

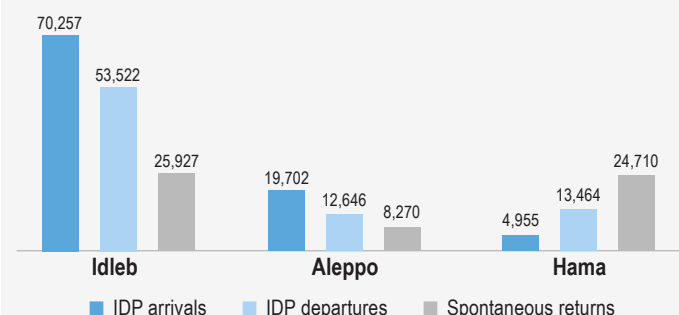
IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI)

Monthly overview of IDP Movements in northern Syria, March 2018

Summary of Findings

Communities assessed:	433
Total IDP arrivals: ¹	94,914
Total IDP departures: ²	79,632
Total spontaneous returns (SRs):	58,907

Total IDP arrivals, IDP departures and spontaneous returns by governorate:



In March 2018, a total of **94,914 IDP arrivals** were reported to assessed communities in Idleb, Aleppo and Hama governorates, alongside **79,632 IDP departures**. Although the total number of IDP arrivals remained relatively constant across governorates compared with February, their drivers shifted to new epicentres of conflict. Following a reduction of clashes between Government of Syria (GoS) and Armed Opposition Groups (AOGs) in north-west Syria since 10 February, **intensification of conflict in the besieged enclave of Eastern Ghouta, Rural Damascus, and in Afrin, north-west Aleppo**,³ became the primary source of new displacements to assessed communities in March.

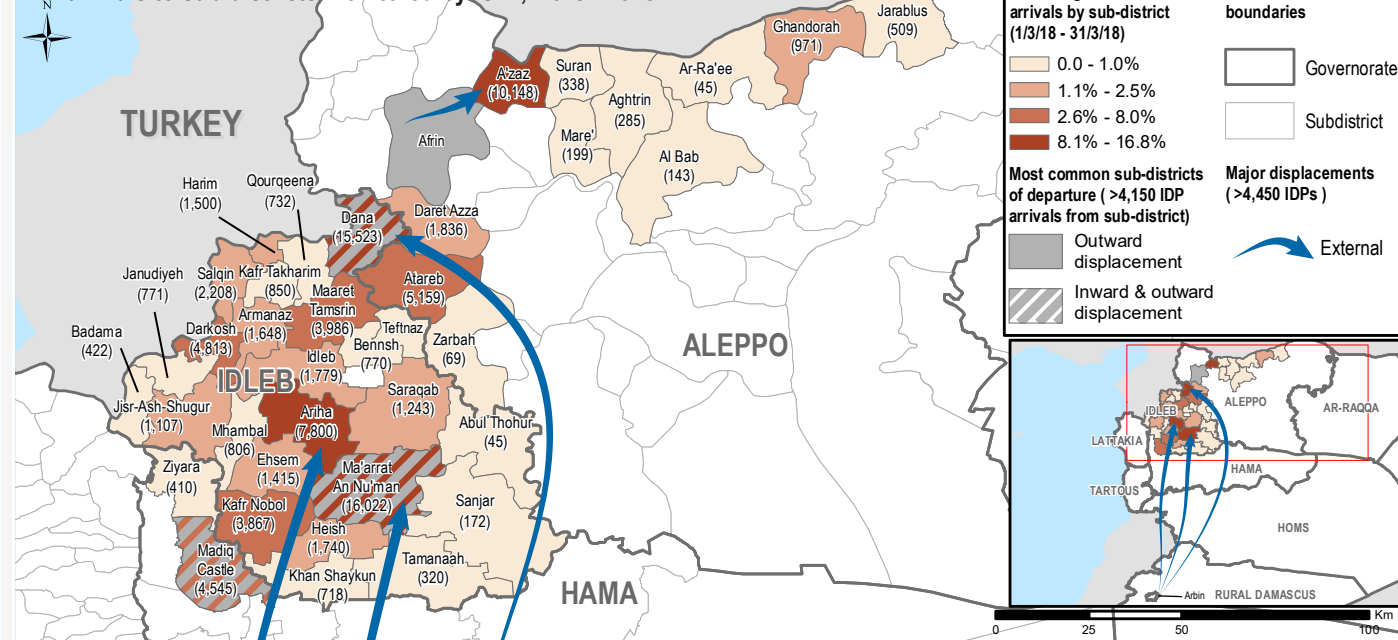
Of the 70,257 IDP arrivals to Idleb governorate, 46% were displaced from Rural Damascus. Meanwhile, 40% of new IDPs to assessed communities in Aleppo governorate reportedly arrived from Afrin district (7,840). These influxes have exacerbated humanitarian conditions in many sites hosting IDPs,³ a factor likely contributing to the **58,907 SRs reported in March**, most commonly to **Madiq Castle (24,710)** and **Ma'arrat An Nu'man (15,278)** sub-districts.

¹ Some figures reported may be repeated displacements.

² IDP departure figures reflect aggregated departures of both IDP and resident (pre-conflict) populations.

³ UNOCHA, [Turkey | Syria: Situation in North-western Syria Situation Report No. 1](#), 29 March 2018

IDP arrivals to sub-districts monitored by ISMI, March 2018



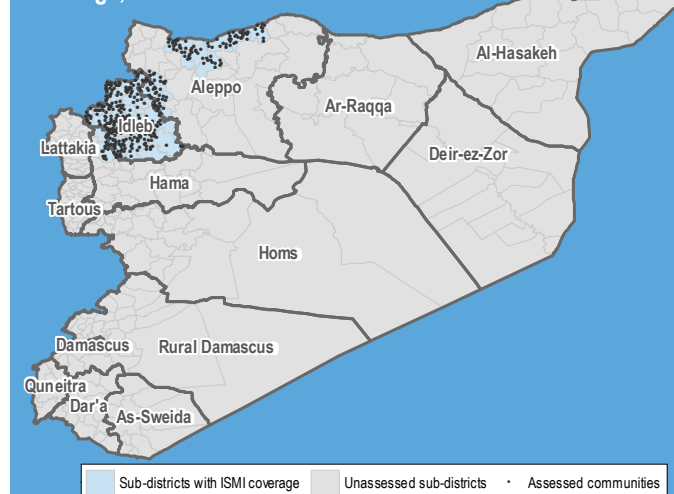
About ISMI & This Factsheet

The IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI) is an initiative of the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, implemented by REACH and supported by cluster members.

Following a baseline assessment conducted at the end of 2016, weekly/bi-weekly data collection cycles were initiated. This factsheet presents an overview of reported inward and outward movements of IDPs from 1 to 31 March 2018. Such displacements were reported in 433 communities in sub-districts monitored by ISMI. The coverage map in this section shows the sub-districts that were monitored for the most recent round of data collection, as well as the communities reporting movements. ISMI monitoring coverage varies over time depending on access. Displacements are identified through an extensive key informant (KI) network, either from alerts initiated by KIs or from follow-up by enumerators. At least two KIs are interviewed in each assessed community, and collected information is further triangulated through other sources, including CCCM member data and humanitarian updates. This approach allows for regular updates on IDP movements at the community level across sub-districts monitored by ISMI in northwest Syria.

The data used for this product was collected, triangulated and verified based on submissions from ISMI's network and select CCCM cluster members following the ISMI methodology. Due to differences in methodology and coverage, figures presented in this output may differ from official CCCM Cluster or UNHCR data. All data is for humanitarian use only.

Coverage, March 2018



IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI)

Monthly overview of IDP Movements in northern Syria, March 2018

Idleb

Key Figures

Communities assessed: 280

Total IDP arrivals: 70,257 (↓0.4%⁴)

Sub-districts with most arrivals (# IDPs):

Ma'arrat An Nu'man	16,022
Dana	15,523
Ariha	7,800
Darkosh	4,813
Maaret Tamsrin	3,986

Total IDP departures: 53,522 (↓13%)

Sub-districts with most departures (# IDPs):

Ariha	10,915
Dana	10,586
Ehsem	8,422
Kafr Nobol	4,798
Mhambal	4,071

Total spontaneous returns: 25,927 (↓84%)

Sub-districts with most spontaneous returns:

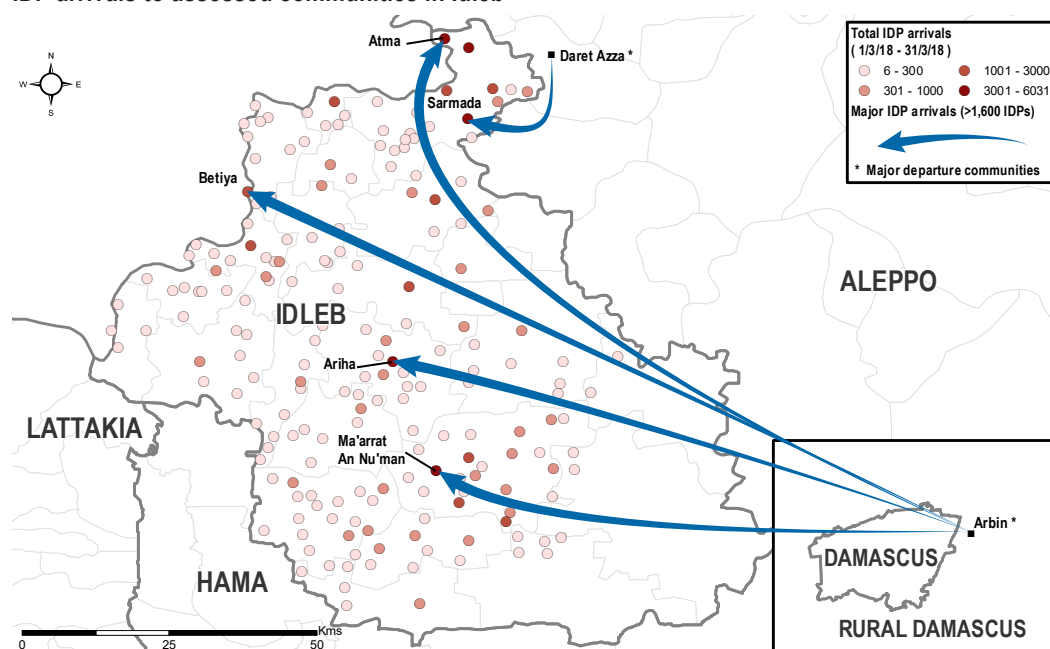
Ma'arrat An Nu'man	15,278
Heish	4,275
Dana	3,563
Abul Thohur	1,328
Sanjar	553

Overview

Weeks of intense conflict in besieged Eastern Ghouta have culminated in thousands fleeing the enclave. While many were reportedly displaced to collective centres in Rural Damascus, thousands more were evacuated to opposition-held areas in north-west Syria, most commonly in Idleb governorate.⁵

In tandem, clashes amongst AOGs in Idleb and western Aleppo governorates triggered substantial localised displacements, worsening humanitarian conditions in many already overburdened sites.³ Displacements in Idleb have been further driven by aerial bombardments in many communities, and region-wide fuel shortages related to military developments in neighbouring Aleppo.⁶

IDP arrivals to assessed communities in Idleb⁷



IDP Arrivals

IDP arrivals to assessed communities in Idleb increased by more than 100% from the first (23,266) to the second (46,991) half of March. In part, this was driven by a surge in IDP arrivals from Eastern Ghouta (32,542), arriving in successive evacuations from Al-Qadam (14-15 March), Harasta (23-24 March) and Arbin (25-31 March).^{8,9}

Last sub-district of departure of arrivals (# IDPs):

Arbin	28,748
Madiq Castle ⁹	6,736
Ma'arrat An Nu'man	3,702
Idleb	2,618
Dana	2,613

Evacuees from Arbin sub-district comprised 41% of total arrivals to Idleb governorate during the reporting period. Meanwhile, Ma'arrat An Nu'man and Dana were the most common sub-districts of arrival, accounting for 23% and 22% of the governorate's total IDP arrivals, respectively.

Many evacuees from Rural Damascus were initially received at Maaret Elekhwan Reception Centre, in the east of the governorate. Later, most IDPs arrived elsewhere in the governorate, further straining resources in communities, camps and sites already hosting many IDPs. Shelter assistance was reported as an immediate priority need.³

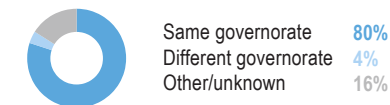
Top 3 shelter types of IDP arrivals:

(1) Solid/finished house	20,163 IDPs
(2) Managed camp	16,096 IDPs
(3) Unfinished/damaged building	8,189 IDPs

IDP Departures

A total of 53,522 departures were reported from assessed communities in Idleb in March, 97% of which were secondary displacements. Tilaada community in Dana sub-district experienced the highest IDP departures (5,700).

Intended destinations of departures:



The majority of IDPs leaving communities in Idleb reportedly intended to travel elsewhere within the governorate (41,946).

Top intended destination sub-districts (# IDPs):

Ma'arrat An Nu'man	17,062
Abul Thohur	6,861
Saraqab	6,087
Dana	1,855
Sanjar	1,702

Departees' most commonly reported destination communities were Jarjnaz (3,726), Ma'arrat An Nu'man (2,612) and Maasaran (2,448), all in Ma'arrat An Nu'man sub-district. In addition, many IDPs reportedly intended to travel to Abul Thohur and Sanjar sub-districts, most likely signalling returns to GoS areas of influence.

Spontaneous Returns

Over half of all SRs reported in Idleb were to communities in Ma'arrat An Nu'man sub-district, an area that experienced high conflict-induced outflows in early 2018.¹⁰ SRs' most common last places of departure were in north-east Idleb, namely Atma (5,832) and Sarmada (2,337) communities.

Sub-districts with most spontaneous returns to former homes:

Ma'arrat An Nu'man	14,592
Heish	4,275
Dana	3,562
Abul Thohur	1,328
Sanjar	501

⁴ CCCM, *ISMI Monthly Displacement Summary*, February 2018

⁵ REACH, *Eastern Ghouta Rapid Assessment*, 1-11 March 2018

⁶ UNOCHA, *Turkey | Syria: Latest Developments in North-Western Syria* (as of 13 March 2018)

⁷ Community markers also account for camps/informal settlements when they are within close proximity to a community.

⁸ CCCM, *ISMI Rapid Assessment of Evacuations from Eastern Ghouta*, 25-31 March 2018

⁹ Total arrivals from E. Ghouta may be higher as IDPs from other locations, such as Madiq Castle, may be reported as secondary displacements.

¹⁰ CCCM, *ISMI Monthly Displacement Summary*, January 2018

Aleppo¹¹

Key Figures

Communities assessed: 139

Total IDP arrivals: 19,702 (↑2%)

Sub-districts with most arrivals (# IDPs):

A'zaz	10,148
Atareb	5,159
Daret Azza	1,836
Ghandorah	971
Jarablus	509

Total IDP departures: 12,646 (↑53%)

Sub-districts with most departures (# IDPs):

A'zaz	3,592
Daret Azza	2,607
Atareb	1,854
Zarbah	1,490
Al Bab	1,075

Total spontaneous returns: 8,270 (↑72%)

Sub-districts with most spontaneous returns:

A'zaz	6,288
Zarbah	935
Ghandorah	673
Jarablus	153
Daret Azza	114

Overview

Conflict in Afrin district remained a key factor driving displacements across Aleppo governorate in March. Military encirclement and water shortages preceded ground-based incursions that reached Afrin town by the middle of the month.⁶ Since the start of the offensive in January, tens of thousands of civilians have reportedly left the region to Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and GoS-held parts of Aleppo outside of ISMI coverage, as well as to other governorates.¹²

Similarly to Idleb, assessed communities in Aleppo governorate were also affected by evacuee arrivals from Eastern Ghouta. At the time of writing in mid-April, further evacuations have since occurred from the city of Duma to northern Aleppo governorate.¹³

IDP Arrivals

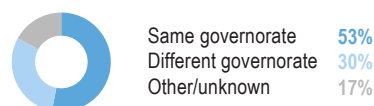
Of the 19,702 IDP arrivals to assessed communities in Aleppo governorate in March, 7,840 reported arrived from Afrin district. Most commonly, IDPs from Afrin arrived to A'zaz (6,327) community, northern Aleppo, likely driven by pull factors of relative safety and availability of safe passage.

Last sub-district of departure of arrivals (# IDPs):

Afrin	6,939
Arbin	2,684
Damascus	1,106
Idleb	697
Daret Azza	514

In addition, Mezanaz Transit Reception Centre, in Atareb sub-district, served as a major transit site for evacuees from Al Qadam Neighbourhood, Damascus, in mid-March. Atareb city later experienced the arrival of 2,274 IDPs from Arbin, with many reportedly in need of basic humanitarian assistance.¹²

Last place of departure of IDP arrivals:



Vulnerable groups among IDP arrivals:¹⁴



IDP Departures

In conjunction with rapid IDP influxes, over 80% of reported departures from assessed sites in Aleppo were secondary displacements, reflecting substantial onward movement of previously-displaced persons. 3,217 (25%) departees reportedly intended to leave the governorate.

Top intended destination sub-districts (# IDPs):

Jebel Saman	478
Ar-Raqqa	400
Hadher	286
Afrin	257
Menbij	251

Hama¹⁵

Key Figures

Communities assessed: 14

Total IDP arrivals: 4,955 (↑2%)

Sub-districts with most arrivals (# IDPs):

Madiq Castle	4,545
Ziyara	410

Total IDP departures: 13,464 (NA)

Sub-districts with most departures (# IDPs):

Madiq Castle	13,464
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Total spontaneous returns: 24,710 (↑98%)

Sub-districts with most spontaneous returns:

Madiq Castle	24,710
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Overview

Throughout March, Madiq Castle community in north-west Hama governorate acted as a zero point for evacuees being transported by bus from Eastern Ghouta.³ After initial screening, however, the majority of these IDPs did not remain within the community for an extended period of time, instead transiting onwards to Idleb and Aleppo governorates.

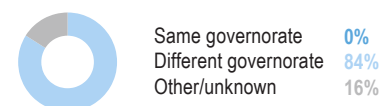
IDP Arrivals

Last sub-district of departure of arrivals (# IDPs):

Arbin	2,144
Dana	2,064

Assessed communities in Hama governorate collectively reported 4,944 IDP arrivals between 1 and 31 March. While no IDP arrivals were reported from elsewhere in Hama governorate, both Rural Damascus (43%) and Idleb (42%) governorates served as key sources of extra-governorate arrivals.

Last place of departure of IDP arrivals:



IDP Departures

Between 1 and 31 March, a total of 13,464 departures were reported from assessed communities in Hama governorate, including 9,633 primary displacements from Madiq Castle sub-district (72%). Almost half of this total comprised departures of IDP (1,100) and resident (pre-conflict) (5,221) populations from Kafr Nabutha community. KIs reported that the majority of these departees intended to leave Hama governorate to Dana sub-district, along Idleb's northern border with Turkey and Aleppo governorate.

Top intended destination sub-districts (# IDPs):

Dana	9,068
Ehsem	200
Heish	143
Kafr Nobol	86
Idleb	29

Spontaneous Returns

Following a perceived reduction in hostilities, assessed communities in Madiq Castle sub-district witnessed 24,710 spontaneous returns in the second half of March. 18,799 (76%) of these were to Madiq Castle community. Meanwhile, 24,675 (99%) reportedly returned to former homes.

Last sub-district of departure of SRs (# SRs):

Dana	18,255
Idleb	1,140

In total, 74% of SRs arrived from Dana sub-district in north-west Idleb governorate. More precisely, SRs arrived from Al Nasser (5,700), Atmeh (5,416) and Tal Al Karama (3,392) camps - all sites whose IDP populations have increased in recent months following successive waves of displacement.⁴

¹¹ Figures for Aleppo governorate reflect assessed communities in Aghtin, Al Bab, Ar-Ra'ee, Atareb, A'zaz, Daret Azza, Ghandorah, Jarablus, Mare', Suran, and Zarbah sub-district, and are, thus, not indicative of the whole governorate.

¹² UNHCR, Syria: Flash Update on Recent Events, 22 March 2018

¹³ See the upcoming CCCM, ISMI Biweekly Summary, 1-15 April 2018

¹⁴ Vulnerable groups: ♀ Female-headed households/Women travelling alone ♂ Child-headed households/children travelling alone ♂ Orphans

† Elderly-headed households/Elderly travelling alone ♿ Disabled-headed households/Individuals with disabilities travelling alone

¹⁵ Figures for Hama governorate reflect assessed communities in Madiq Castle and Ziyara sub-district, and are, thus, not indicative of the whole governorate.