

Rapid Displacement Overview: Displacement from Syria

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

Update: as of 02 March 2020

Background and Methodology

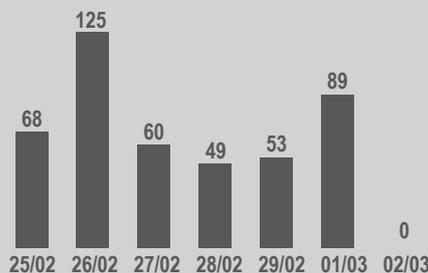
Due to the worsening security situation inside Syria, REACH Initiative (REACH) is conducting rapid assessments to monitor the influx and needs of Syrian refugees recently displaced to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). In order to inform and provide an evidence-base for humanitarian planning, the REACH 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 25th output reflects data collected in Sahila on 25-27 and 29 February -01 March 2020. In total, 65 KIs were interviewed on behalf of their travel groups (394 displaced individuals). As data is collected through KIs and only on specific days, results should be considered indicative and are not statistically representative.

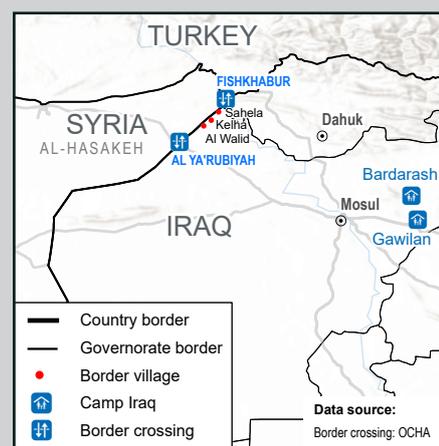
Displacement Figures

Total number of registered refugees arriving to assessed area since 9 October 2019: **21,533**.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 28 February, as no interviews were conducted on that day. There were no new arrivals on 2 March due to the border closure.²

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 people³ remain displaced, while UNHCR reported 21,533 refugees¹ crossing into the KR-I between 9 October and 2 March. Days after a ceasefire agreement was reached on 17 October,⁴ 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.

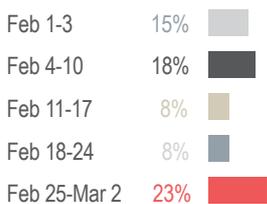
There were on average 63 new arrivals per day over the last week, which is an increase compared to the previous week. Numbers have been increasing on daily basis, reportedly due to the weather improvement. In this update, the most commonly reported recent districts of residence in Syria were Quamishli, Ain Al-Arab, As-Safira and Al-Hasakeh. Furthermore, travelling by foot remained the primary mode of transportation, and was reported by 80% of KIs, while the use of vehicles to travel continues to increase and was reported by 15% of KIs this week. Fifty five percent (55%) of the groups were able to complete the journey to the border in a day, while 45% of the groups reported having to travel for several days. For most travel groups, lack of food, lack of water 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 arrival of armed groups are the most common push factors to leave their place of residence in Syria.

Northwest Syria (NWS) Updates

There has been a noticeable increase in the percentage of people coming from NWS region. The following graphs show information reported by KIs coming from NWS region only.

KIs Coming from NWS

Since November 2019, the proportion of KIs reporting traveling from NWS to KR-I to seek refuge has increased from 1% in the first week of November to 23% in the last week of February beginning of March.



Group Size

The average group size coming from NWS is 5 individuals, while from NES is 6.

Push Factors

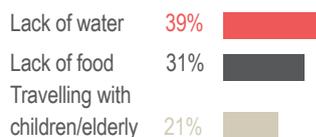
KIs reported that airstrikes was a more common push factor in NWS (31%) than NES (18%). Arrival of armed forces was also more commonly reported by KIs coming from NWS (25%) than NES (10%).



Difficulties on the Journey

Both NWS and NES KIs reported the same main difficulties encountered on the journey to KRI-I.

NWS KIs reported paying \$655 per group, while NES groups paid \$660 per group.



Secondary Displacement

All KIs from NWS reported that they were never displaced before, while 22% of NES KIs reported that they were previously displaced.

Mode of Transportation

Reportedly, groups from NWS are more likely to use cars as a mean of transport when compared to groups from NES (37% and 8%, respectively). NES most common mean of transport is walking (86%).

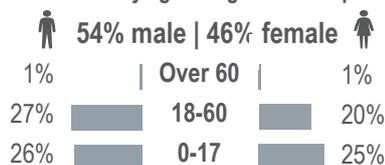


Demographics

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:

- 8% of children were unaccompanied or separated.
- 2% of travel group members were physically disabled.
- 25% of women were pregnant or lactating.

Population Left Behind

86% of KIs reported that within their travel group at least one member had left at least one family member behind in their previous residence.

¹ Based on information received from UNHCR

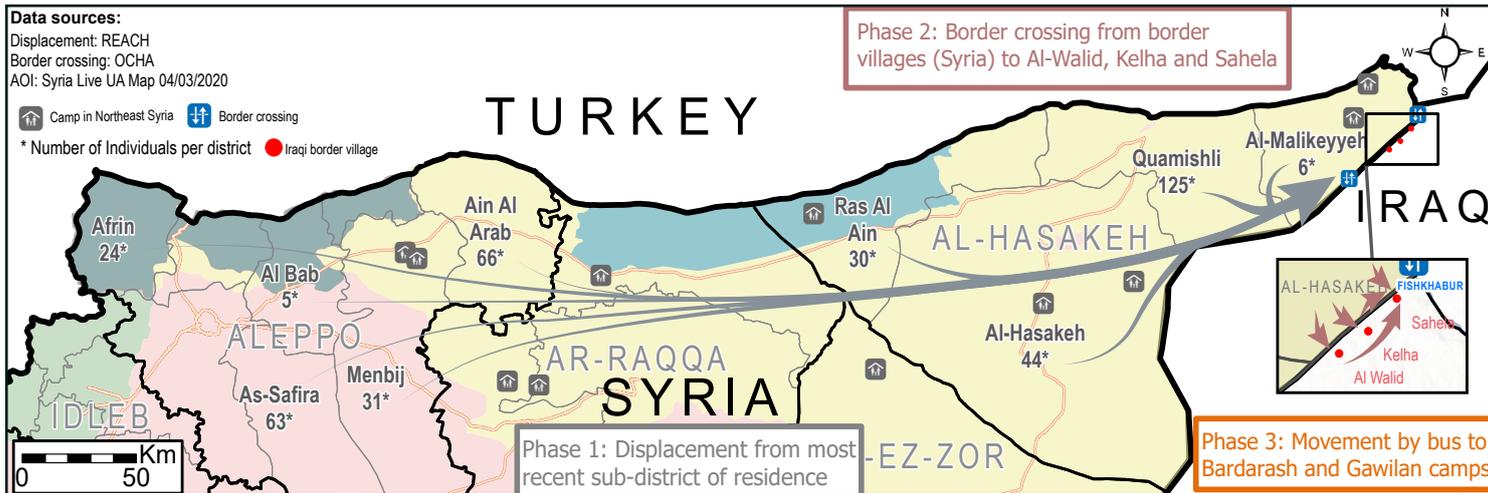
² The Iraqi-Syrian border has been closed due to the outbreak of Corona virus

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

⁴ OCHA. Syria Flash Update #12, Humanitarian impact of the military operation in north-eastern Syria, 1-19 November 2019

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Patterns of Displacement Map

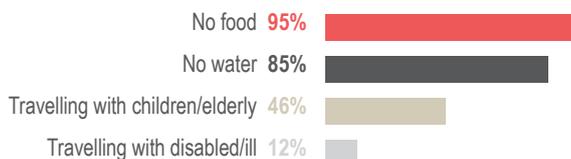


Displacement

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 132 USD per person (794 USD per group), which is similar to the former updates. Most KIs reported no food (95%) and no water (85%) as difficulties experienced on the journey. Eight percent (8%) 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.

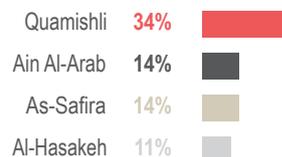
Displacement Routes

Most commonly reported difficulties experienced on the journey, according to KIs⁵:



Previous Location in Syria

Most commonly reported districts of most recent residence in Syria:

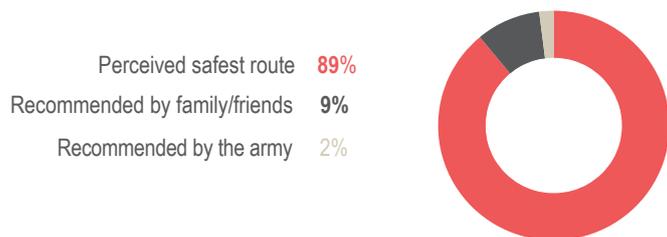


Push Factors

Most commonly reported reasons for displacement from Syria:



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



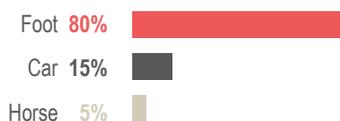
Duration of Displacement Stages

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

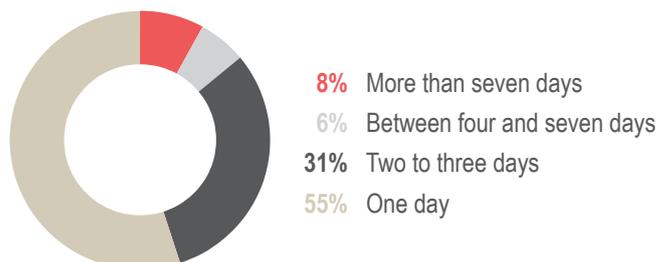
0% of KIs reported a waiting time of more than eight hours at crossing point from Syria to KR-I.

18% 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 transportation used by travel groups from recent residence location to crossing point, according to KIs:



Time since leaving previous residence:



Secondary Displacement

17% of KIs reported that the majority of their travel group members were living in displacement in their previous residence.

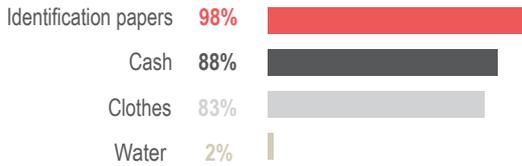
⁵KIs could select multiple needs or reasons. Therefore, results may exceed 100%.

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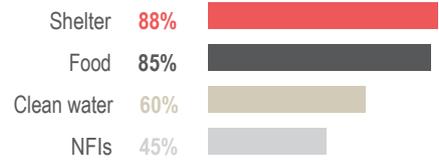
Needs and Assistance

Humanitarian Needs

Most commonly reported items brought by the majority of travel group members, according to KIs⁵:



Four most commonly reported priority needs, according to KIs⁵:



29% of group members did not carry any form of identification papers, as indicated by KIs⁶.

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 will be staying in camps.

When asked about movement intentions of travel groups in the **two weeks** following data collection, more than half (65%) of KIs reported their intention to join family or friends in KR-I within this timeframe, while 26% reported intending to stay in the camps, and 9% were unsure.

100% of KIs indicated that no 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:

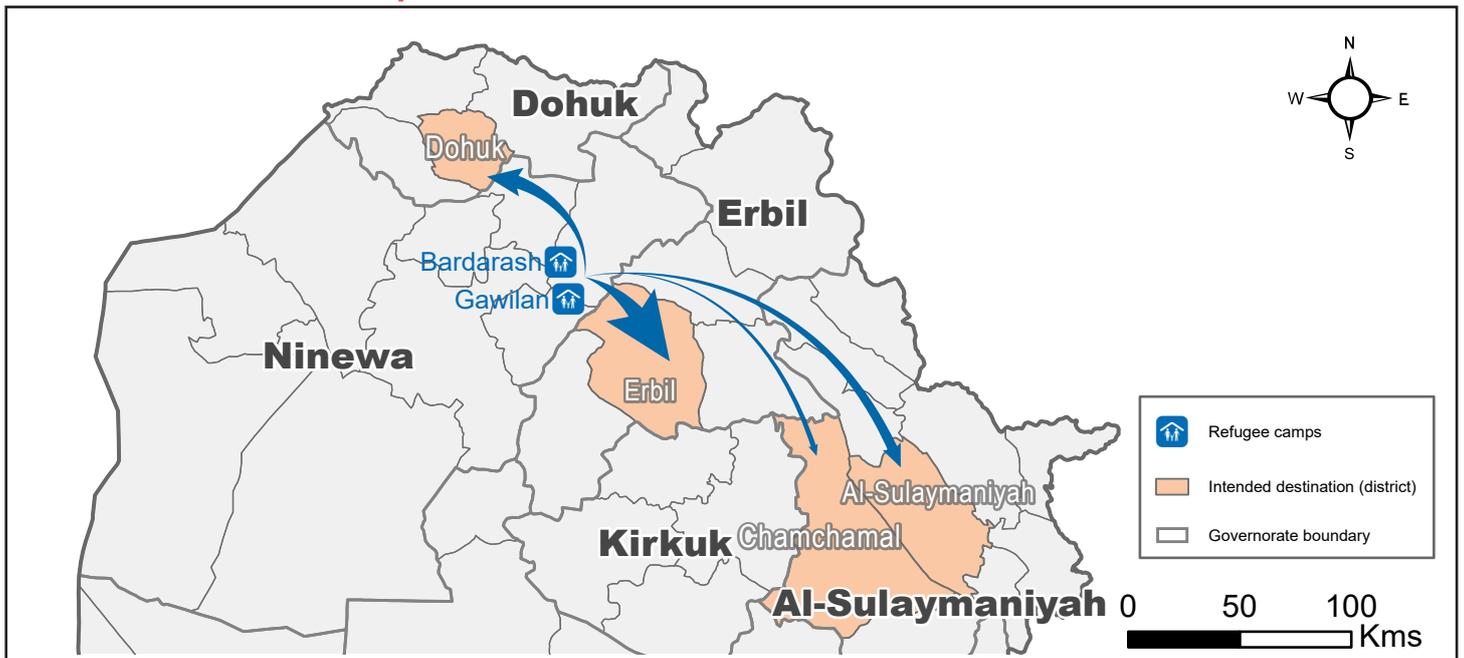


Intermediate-Term Intentions

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



Movement Intentions Map



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

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.