

# Rapid Displacement Overview: Displacement from Syria

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

Update: as of 2 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 15th output reflects data collected in Sahila on 30 November, 1 December and 2 December 2019. In total, 35 KIs were interviewed on behalf of their travel groups (188 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: **17,461**.<sup>1</sup>

By date of arrival:<sup>1</sup>

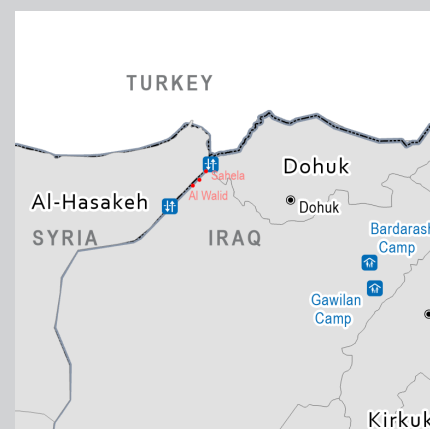
30 November: 90

1 December: 62

2 December: 36

Key findings	Change since last update*	% point difference
Top priority need: shelter	▶	0
Top priority need: food	▶	0
Intend to stay in camps in the next 2 weeks	▶	+1
Have no identification papers (% of individuals)	▶	-5

## Location Map



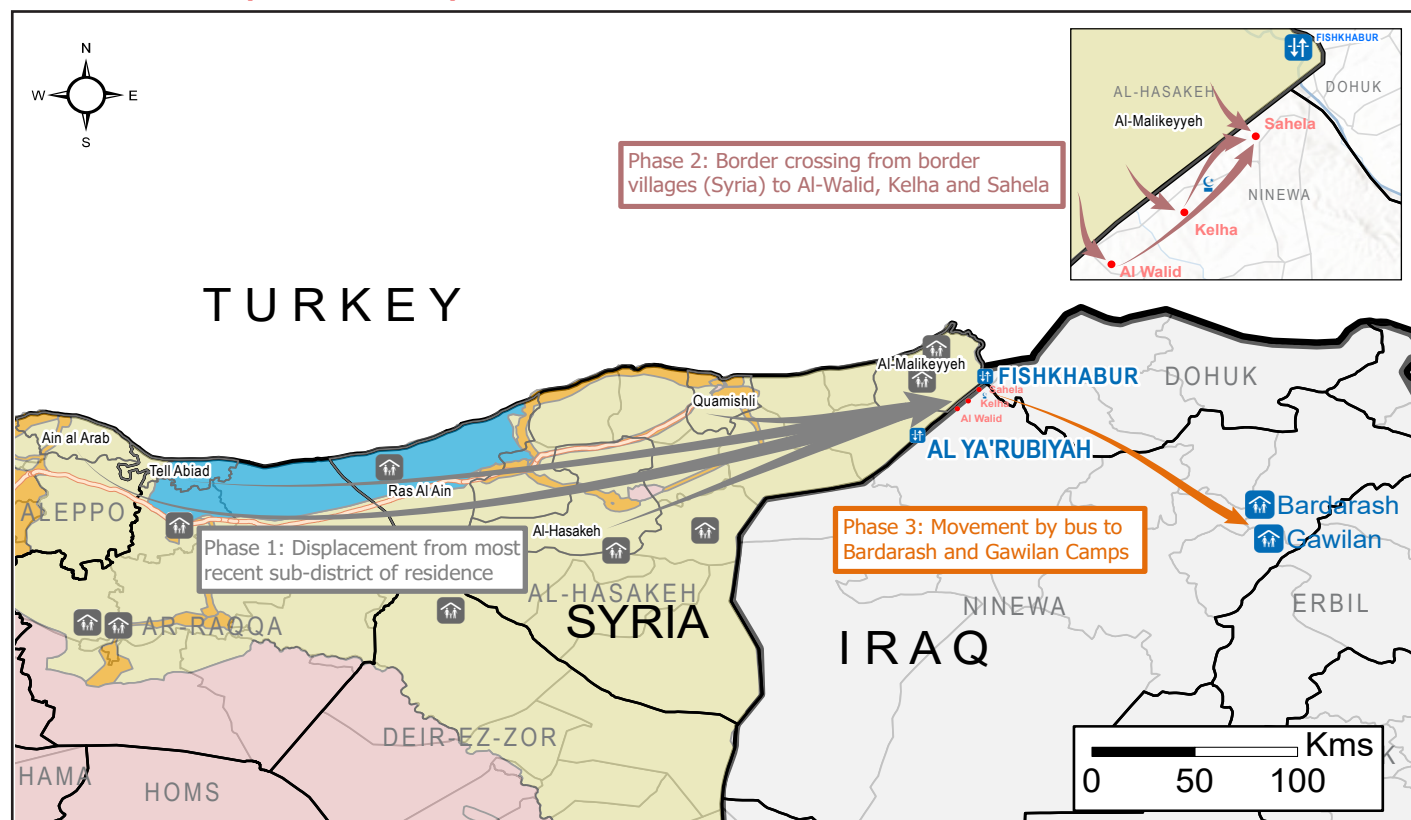
\* A point difference of +/- 1-5 is considered as 'no change'

## 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 people<sup>2</sup> remain displaced, while UNHCR reported 17,461 refugees<sup>1</sup> crossing into the KR-I between 9 October and 2 December. 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.

The number of arrivals has decreased compared to recent rounds, with an average of 63 new arrivals per day over the last 3 days, compared to 99 new arrivals per day in the previous reporting period. Only about a third (34%) of arrivals were female. Furthermore, 35% of all arrivals were boys under 18, while the number for girls was only 12%. Ain al-Arab remained the most commonly reported recent sub-district of residence in Syria, while the overall list of areas of origin was more diverse than in previous rounds. Travelling by foot remained the primary mode of transportation, and was reported by 71% of KIs, while 26% of groups reportedly travelled by car. Most travel groups reported lack of water and food as difficulties encountered on the journey. Similar to former updates, KIs reported airstrikes and the arrival of armed groups as 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. Syria Flash Update #10, Humanitarian impact of the military operation in north-eastern Syria, 29-31 October 2019

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



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

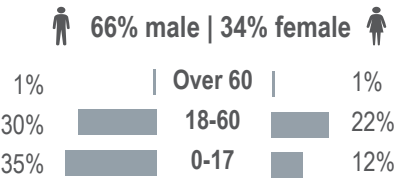
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## Demographics

### 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:

- 14%** of children were unaccompanied or separated.
- 1%** of travel group members were physically disabled.
- 32%** of women were pregnant or lactating.

### Population Left Behind

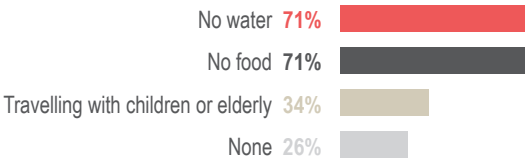
**94%** of KIs reported that within their travel group at least one member had left at least one family member behind in their previous residence.

## Displacement

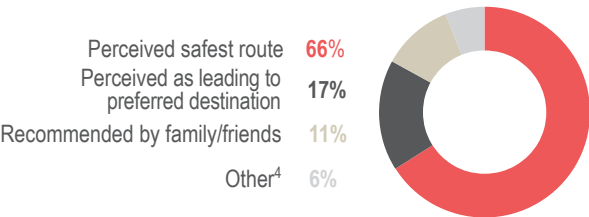
All KIs reported that travel groups had to pay someone to cross from Syria. Travel groups reportedly paid on average 184 USD per person (996 USD per group), which is similar to former updates. Most KIs reported no water (71%) and no food (71%) as difficulties experienced on the journey. Unlike in previous rounds, a significant percentage (26%) reported no major difficulties. However, these were all among the 54% reporting that the whole journey had taken a day or less. The majority of groups still reportedly faced difficulties and just under half (46%) travelled for several days.

### Displacement Routes

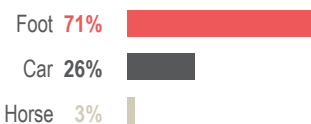
Most commonly reported difficulties experienced on the journey, according to KIs<sup>4</sup>:



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:

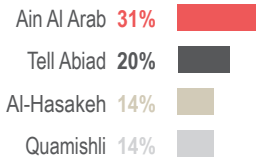


### Secondary Displacement

**43%** of KIs reported that the majority of their travel group members were living in displacement in their previous residence.

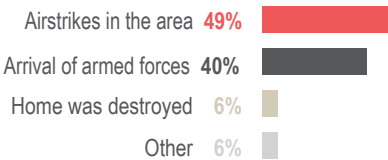
### Previous Location in Syria

Most commonly reported districts of most recent residence in Syria:



### Push Factors

Most commonly reported reasons for displacement from Syria:



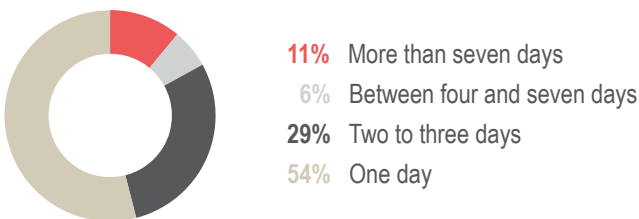
### Duration of Displacement Stages

**29%** of KIs reported less than 6 hours between the decision to leave their most recent location of residence and departing.

**67%** of KIs reported a waiting time of more than eight hours at crossing point from Syria to KR-I.

**0%** 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:



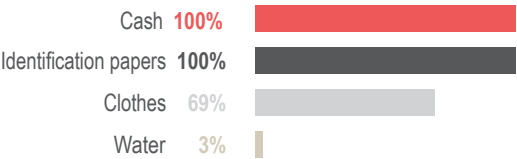
<sup>4</sup>“Other” included perceiving the route as being the shortest and being directed or redirected by armed forces

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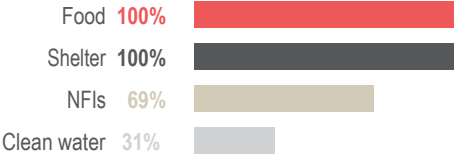
## Needs and Assistance

### Humanitarian Needs

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>4</sup>:



34% of group members did not carry any form of identification papers, as indicated by KIs<sup>6,7</sup>.

## 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.

About half (49%) of KIs reported wanting to join family and friends in KR-I in the two weeks following data collection, while 37% intended to stay in the camps and 14% were unsure. No KIs reported that any member of their group was intending to return to Syria in the following two weeks.

Most commonly reported movement intentions of travel groups in the two weeks following date of interview, according to KIs<sup>8</sup>:

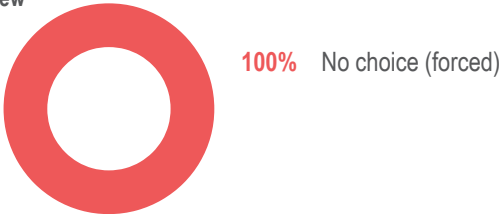


0% of KIs indicated that at least one member of their group intends to return back to Syria in the two weeks following date of interview.

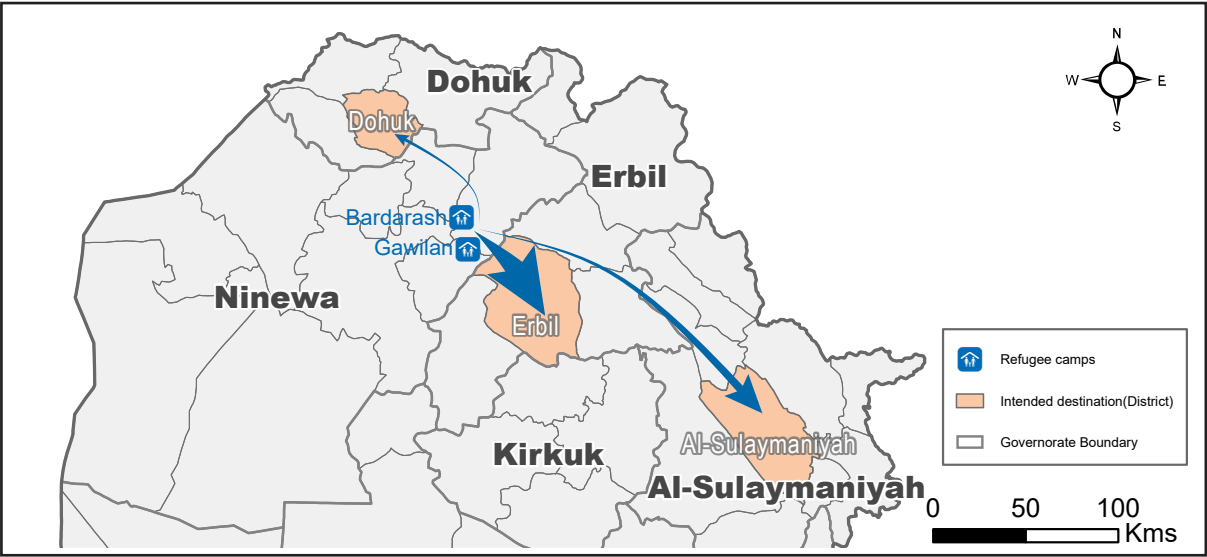
Most commonly reported movement intentions of travel groups in the two days following date of interview, according to KIs:



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



## Movement Intentions Map



<sup>5</sup>KIs could select multiple needs or reasons. Therefore, results may exceed 100%.  
<sup>6</sup>While 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.  
<sup>7</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>8</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.