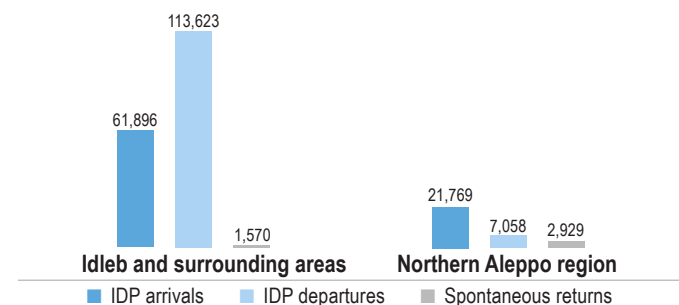


IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI)

Monthly Overview of IDP Movements and Spontaneous Returns in north-west Syria, February 2019

Summary of Findings

Communities assessed:	634
Total IDP arrivals: ¹	83,665 (↑95%) ²
Total IDP departures: ³	120,681 (↑242%)
Total spontaneous returns (SRs): ⁴	4,499 (↑41%)
Total IDP arrivals, IDP departures and SRs by region:	



¹ Some figures reported may be repeated displacements.

² CCCM/REACH, *ISMI Monthly Displacement Summary*, January 2019.

³ IDP departure figures reflect aggregated departures of both IDP and resident/pre-conflict populations.

In February, assessed communities in north-west Syria witnessed a total of **83,665 IDP arrivals**, with 74% arriving in Idlib and surrounding areas and 26% in the northern Aleppo region. Clashes in the area significantly escalated in February. **Incidents of aerial bombardments intensified near conflict lines, in particular in southern Idlib governorate and its adjacent areas of northern Hama and eastern Latakia governorates.**⁵ Many schools, markets and hospitals were closed following the escalation in clashes and general insecurity.⁶

Idlib and surrounding areas witnessed **113,623 IDP departures**, the majority (71%) of which were primary displacements from southern Idlib, which led to large IDP departures from **Ma'arrat An Nu'man (19,022)** and **Khan Shaykun (48,183)** sub-districts. Many people were initially displaced to neighbouring sub-districts, but later moved further north towards Dana sub-district as clashes continued.⁶

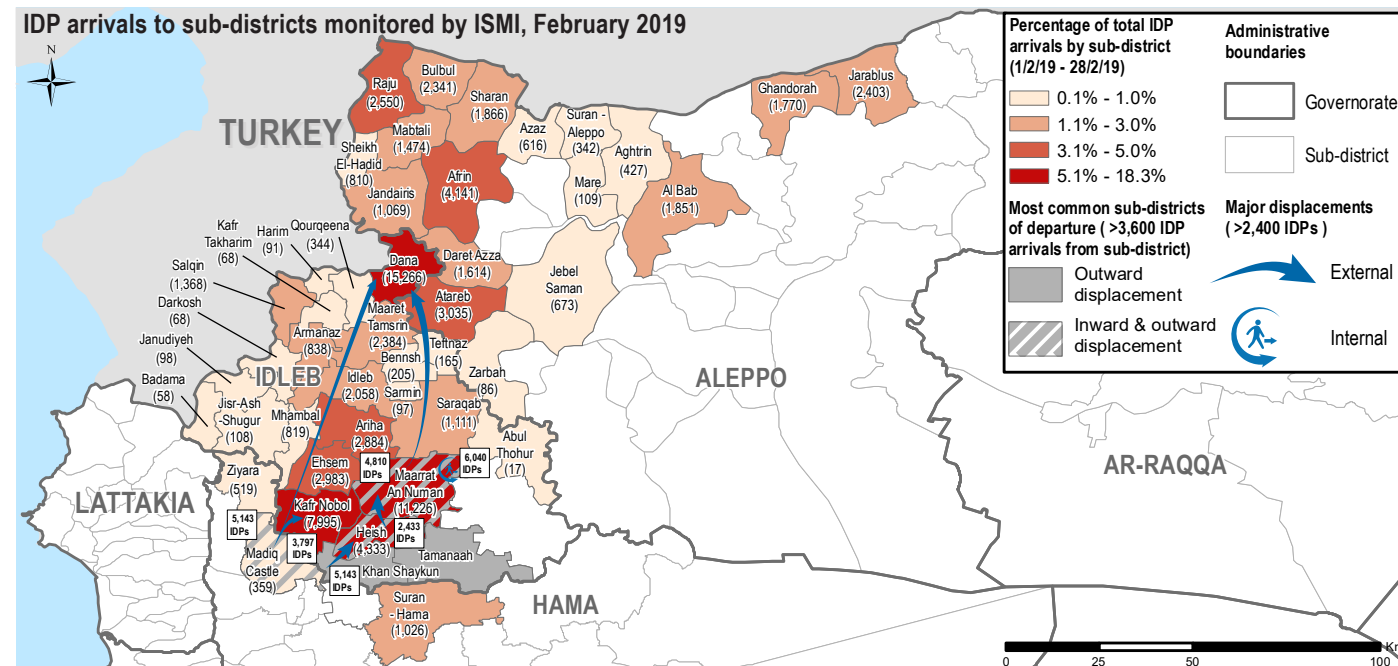
In parallel, the **northern Aleppo region** witnessed **21,769 IDP arrivals**, 83% of whom arrived from outside of northern Aleppo governorate, likely indicating a perceived stability in the area compared to elsewhere in Syria.

⁴ Regular monitoring of spontaneous returns under ISMI monthly assessments was re-introduced from December 2018.

⁵ UN News, *'UN rights chief 'alarmed' by upsurge in attacks against civilians in Syria's Idlib'*, 19 February 2019; UOSSM, *'Drastic Escalation of Violence Leaves 18 Civilians Dead in 48 Hours'*, 26 February 2019.

⁶ REACH, *Southern Idlib and Northern Hama Rapid Needs Assessment*, February 2019.

IDP arrivals to sub-districts monitored by ISMI, February 2019



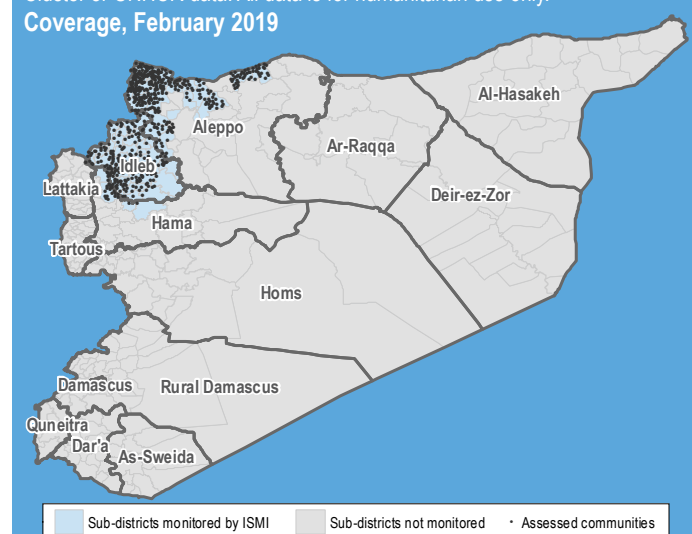
About ISMI & This Factsheet

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 and now monthly data collection cycles were initiated. This factsheet presents an overview of reported inward and outward movements of IDPs from 1 to 28 February 2019. Such displacements were reported in 634 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 north-west 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, February 2019



IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI)

Monthly Overview of IDP Movements and Spontaneous Returns in north-west Syria, February 2019

IDLEB & SURROUNDING AREAS⁷

Key Figures

Communities assessed: 275

Total IDP arrivals: 61,896 (↑399%)

Sub-districts with most arrivals (# IDPs):

Dana	15,266
Ma'arrat An Nu'man	11,226
Kafr Nobol	7,995
Heish	4,333
Atareb	3,035

Total IDP departures: 113,623 (↑356%)

Sub-districts with most departures (# IDPs):

Khan Shaykun	48,183
Madiq Castle	25,680
Ma'arrat An Nu'man	19,022
Saraqab	5,473
Heish	4,389

Total SRs: 1,570 (↑60%)

Sub-districts with most spontaneous returns:

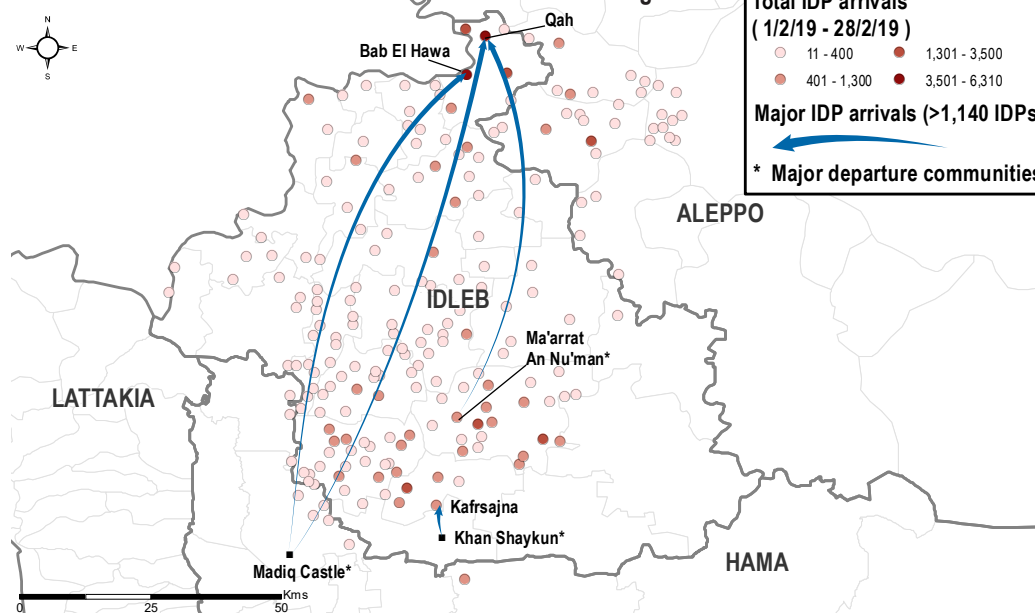
Suran	570
Ma'arrat An Nu'man	388
Jisr-Ash-Shugur	326
Zarbah	103
Badama	86

Overview

In February, opposition-held areas of Idlib, western Aleppo and northern Hama governorates continued to witness large displacement waves, with a total of **61,896 IDP arrivals** and **113,623 IDP departures**. February saw an **intensification of clashes between Government of Syria-allied forces and armed opposition groups (AOGs)**, as well as **inter-AOG violence**.⁵ Many IDPs were displaced from southern Idlib governorate following **sustained aerial bombardments**, moving further away from conflict lines towards the governorate's north.

Many IDPs arrived to **Dana (15,266)** and **Ma'arrat An Nu'man (11,226)** sub-districts. In line with patterns seen in January, more than half (54%) of all IDPs arriving to Ma'arrat An Nu'man were internal sub-district movements.

IDP arrivals to assessed communities in Idlib and surrounding areas⁸



IDP Arrivals

More than half (56%) of the **61,896 IDP arrivals** in the region reported in February were to assessed communities in **Dana (15,266)**, **Ma'arrat An Nu'man (11,226)** and **Kafr Nobol (7,995)** sub-districts, all located in central and northern Idlib governorate. Almost all (94%) IDPs reportedly arrived from other communities within Idlib and surrounding areas.

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

Ma'arrat An Nu'man	17,122
Khan Shaykun	13,434
Madiq Castle	11,726
Heish	5,722
Tamanaah	2,914

Almost half (49%) of all IDP arrivals to assessed communities in the region arrived from **Ma'arrat An Nu'man (17,122)** and **Khan Shaykun (13,434)** sub-districts following an escalation in aerial bombardments on these areas, as well as their neighbouring communities in southern Idlib governorate.⁵

On a community level, **Qah (6,310)** in Dana sub-district experienced the highest number of IDP arrivals, many of whom reportedly arrived from **Ma'arrat An Nu'man (3,659)**, **Madiq Castle (1,140)** and **Ziyara (713)** communities.

Vulnerable groups among IDP arrivals:⁹



Escalation in aerial bombardment, anticipation of future conflict escalation and escalation of ground-based conflict were commonly reported by Key Informants (KIs) as push factors for IDPs. Meanwhile, KIs reported **safety and security, family ties or relationships with the host community, as well as access to humanitarian assistance** as the most common pull factors for IDPs.

Most common pull factors of IDP arrivals:¹⁰

	1st	2nd	3rd
Safety and security situation	161	41	3
Family ties/host community relationships	35	31	22
Access to humanitarian assistance	3	46	27
Access to shelter/shelter support	1	20	46
Access to food	1	27	24

IDP Departures

In parallel, **113,623 total IDP departures** were reported from assessed communities in Idlib and surrounding areas between 1 and 28 February following an intensification in clashes within the region. The majority (71%) of these were primary displacements, many of whom left their communities of origin in **Khan Shaykun (34,211)** and **Ma'arrat An Nu'man (11,258)**.

Top intended destination sub-districts (# IDPs):

Dana	31,946
Idlib	7,583
Ehsem	6,576
Ma'arrat An Nu'man	1,472
Heish	690

On a community level, many IDPs reportedly intended to move to **Atma (22,780)** and **Sarmada (2,600)** in Dana sub-district, as well as **Bara (1,461)** in Ehsem sub-district.

Spontaneous Returns

Between 1 and 28 February, **1,570 SRs** were reported in assessed communities in the region, more than half of whom returned to **Suran (570)** and **Ma'arrat An Nu'man (388)** sub-districts. All SRs to Suran sub-district returned to their former homes, while the majority (85%) of SRs to Ma'arrat An Nu'man also returned to their former homes. In line with patterns seen in January, many SRs to Ma'arrat An Nu'man sub-district were likely short-term displacements following insecurity and aerial bombardments in the area.

KIs reported **improved safety and security, a desire to return home, as well as family reunification** as the main pull factors for SRs to return to their community of origin.

⁷ Idlib governorate's surrounding areas include communities in Atareb, Daret Azza, Haritan, Jebel Saman and Zarbah sub-districts in western Aleppo governorate, as well as in Kafr Zeita, Madiq Castle, Suran and Ziyara sub-districts in northern Hama. These sub-districts have been added to the larger Idlib and surrounding areas region as populations in these sub-districts demonstrate similar movement patterns and are served by the same cross-border responses.

⁸ Community markers also account for camps, informal settlements and other IDP sites when they are in close proximity to a community.

⁹ Vulnerable groups: ♀ Female-headed households/Women travelling alone
♂ Child-headed households ♂ Orphans ♀ Elderly-headed households/
Elderly travelling alone ♂ Disabled-headed households/Individuals with
disabilities travelling alone.

¹⁰ Number of accessible communities in which the most common push and/or pull factors for IDP arrivals/departures or SRs were reported by KIs.

IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI)

Monthly Overview of IDP Movements and Spontaneous Returns in north-west Syria, February 2019

NORTHERN ALEPPO¹¹

Key Figures

Communities assessed: 359

Total IDP arrivals: 21,769 (+29%)

Sub-districts with most arrivals (# IDPs):

Afrin	4,141
Raju	2,550
Jarablus	2,403
Bulbul	2,341
Sharan	1,866

Total IDP departures: 7,058 (+32%)

Sub-districts with most departures (# IDPs):

Ghandorah	1,609
Al Bab	1,254
Afrin	1,181
Sharan	968
Jarablus	678

Total SRs: 2,929 (+21%)

Sub-districts with most spontaneous returns:

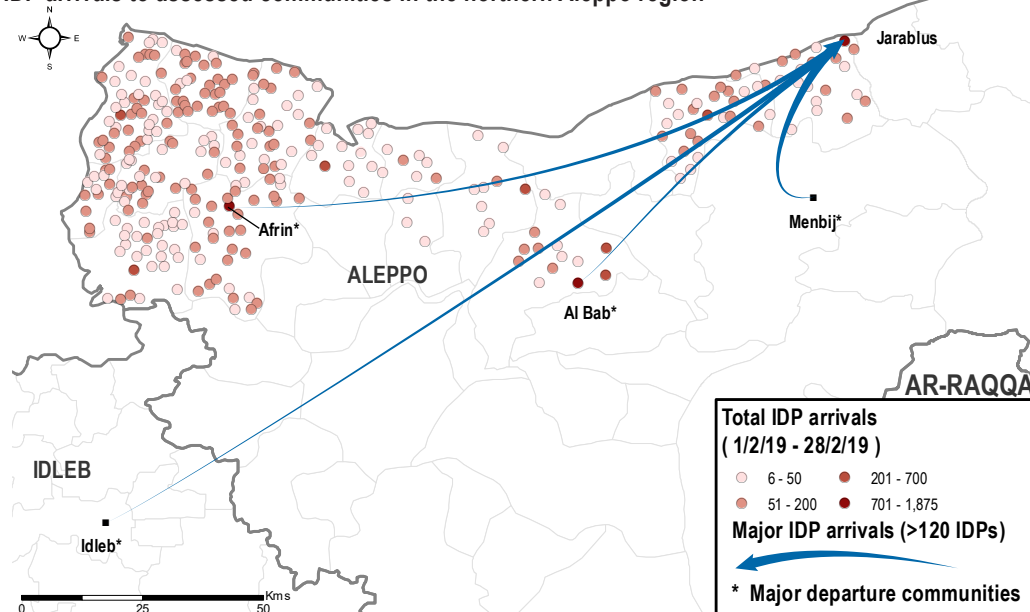
Afrin	703
Raju	517
Bulbul	387
Sharan	349
Ma'tali	314

Overview

The northern Aleppo region witnessed 21,769 IDP arrivals and 7,058 IDP departures in February. Almost half (48%) of all IDPs arrived to the northern Aleppo region from neighbouring Idlib and surrounding areas, in particular from Ma'arrat An Nu'man (3,750) and Khan Shaykun (2,410) following an escalation of aerial bombardments on the area. KIs reported **safety and security** as the most common pull factor for IDPs arriving to the region.

Nevertheless, the northern Aleppo region continued to witness **general insecurity, inter-AOG violence, as well as an increase in incidents involving improvised explosive devices.**⁵ In February, Ghandorah (1,609) and Al Bab (1,254) sub-districts witnessed large IDP departures.

IDP arrivals to assessed communities in the northern Aleppo region⁸



IDP Arrivals

Assessed communities in the northern Aleppo region witnessed a total of 21,769 IDP arrivals, more than half (53%) of whom to Afrin (4,141), Raju (2,550), Jarablus (2,403) and Bulbul (2,341) sub-districts.

Vulnerable groups among IDP arrivals:⁹



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

Ma'arrat An Nu'man	3,750
Khan Shaykun	2,410
Idlib	1,565
Menbij	1,111
Al Bab	1,102

In line with patterns seen in January, the majority of IDPs (83%) arrived from outside of the northern Aleppo region from elsewhere in Syria. Almost half (48%) of all IDPs reportedly arrived from Idlib and surrounding areas, many of whom from Ma'arrat An Nu'man (3,750) and Khan Shaykun (2,410) sub-districts following aerial bombardments.

On a community level, Afrin (1,875) and Jarablus (1,066) experienced the highest number of IDP arrivals. Many IDPs from Menbij (302), Idlib (279), Afrin (205) and Al Bab (103) communities, as well as Zoghra Camp (86) reportedly arrived to Jarablus community.

Escalation in aerial bombardment, loss of income and anticipation of future conflict escalation were commonly reported by KIs as push factors for IDP arrivals.

Most common push factors of IDP arrivals:¹⁰

	1st	2nd	3rd
Escalation of aerial bombardment	97	81	16
Loss of income	46	43	60
Anticipation of future conflict escalation	26	76	38
Escalation of ground-based conflict	94	30	1
Reduced access to shelter	12	13	48

Meanwhile, KIs reported **safety and security, family ties or relationships with the host community, as well as access to shelter** as the most common pull factors for IDPs arriving to the region.

IDP Departures

More than one third (41%) of the total 7,058 IDP departures were from assessed communities in Ghandorah (1,609) and Al Bab (1,254) sub-districts, likely due to inter-AOG violence. In line with patterns seen in January, the majority (91%) of IDPs leaving assessed communities in the northern Aleppo region were secondary displacements.

Top intended destination sub-districts (# IDPs):

Jarablus	573
Menbij	370
Ar-Raqqa	291
Al Bab	250
Afrin	238

On a sub-district level, many IDPs leaving Ghandorah and Al Bab reportedly intended to move to communities in Jarablus (538), Ar-Raqqa (291), and Menbij (228).

Spontaneous Returns

Between 1 and 28 February, 2,929 SRs were reported in assessed communities in the region, many of whom returned to Afrin (703) and Raju (517) sub-districts. Many SRs to Afrin sub-district reportedly arrived from Sharan (68), Sheikh El-Hadid (62) and Bulbul (62) sub-districts.

Sub-districts with most spontaneous returns to former homes:

Afrin	674
Bulbul	387
Sharan	349
Raju	293
Ma'tali	274

Overall, almost all (92%) SRs returned to either solid or finished houses and apartments.

Most common pull factors of SRs:¹⁰

	1st	2nd	3rd
Access to income/employment opportunities	41	18	6
Improved safety and security	40	19	27
Family reunification	39	40	3
Desire to return home	13	12	26
Increased access to shelter	11	4	8

¹¹ Figures for the northern Aleppo region include accessible communities in the following sub-districts: Afrin, Aghtrin, Al Bab, Ar-Ra'ee, Azaz, Bulbul, Ghandorah, Jandairis, Jarablus, Ma'tali, Mare', Raju, Sharan, Sheikh El-Hadid and Suran.