members were living in displacement in their previous residence.

Time since leaving previous residence:

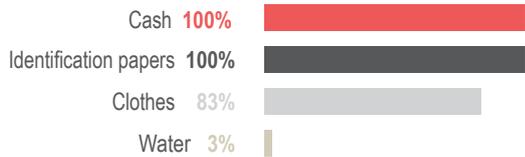


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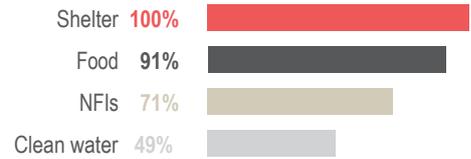
Needs and Assistance

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:



34% of group members did not carry any form of identification papers, as indicated by KIs^{5,6}.

Movement Intentions

Movement Intentions

After refugees transitioned through screening points, they were transported to Bardarash and Gawilan camps for registration. When asked about movement intentions of travel groups in the two days following data collection, all KIs reported not having any other choice than staying in camps.

Over half of KIs (57%) reported wanting to join family or friends in KR-I in the coming two weeks, while 26% reported that they intended to stay in the camps and 17% reported that they were unsure. The percentages of travel groups 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:

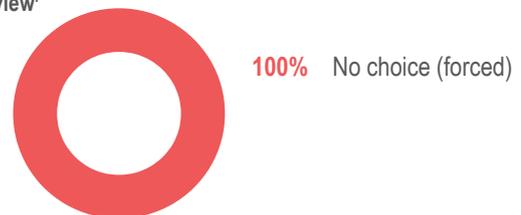


Most commonly reported movement intentions of travel groups in the two weeks following date of interview, according to KIs⁷:

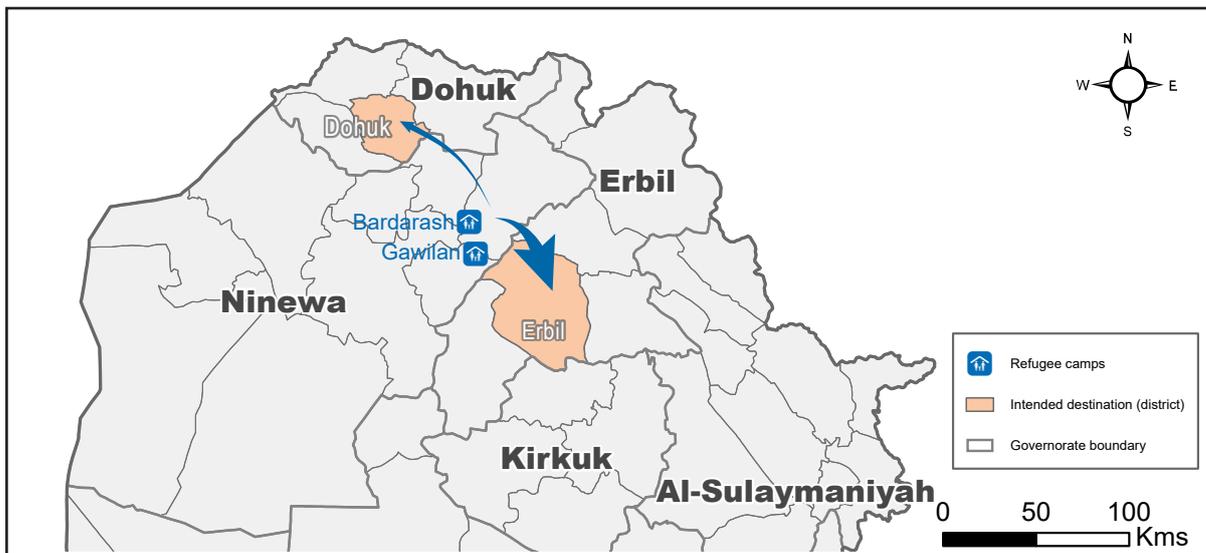


0% of KIs indicated that at least one member of their group intends to return back to Syria in the two weeks following date of interview.

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



Movement Intentions Map



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

⁵While all KIs reported that the majority of their travel group members were able to bring identification papers with them, 30% of group members did reportedly not carry any form of identification papers with them.

⁶The 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.

⁷Movement 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.