Idleb and surrounding areas: Population Movement Intentions Overview

Northwest Syria, August-September 2018

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Assessed communities in Idleb, northern Hama and western Aleppo governorates:

Assessed Community Population
- Less than 50,000
- 50,001 to 100,000
- 100,001 to 160,000
- 160,001 to 200,000
- 200,001 to 260,000

Main Findings

REACH assessed 362 communities of Idleb, Aleppo and Hama governorates out of approximately **700** opposition-held communities in the region.

Scenario 1 - If conflict intensifies in or around assessed communities:[6]

- KI estimates suggest that between **65-74%** of the IDP and **53-62%** of the resident populations could be displaced. An estimated **1,986,370 to 2,298,060 million people could be displaced** (674,670 to 767,970 IDPs and 1,311,700 to 1,530,090 residents)[7] from 362 assessed communities.**[8]**

- The most commonly reported **pull factors** for both IDP and resident populations were expected to be **relative safety and security as perceived by IDPs and residents, as well as access to humanitarian assistance, income and employment opportunities** in the intended destinations.

Scenario 2 - If the security situation and movement restrictions as of mid-August 2018 persist:

- KI estimates suggest that **22-27%** of the IDP and **19-23%** of the resident populations could be displaced. An estimated **699,380 to 855,450 people could be displaced** (231,940 to 282,390 IDPs and 467,450 to 573,060 residents) from 362 assessed communities.[9]

- The most reported push factor for both IDP and resident populations intending to leave their current location was related to the **fear of future conflict escalation or to actual escalation of conflict**. Consequently, the most significant **pull factor** for both IDP and resident populations was the **relative safety and security of the intended destination.**

In both scenarios, IDPs and resident populations are expected to move away from anticipated conflict lines, most commonly to sub-districts in northern Idleb and north-western Aleppo governorates. Dana and Afrin sub-districts were the most reported intended destinations at a sub-district level for both IDP and resident populations in both scenarios.

Major Developments

As of early September 2018, **Idleb governorate and the surrounding areas of western Aleppo and north-western Hama are one of the last remaining opposition-held territories in Syria.**[1,2] Since the outbreak of the conflict in 2011, the predominantly rural region has seen its population swell following **continuous influxes of internally displaced persons (IDPs)** from across the country.[3] More recently, from late 2017, the region has witnessed further large-scale IDP arrivals, following **escalations of conflict and displacements from formerly opposition-held areas** in south-eastern Idleb, Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Dar'a and Quneitra governorates.[4] With **widespread concern over an imminent military offensive in the region** – potentially displacing up to **800,000** people, according to UNOCHA[5] – REACH and CCCM have conducted a **movement intentions assessment.** In order to provide an overview of both IDP and resident populations' movement intentions, enumerators conducted **Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) in 362 out of approximately 700 opposition-held communities in the region.**
This situation overview provides an outline of findings from this assessment and is divided into two scenarios:
Scenario 1 provides an overview of movement intentions if conflict intensifies in or around the assessed communities.
Scenario 2 provides an overview of movement intentions based on the security situation and movement restrictions at the time of data collection.

Methodology

REACH conducted data collection for this assessment between 12 and 20 August 2018. In coordination with the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, data was collected in 362 (out of approximately 700) communities across 30 (out of 37) sub-districts in Idleb governorate and surrounding opposition-held areas. Data was collected at the community level, with enumerators interviewing at least two Key Informants (KIs) per community. Communities were assessed based on available population data, focusing on those reported to have large total populations and those that received a high number of IDP arrivals in the two months prior to the start of data collection. Information should be considered as reflective of the situation at the time of data collection, given the dynamic situation in the region. In addition, findings are not statistically representative and should only be considered as indicative of the situation in the wider Idleb governorate and surrounding areas region.

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Scenario 1: Conflict Intensification - IDP Population Movement Intentions

If conflict intensifies in or around assessed communities, KIs in 98% of communities (355 out of 362 communities) expected at least some IDPs to leave, while KIs in over half of assessed communities (52%) expected more than 80% of IDPs to leave. KIs in 28% of assessed communities (100) expected all IDPs to leave their current location if conflict intensifies.

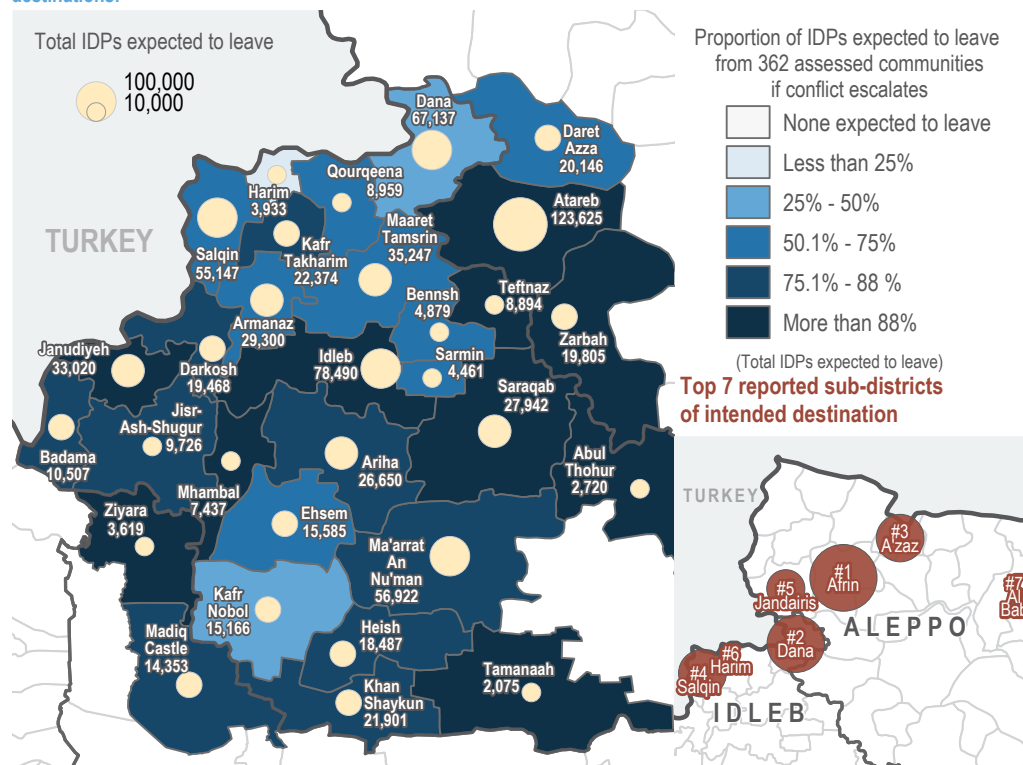**Proportion of assessed communities expecting IDP departures if conflict intensifies:**

Yes	**98%**
Not sure	1.7%
No	0.3%
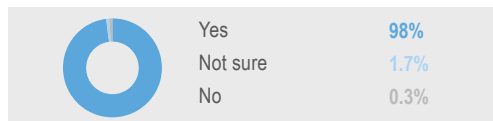
On average, **KIs anticipated the departure of 65-74% of IDPs that are currently in assessed locations.**

Communities in **sub-districts that are closer to frontlines were expected to have significantly higher proportions of maximum IDP departures.** These included: Tamanaah, Janudiyeh, Mhambal, Saraqab, Zarbah, Atareb, Abul Thohur, Idleb, Ziyara, Teftnaz, Khan Shaykun and Ariha. Meanwhile, a lower proportion of maximum IDP departures was expected from communities in Harim and Dana sub-districts.

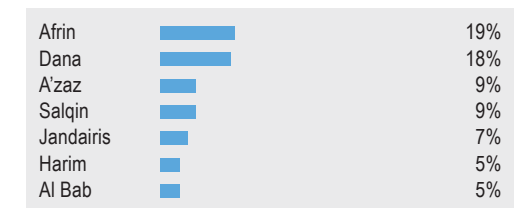**Proportion of assessed communities expecting IDP departures by sub-districts and estimate of expected departures:[8]**

Atareb	26/26	111,560 - 123,620	Heish	9/9	16,460 - 18,490
Idleb	14/14	70,740 - 78,490	Ehsem	19/19	13,530 - 15,580
Dana	16/16	53,460 - 67,140	Kafr Nobol	17/17	11,460 - 15,170
Ma'arrat An Nu'man	20/20	50,860 - 56,920	Madiq Castle	13/13	12,810 - 14,350
Salqin	14/14	47,200 - 55,150	Badama	9/9	9,340 - 10,510
Maaret Tamsrin	16/16	30,880 - 35,250	Jisr-Ash-Shugur	10/16	8,810 - 9,730
Janudiyeh	13/13	30,050 - 33,020	Qourqeena	11/11	7,500 - 8,960
Armanaz	11/11	25,560 - 29,300	Teftnaz	5/5	7,990 - 8,890
Saraqab	18/18	25,300 - 27,940	Mhambal	14/14	6,760 - 7,440
Ariha	21/21	23,900 - 26,650	Bennsh	2/2	4,240 - 4,880
Kafr Takharim	4/4	19,800 - 22,370	Sarmin	1/1	3,890 - 4,460
Khan Shaykun	6/6	19,640 - 21,900	Harim	4/5	2,410 - 3,930
Daret Azza	14/14	17,680 - 20,150	Ziyara	8/8	3,250 - 3,620
Zarbah	14/14	17,910 - 19,800	Abul Thohur	7/7	2,450 - 2,720
Darkosh	14/14	17,320 - 19,470	Tamanaah	5/5	1,890 - 2,080

Maximum proportion of IDP population expected to leave in the month following data collection and top 7 intended destinations:

Total IDPs expected to leave

100,000
10,000

Proportion of IDPs expected to leave from 362 assessed communities if conflict escalates

	None expected to leave
	Less than 25%
	25% - 50%
	50.1% - 75%
	75.1% - 88 %
	More than 88%

(Total IDPs expected to leave)

Top 7 reported sub-districts of intended destination

The largest expected IDP departures were reported from assessed communities in Atareb, Idleb, Dana and Ma'arrat An Nu'man sub-district.

Intended destinations*

At a governorate level, **over half (55%) of intended destinations of IDPs expected to leave assessed communities were in Aleppo governorate**, while **40%** of intended destinations were reportedly in **Idleb governorate.**

Out of the reported 855 intended destinations, 350 (41%) were to sub-districts in north-western Aleppo, most commonly to communities in **Afrin, A'zaz, Jandairis and Al Bab sub-districts.**

# of IDPs Expected to Leave
674,670 - 767,970 (65-74%)

Proportion of intended destination from assessed communities to sub-districts:

Afrin	19%
Dana	18%
A'zaz	9%
Salqin	9%
Jandairis	7%
Harim	5%
Al Bab	5%

Additionally, **out of the reported 855 intended destinations, 275 (32%) were to northern Idleb**, most commonly from assessed communities to communities in **Dana (18%), Salqin (9%) and Harim (5%) sub-districts**.
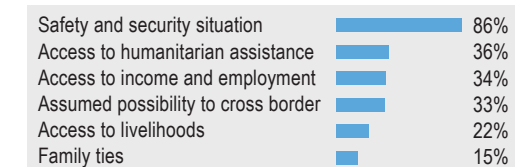
Pull factors

If conflict intensifies, by far the **most common expected pull factor reported** by KIs was **potential safety and security** in the intended destination. Indeed, the seven most reported intended destinations are relatively far from conflict lines in comparison to IDPs' current locations.

Access to **humanitarian assistance, income, employment opportunities and livelihoods** were also commonly reported pull factors.

With 5% of mentioned intended destinations being outside of Syria, one of the most commonly reported pull factors was the **assumption that cross-border movement is possible** (for 33% of intended destinations). This was most commonly reported for IDPs expected to leave from Mhambal, Zarbah and Saraqab sub-districts at the time of data collection.

Main pull factors reported by KIs for intended IDP departures:

Safety and security situation	86%
Access to humanitarian assistance	36%
Access to income and employment	34%
Assumed possibility to cross border	33%
Access to livelihoods	22%
Family ties	15%

* KIs were asked to provide up to five intended destinations at a sub-district level.

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Scenario 1: Conflict Intensification - Resident Population Movement Intentions

According to KI reports, **almost all assessed communities (97%) are expected to experience at least some residents leaving if conflict intensifies.** In **over half (55%)** of assessed communities, **more than 60% of residents are expected to leave**: this proportion of expected resident departures rises to **100% for 46 (13%)** assessed communities.

Proportion of assessed communities expecting IDP departures if conflict intensifies:

Yes		**97%**
Not sure		2%
No		1%

On average, KIs expected the departure of 53-62% of residents from assessed communities.
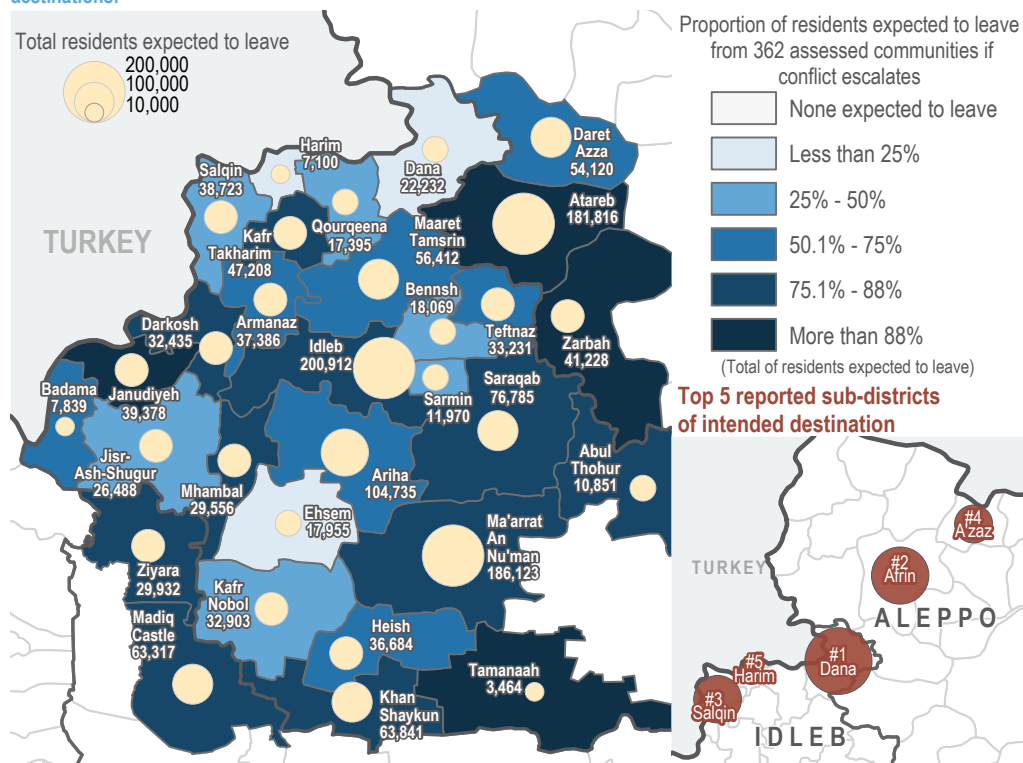
This percentage, however, varied according to the geographic location of assessed sub-districts. **Sub-districts closer to conflict lines are expected to have a significantly higher proportion of intended departures** for resident populations than sub-districts in northern Idleb.

For instance, the proportions of maximum resident departures expected from communities in Janudiyeh, Tamanaah, Zarbah, Atareb, Mhambal, Abul Thohur and Idleb sub-districts were all above 80%. In contrast,

Maximum proportion of resident population expected to leave in the month following data collection and top 5 intended destinations:

Total residents expected to leave

Proportion of residents expected to leave from 362 assessed communities if conflict escalates

- None expected to leave
- Less than 25%
- 25% - 50%
- 50.1% - 75%
- 75.1% - 88%
- More than 88%

(Total of residents expected to leave)

Top 5 reported sub-districts of intended destination

Salqin 38,723 | Harim 7,100 | Dana 22,232 | Daret Azza 54,120 | Atareb 181,816 | Kafr Takharim 47,208 | Qourqeena 17,395 | Maaret Tamsrin 56,412 | Bennsh 18,069 | Teftnaz 33,231 | Zarbah 41,228 | Darkosh 32,435 | Armanaz 37,386 | Idleb 200,912 | Sarmin 11,970 | Saraqab 76,785 | Badama 7,839 | Janudiyeh 39,378 | Abul Thohur 10,851 | Jisr-Ash-Shugur 26,488 | Mhambal 29,556 | Ariha 104,735 | Ehsem 17,955 | Ma'arrat An Nu'man 186,123 | Ziyara 29,932 | Kafr Nobol 32,903 | Heish 36,684 | Madiq Castle 63,317 | Khan Shaykun 63,841 | Tamanaah 3,464

#4 A'zaz | #2 Afrin | #5 Harim | #1 Dana | #3 Salqin

TURKEY | ALEPPO | IDLEB

Proportion of assessed communities expecting resident departures by sub-districts and estimate of expected departures:[8]

|					
Idleb	14/14	178,710 - 200,910	Teftnaz	5/5	29,020 - 33,230
Ma'arrat An Nu'man	20/20	164,180 - 186,120	Kafr Nobol	17/17	22,180 - 32,900
Atareb	26/26	163,230 - 181,820	Darkosh	14/14	28,550 - 32,430
Ariha	21/21	89,700 - 104,730	Ziyara	8/8	26,720 - 29,930
Saraqab	18/18	67,600 - 76,780	Mhambal	14/14	26,510 - 29,560
Khan Shaykun	6/6	56,630 - 63,840	Jisr-Ash-Shugur	8/16	23,760 - 26,490
Madiq Castle	13/13	56,060 - 63,320	Dana	16/16	9,340 - 22,230
Maaret Tamsrin	15/16	46,860 - 56,410	Bennsh	2/2	14,550 - 18,070
Daret Azza	14/14	45,460 - 54,120	Ehsem	19/19	8,660 - 17,960
Kafr Takharim	4/4	41,780 - 47,210	Qourqeena	11/11	11,900 - 17,400
Zarbah	14/14	37,250 - 41,230	Sarmin	1/1	9,820 - 11,970
Janudiyeh	13/13	35,830 - 39,380	Abul Thohur	7/7	9,720 - 10,850
Salqin	14/14	29,430 - 38,720	Badama	9/9	6,870 - 7,840
Armanaz	11/11	32,040 - 37,390	Harim	5/5	3,940 - 7,100
Heish	9/9	32,210 - 36,680	Tamanaah	5/5	3,140 - 3,460

communities across Salqin, Qourqeena, Harim, and Dana sub-districts were all expected to have a lower proportion of maximum resident departures. This pattern is similar for both resident and IDP movement intentions if conflict intensifies. **The largest expected resident departures if conflict intensifies were from assessed communities in Idleb, Ma'arrat An Nu'man, Atareb and Ariha sub-districts.**

Intended destinations

In contrast to intended IDP destinations if conflict intensifies, **over half (51%) of reported intended destinations of residents expected to leave were to Idleb governorate,** while 44% of intended

Proportion of intended destination from assessed communities to sub-districts:

Dana		20%
Afrin		17%
Salqin		12%
A'zaz		8%
Harim		6%
Jandairis		4%
Idleb		4%
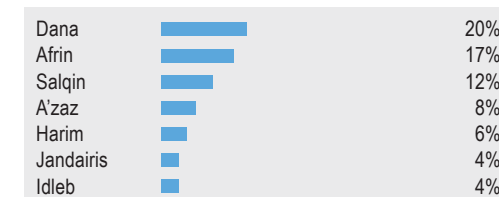
destinations were to **Aleppo governorate.**

At a sub-district level, **the highest proportion of intended destinations of residents expected to move was to sub-districts in northern Idleb governorate (37%),** most commonly to **Dana, Salqin and Harim.** In addition, **32% of intended destinations were to sub-districts in north-western Aleppo,** most commonly to **Afrin, A'zaz and Jandairis.**

Pull factors

If conflict intensifies, the most reported pull factor for intended destinations was **perceived safety and security in the intended destinations.** A total of 4% of mentioned intended destinations were outside of Syria. In addition, the second most reported pull factor, most commonly for residents expected to leave Mhambal, Zarbah and Saraqab sub-districts, was the **assumption that cross-border movement is possible**.

While most pull factors are similar for both residents and IDPs, **access to humanitarian assistance was more commonly reported as a pull factor for IDPs**, while **family ties was more commonly reported as a pull factor for residents**.

Main pull factors reported by KIs for intended resident departures:

Safety and security situation		83%
Assumed possibility to cross border		35%
Access to income and employment		32%
Access to humanitarian assistance		25%
Access to livelihoods		23%
Distance to current location		22%

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Scenario 2: Current Security and Movement Restrictions - IDP Movement Intentions

Based on the security situation and movement restrictions at the time of data collection, **KIs in just under half of assessed communities (179) expected all IDPs to stay in their current community**, while in 48% (173 communities) at least some IDPs were expected to leave within the month after data collection. Of these 173 communities, KIs in 59% of communities expected less than half of the IDP population to leave. KIs in 10 communities were not sure whether IDPs intended to move.

Proportion of assessed communities expecting some IDP departures:

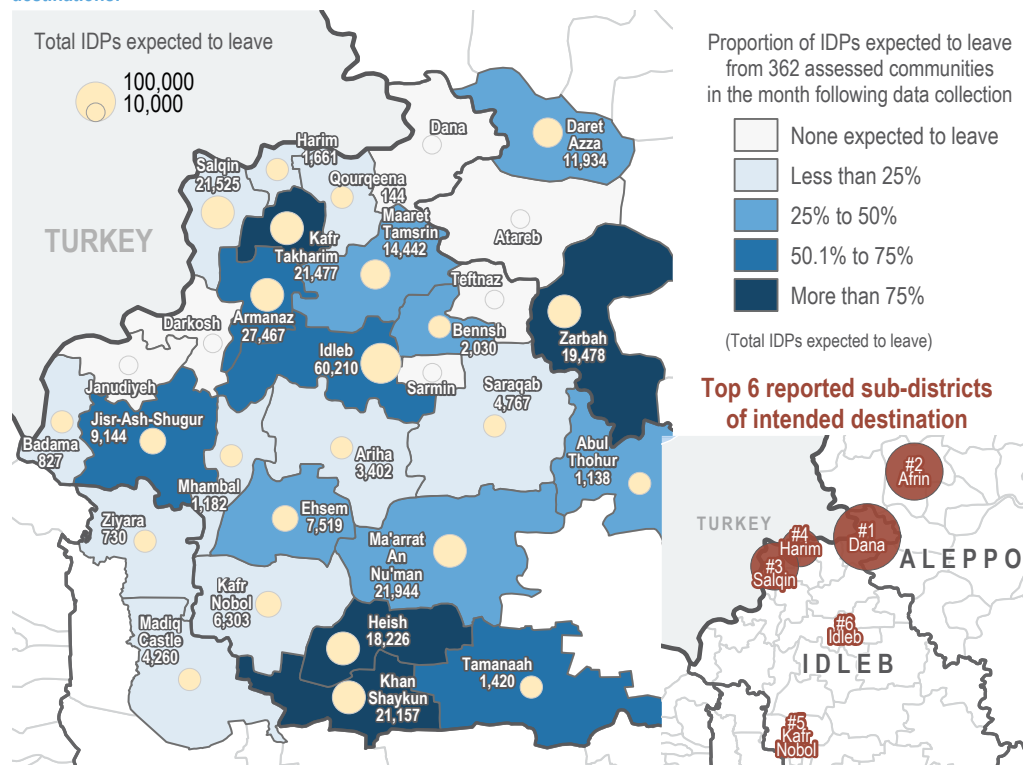|		
Yes		**48%**
Not sure		3%
No		49%

The sub-districts with the highest number of expected IDP departures were Idleb, Armanaz, Ma'arrat An Nu'man, Salqin, Kafr Takharim and Khan Shaykun.

Significant movement intentions were further reported in Ma'arrat An Nu'man, Ehsem and Zarbah sub-districts, where KIs in all assessed communities expected at least some IDP departures in the month following data collection.

Proportion of assessed communities expecting IDP departures by sub-districts and estimate of expected departures:[9]

Idleb	9/14	53,020 - 60,210	Ariha	2/21	1,790 - 3,400	
Armanaz	8/11	24,490 - 27,470	Bennsh	1/2	1,420 - 2,030	
Ma'arrat An Nu'man	20/20	15,880 - 21,940	Harim	3/5	170 - 1,660	
Salqin	13/14	13,580 - 21,530	Tamanaah	5/5	1,230 - 1,420	
Kafr Takharim	2/7	19,050 - 21,480	Mhambal	3/14	800 - 1,180	
Khan Shaykun	6/6	18,900 - 21,160	Abul Thohur	5/7	930 - 1,140	
Zarbah	14/14	17,580 - 19,480	Badama	4/9	410 - 830	
Heish	9/9	16,200 - 18,230	Ziyara	2/8	570 - 730	
Maaret Tamsrin	5/16	10,920 - 14,440	Qourqeena	1/11	10 - 140	
Daret Azza	11/14	9,710 - 11,930	Atareb	0/26	None reported	
Jisr-Ash-Shugur	11/16	8,210 - 9,140	Dana	0/16	None reported	
Ehsem	19/19	5,460 - 7,520	Darkosh	0/14	None reported	
Kafr Nobol	4/17	4,620 - 6,300	Janudiyeh	0/13	None reported	
Saraqab	7/18	3,920 - 4,770	Sarmin	0/1	None reported	
Madiq Castle	9/13	3,080 - 4,260	Teftnaz	0/5	None reported	

Maximum proportion of IDP population expected to leave in the month following data collection and top 6 intended destinations:

Total IDPs expected to leave

100,000
10,000

Proportion of IDPs expected to leave from 362 assessed communities in the month following data collection

- None expected to leave
- Less than 25%
- 25% to 50%
- 50.1% to 75%
- More than 75%

(Total IDPs expected to leave)

Top 6 reported sub-districts of intended destination

On average, a total of 22-27% of IDPs were anticipated to leave from all assessed communities.

The highest proportions of maximum IDP departures were reported in assessed communities in **Zarbah, Khan Shaykun and Heish** sub-districts. In proximity to conflict lines, these sub-districts are likely to see higher levels of violence should conflict escalate, hence the reported fears of escalation of conflict in these areas. In contrast, KIs in **Dana** sub-district, which hosts the largest IDP population in Idleb governorate and surrounding areas,[10] did not expect IDP departures from mid-August to mid-September. Dana has been a major hub for IDP arrivals, particularly

Number of assessed communities in which the following push factors for expected departures were reported:

	1st	2nd	3rd
Access to money to pay for movement	4	10	4
Anticipation of future conflict escalation	77	46	25
Change in administration governing authorities	2	2	22
Escalation of aerial bombardment	46	39	5
Escalation of ground based conflict	21	19	9
Loss of assets	2	1	9
Loss of income	10	26	33
Only intended as transit location	1		4
Opening of safe passages to elsewhere	1	2	8
Reduced access to food	6	18	11
Reduced access to health services		1	16
Reduced access to shelter	3	7	20

since the escalation of conflict in November 2017.[11]

Push factors

Overall, the **most commonly reported push factors were fear or anticipation of future conflict escalation**, **perceived intensification of conflict** (escalation of aerial bombardment and escalation of ground-based conflict) and **loss of income**.

Pull factors

The most commonly reported pull factors were **relative safety and security in the intended destination, followed by expected access to humanitarian assistance, livelihoods, income and employment**, as well as the **assumed possibility for cross-border movement**.

**Main pull factors reported by KIs for intended IDP departures:**

Safety and security situation	79%
Access to humanitarian assistance	43%
Access to livelihoods	30%
Access to income and employment	27%
Assumed possibility to cross border	25%
Family ties	22%
Availability of safe passages	16%
Access to health services	11%
Distance to current location	9%
Access to food	6%

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Intended destinations

Out of 359 reported intended destinations of IDPs expected to move, 33% were to Dana sub-district. KIs in Ma'arrat An Nu'man sub-district most commonly reported movement intentions to Dana sub-district.

Furthermore, a total of 30% of reported intended destinations of IDPs expected to move were to north-western Aleppo governorate, most commonly to Afrin, A'zaz and Jandairis sub-districts.

Proportion of intended destinations from assessed communities to sub-district:

Dana	33%
Afrin	17%
A'zaz	8%
Salqin	8%
Idleb	6%
Harim	6%
Jandairis	4%
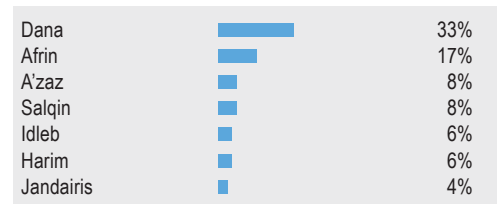
At a community level, the most reported intended destination was **Afrin community.**

A high proportion of intended destinations was further reported to communities in northern Idleb governorate (a region that is already hosting a large IDP population), in particular to **Atma community and Atmeh camp**.

Proportion of intended destinations from assessed communities to communities:

Afrin	12%
Atma	8%
Sarmada	8%
Salqin	7%
Azaz	6%
Atmeh Camp	6%
Idleb	5%
Qah	5%
Harim	4%
Bab El Hawa	3%
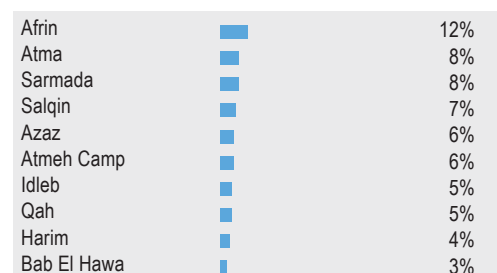
KIs in Dana sub-district did not expect IDP departures from mid-August to mid-September if the security situation remains unchanged. **This will likely result in increased pressure on both resident and IDP populations**, should the region see the large IDP arrivals that findings suggest. Dana sub-district and its surroundings are already experiencing a severe strain on services and goods, as previous assessments have emphasised.[12]

The most common pull factor to Dana sub-district was **perceived safety and security**, which can be explained by the relative distance of the sub-district from conflict lines in comparison to communities in the south of Idleb governorate, e.g. in Ma'arrat An Nu'man sub-district.

Apart from a significant proportion of intended destinations of IDPs to Dana and Afrin sub-districts, KIs expected **IDP movements to Salqin sub-district** mainly from communities in Zarbah sub-district (15 mentions by KIs), and **to Idleb sub-district** mainly from communities in Ehsem sub-district (14 mentions by KIs). All of these intended destinations follow the pattern of displacement away from conflict lines.

IDP profiles intending to leave

The main reported profiles of IDPs expected to leave from assessed communities were married men with their family, married women with their family but without their husband, and unmarried single men.

A significant number of KIs also expected married men without their families and elderly people to move from their current location in the next month. KIs further reported movement intentions for **unaccompanied children**, most commonly from assessed communities in Jisr-Ash-Shugur and Zarbah sub-districts.
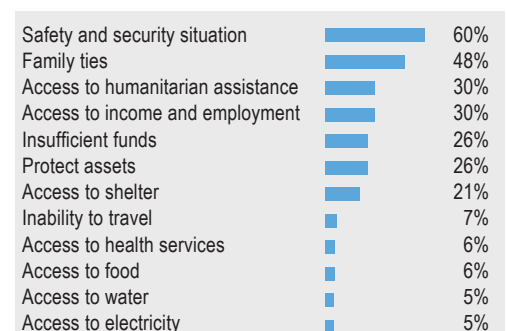
Reasons to stay

Responses from KIs indicate that, based on the current situation and movement restrictions, **over half (55%) of IDPs in all assessed communities are expected to stay in their current location** in the month following data collection.

The most commonly reported **reasons why IDPs intended to stay in their current location were perceived relative safety and security as well as family ties and access to humanitarian assistance, income and employment opportunities**.

However, according to KIs, the intention of IDPs to stay in their current location is not always based on the situation in the current location or the situation in other locations, but is often the result of insufficient funds to afford travel. Protracted displacement might explain why some IDPs reportedly intended to stay in their current location to protect assets, as they might have set up or acquired a significant number of items.

Proportion of assessed communities reporting reasons for IDPs expected to stay in assessed communities:

Safety and security situation	60%
Family ties	48%
Access to humanitarian assistance	30%
Access to income and employment	30%
Insufficient funds	26%
Protect assets	26%
Access to shelter	21%
Inability to travel	7%
Access to health services	6%
Access to food	6%
Access to water	5%
Access to electricity	5%

Moreover, some IDPs are reportedly unable to travel to other locations because of their age, disabilities or chronic illness, which might explain why access to health services has been reported by KIs as one of the main reasons for IDPs to stay in their current location.

Potential push factors leading to increase in IDP departures
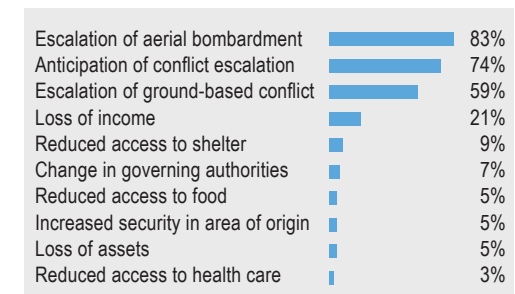
For those IDPs who are expected to stay, a change in security and movement restrictions could push them towards leaving their current communities.

Most commonly reported potential factors were related to the security situation or to the availability of basic commodities and services in the community. KIs reported in particular that **a deterioration of the security situation could lead to an increase in IDP departures**. In line with scenario 1, **KI estimates suggest that an escalation of conflict, or the fear of conflict escalation, could lead to larger IDP departures.**

However, KI reports suggest that the **degree to which escalation of ground-based conflict affects IDP movement intentions varies**, depending on the sub-district that IDPs are currently in. While ground-based conflict could reportedly lead to an increase in departures in sub-districts that are closer to conflict lines, no KIs in assessed communities in Dana sub-district reported escalation of ground-based conflict as a factor increasing expected IDP departures. This suggests that the relative distance of the sub-district from conflict lines lowers expectations of the area being affected by a ground-based offensive. In addition, ground-based conflict might have been perceived as less likely at the time of data collection than aerial bombardment.

For movement intentions if conflict intensifies, please refer to **Scenario 1**.

Proportion of assessed communities reporting potential push factors leading to increased displacement:

Escalation of aerial bombardment	83%
Anticipation of conflict escalation	74%
Escalation of ground-based conflict	59%
Loss of income	21%
Reduced access to shelter	9%
Change in governing authorities	7%
Reduced access to food	5%
Increased security in area of origin	5%
Loss of assets	5%
Reduced access to health care	3%

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Scenario 2: Current Security and Movement Restrictions - Resident Movement Intentions

Based on the current security situation and movement restrictions, **KIs in 64% of assessed communities (232) expected all residents to stay in their current location**, while in 31% (122 communities) at least some residents were expected to leave within the next month. Of these 122 communities, KIs in 54% of communities expected less than half of the IDP population to leave the community. KIs in 16 communities were not sure whether residents intended to move.

Proportion of assessed communities expecting departures of resident population in the next 30 days:

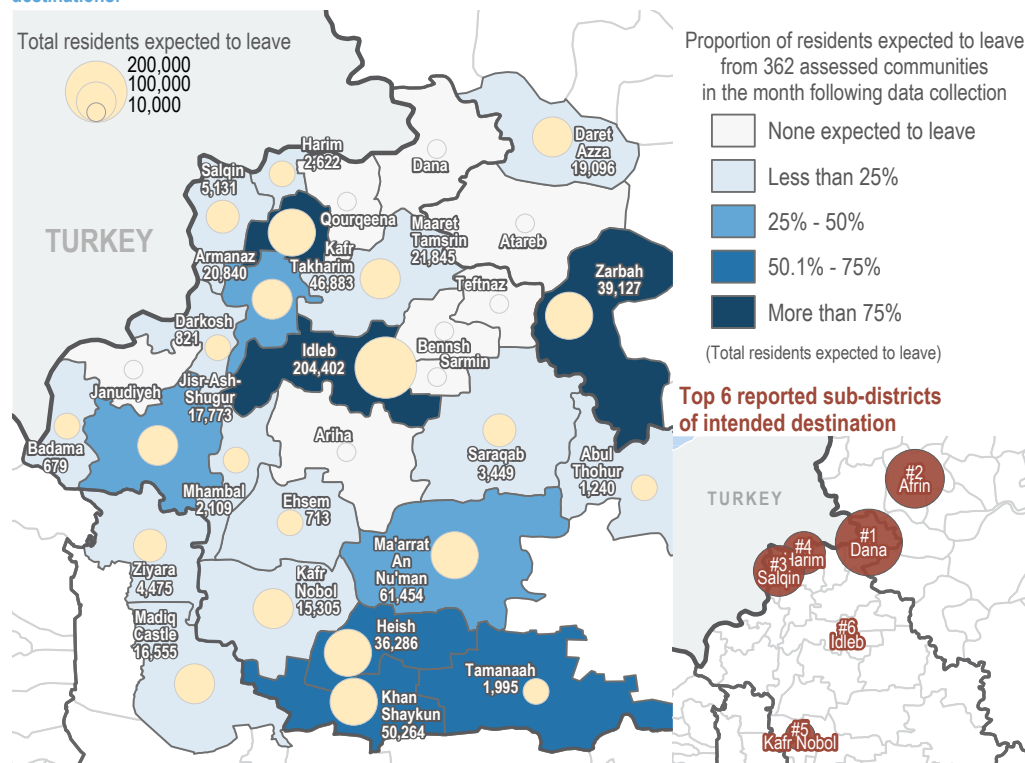|		
Yes		**31%**
Not sure		4%
No		64%
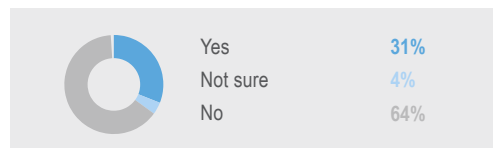
The majority of communities with expected resident departures were in **Ma'arrat An Nu'man, Zarbah, Heish, Madiq Castle and Idleb** sub-districts. Significant movement intentions were further reported in Tamanaah and Khan Shaykun sub-districts, where KIs in all assessed communities expected resident departures in the month following data collection.

Maximum proportion of resident population expected to leave in the month following data collection and top 6 intended destinations:

Total residents expected to leave
200,000
100,000
10,000

Proportion of residents expected to leave from 362 assessed communities in the month following data collection

- None expected to leave
- Less than 25%
- 25% - 50%
- 50.1% - 75%
- More than 75%

(Total residents expected to leave)

Top 6 reported sub-districts of intended destination

Number of assessed communities in which the following push factors for expected departures were reported:

	1st	2nd	3rd
Anticipation of forced recruitment to armed groups		2	
Anticipation of future conflict escalation	64	18	26
Change in administration governing authorities	2	3	6
Escalation of aerial bombardment	21	30	14
Escalation of ground based conflict	20	15	7
Loss of assets	2	8	6
Loss of income	5	28	21
Reduced access to food		7	9
Reduced access to health services		2	22

bombardment, loss of assets and reduced access to health services.

Reported push factors for Zarbah and Kafr Takharim sub-districts all related to the anticipation or escalation of conflict. For Idleb sub-district, however, only the primary push factor related directly to the escalation of ground-based conflict while secondary and tertiary push factors related to loss of assets and change in administration or governing authorities respectively.

KIs in 80% of assessed communities in Ma'arrat An Nu'man sub-district reported anticipation of future conflict escalation as a primary reason to leave the assessed location. The most commonly reported secondary push factor was loss of income, while the tertiary push factor was reduced access to health services.
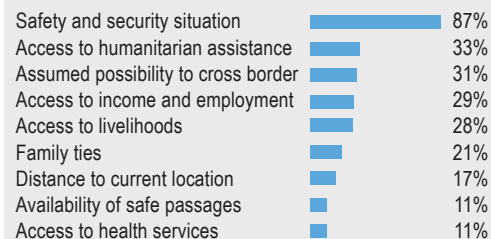
Pull factors

The majority of intended destinations of residents who were expected to leave were communities in northern Idleb governorate. The most commonly reported **pull factors were perceived relative safety and security in the intended destination**, **access to humanitarian assistance**, and the assumed possibility of **cross-border movement**. Access to income and employment opportunities as well as to livelihoods were also reported as pull factors.

Proportion of assessed communities expecting departures of resident populations by sub-districts and estimate of expected departures:[9]

Idleb	8/14	183,460 - 204,400	Harim	1/5	260 - 2,620
Ma'arrat An Nu'man	19/20	39,770 - 61,450	Mhambal	2/14	1,160 - 2,110
Khan Shaykun	6/6	43,060 - 50,260	Tamanaah	5/5	1,680 - 2,000
Kafr Takharim	3/4	41,520 - 46,880	Abul Thohur	2/7	680 - 1,240
Zarbah	14/14	35,150 - 39,130	Darkosh	1/14	700 - 820
Heish	9/9	31,820 - 36,290	Ehsem	1/19	70 - 710
Maaret Tamsrin	6/16	14,110 - 21,840	Badama	1/9	600 - 680
Armanaz	3/11	18,080 - 20,840	Ariha	0/21	None reported
Daret Azza	7/14	12,880 - 19,100	Atareb	0/26	None reported
Jisr-Ash-Shugur	7/16	15,930 - 17,770	Bennsh	0/2	None reported
Madiq Castle	9/13	10,910 - 16,550	Dana	0/16	None reported
Kafr Nobol	3/17	9,800 - 15,310	Janudiyeh	0/13	None reported
Salqin	1/14	510 - 5,130	Qourqeena	0/11	None reported
Ziyara	2/8	3,130 - 4,480	Sarmin	0/1	None reported
Saraqab	2/18	2,170 - 3,450	Teftnaz	0/5	None reported

The largest resident departures, however, were expected from communities in Idleb, Ma'arrat An Nu'man and Khan Shaykun sub-districts.

On average, KIs anticipated 19-23% of residents to leave from all assessed communities.

The highest proportions of expected resident departures were reported in assessed communities in Zarbah, Idleb and Kafr Takharim sub-districts.

Push factors

In general, the **most common reasons for intended departures of residents were anticipation of future conflict escalation, escalation of aerial**

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These factors mirror findings from other sections that civilian displacement is mainly determined by the security situation and access to goods and services.

Intended destinations
Main pull factors reported by KIs for intended resident departures:

Safety and security situation	87%
Access to humanitarian assistance	33%
Assumed possibility to cross border	31%
Access to income and employment	29%
Access to livelihoods	28%
Family ties	21%
Distance to current location	17%
Availability of safe passages	11%
Access to health services	11%

Out of 258 reported intended destinations of residents expected to move, the **vast majority (60%)** were to sub-districts in **northern Idleb governorate**, most commonly to **Dana, Salqin and Harim sub-districts.** A total of 44% of reported intended destinations were to Dana sub-district, most significantly **Atma community and Atmeh camp**. An estimated 37% of all intended destinations to Dana sub-district were reported from assessed communities in Ma'arrat An Nu'man sub-district, while approximately 21% were from assessed communities in Zarbah sub-district.

Proportion of intended destinations from assessed communities to sub-districts:

|	
Dana	44%
Afrin	10%
Salqin	9%
Harim	7%
Kafr Nobol	3%
Idleb	3%

The second most commonly reported intended destination at a sub-district level was Afrin.

KIs expected resident movements to Afrin sub-district mainly from communities in **Ma'arrat Am Nu'man and Zarbah** sub-districts.

A majority of KIs was not sure about the specific community that they expected resident populations to go to. However, from 234 reported intended destinations at a community-level, approximately 65% were to locations in northern Idleb governorate.

The most reported intended destination that residents were expected to go to was Atma (13%). In addition, KIs mentioned movement intentions from assessed communities to neighbouring Atmeh Camp.

Proportion of intended destinations from assessed communities to communities:

Atma	13%
Sarmada	9%
Afrin	7%
Salqin	6%
Qah	6%
Bab El Hawa	6%
Harim	5%
Dana	4%
Atmeh Camp	3%
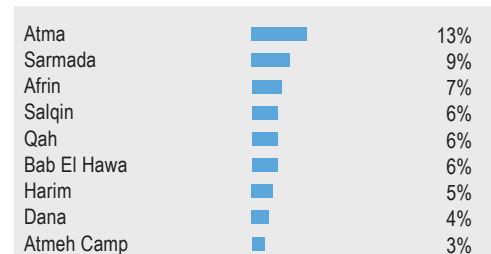
KIs further reported a significant proportion of intended destinations to Afrin community, being the third most commonly reported intended destination at a community-level.
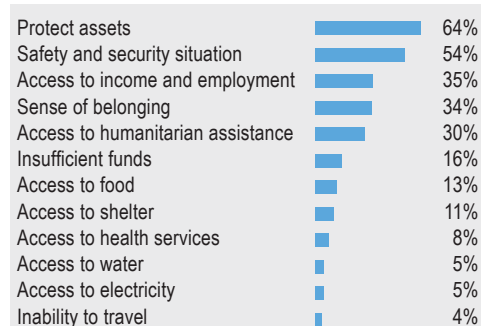
The most commonly reported pull factor for Dana, Salqin, Harim and Afrin sub-districts was **perceived relative safety and security in those locations**. The vast majority of intended destinations to these sub-districts (from 83% for Harim to 99% for Dana) were explained by this pull factor.

Resident profiles intending to leave

Similar to expected IDP departures, **the main reported profiles of residents expected to move** from assessed communities were **married men with their families**, married women with their families but without their husbands, as well as the elderly.

Unaccompanied children have been reported to

Proportion of assessed communities reporting reasons for residents expected to stay in assessed communities

Protect assets	64%
Safety and security situation	54%
Access to income and employment	35%
Sense of belonging	34%
Access to humanitarian assistance	30%
Insufficient funds	16%
Access to food	13%
Access to shelter	11%
Access to health services	8%
Access to water	5%
Access to electricity	5%
Inability to travel	4%

be among residents intending to leave 13 out of 14 assessed communities in Zarbah sub-district, and half of assessed communities in Jisr-Ash-Shugur, thereby mirroring findings for expected IDP departures. While unmarried single men have been reported to be among expected IDP departures, KIs did not report this for expected resident departures.

Reasons to stay

According to KIs, and based on the current situation and movement restrictions, **a majority of the resident population in assessed communities was expected to stay in its current location** in the month following data collection.

The most commonly reported reasons why residents were expected to stay in their current location were to protect assets and because of perceived relative safety and security. In addition, access to income and employment opportunities as well as a sense of belonging in their current locations were reported by KIs.

Similar to IDP intentions, however, the intentions of residents to stay in their current location might also be the result of insufficient funds to afford to travel, because of a sense of relative stability in their current location, and access to more goods and services there.

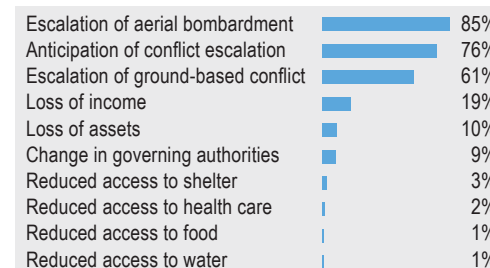## Potential push factors leading to increase in resident departures

Several factors and developments could lead to significant changes in movement intentions of residents in assessed communities. KIs reported in particular, that **factors relating to the security situation could lead to an increase in resident departures**. As such, **KIs in most assessed communities estimated that the escalation of conflict, or the fear thereof, would lead to a higher number of resident departures.**

For sub-districts like Dana, Qourqueena, and Salqin that are further away from conflict lines, **escalation of aerial bombardment** was much more widely reported as a push factor that could lead to increased resident departures than the escalation of ground-based conflict. This mirrors the geographic location of these sub-districts as well as the finding that most residents who are expected to leave their communities intended to go to **northern Idleb** governorate because of the perceived relative safety and security in that area in comparison to their current locations.

Furthermore, reduced access to goods and services in the assessed community is reportedly likely to increase resident departures. In parallel, access to goods and services is also reported as a pull factor for intended destinations.

For more information on resident movement intentions if conflict intensifies, please refer to **Scenario 1.**

Proportion of assessed communities reporting potential push factors leading to increased displacement:

Escalation of aerial bombardment	85%
Anticipation of conflict escalation	76%
Escalation of ground-based conflict	61%
Loss of income	19%
Loss of assets	10%
Change in governing authorities	9%
Reduced access to shelter	3%
Reduced access to health care	2%
Reduced access to food	1%
Reduced access to water	1%

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Reference map

Turkey

Bulbul
Raju
Ma'btali
Sharan
A'zaz
Suran
Ar-Ra'ee
Jarablus
Ghandorah
Sheikh El-Hadid
Afrin
Tall Refaat
Mare'
Aghtrin
Al Bab
Jandairis
Nabul
Haritan
Dana
Daret Azza
Aleppo
Harim
Qourqeena
Salqin
Atareb
Kafr Takharim
Maaret Tamsrin
Armanaz
Teftnaz
Darkosh
Bennsh
Zarbah
Janudiyeh
Idleb
Sarmin
Jisr-Ash-Shugur
Ariha
Saraqab
Badama
Mhambal
Idleb
Abul Thohur
Ehsem
Ma'arrat An Nu'man
Ziyara
Kafr Nobol
Heish
Sanjar
Madiq Castle
Khan Shaykun
Tamanaah
Hama

Legend:
- Governorate
- Sub-district

Km
0   12.5   25   50

About ISMI

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. Displacements are identified through an extensive key informant (KI) network. At least two KIs are interviewed in each community, and collected information is further triangulated through other sources, including CCCM member data and humanitarian updates. Data is collected at the community level to ensure that the area for which KIs are providing information corresponds directly to their actual area of knowledge. The data used for this product was collected, triangulated and verified based on submissions from ISMI's network. 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.

Endnotes

[1] 'Idleb governorate and surrounding areas' refers to opposition-held areas at the time of data collection, covering the majority of communities in Idleb governorate, as well as communities in Atareb, Daret Azza, Haritan, Jebel Saman and Zarbah sub-districts in western Aleppo governorate, and Kafr Zeita, Madiq Castle, Suran and Ziyara sub-districts in north-western Hama governorate. These sub-districts have been added to the larger 'Idleb and surrounding areas' region as populations in the region are typically served by the same cross-border humanitarian responses and affected by similar events. For more information on the humanitarian situation in Idleb and surrounding areas: REACH, Situation Overview: Idleb Governorate and Surrounding Areas, August 2018.

[2] Syria Live UA Map

[3] REACH/CCCM, IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI) North-west Syria Population Overview, March 2018.

[4] UNOCHA, Turkey | Syria: Recent Developments in North-western Syria, 30 January 2018; UNOCHA, Turkey | Syria: Situation in North-western Syria, Situation Report No.2, 10 April 2018; UNOCHA, Turkey | Syria: Situation in North-western Syria, Situation Report No.4, 8 May 2018; UNHCR, Syria: Flash Update on Recent Events, 9 May 2018; UNHCR, Syria: Flash Update on Recent Events, 24 May 2018; UNHCR, Syria: Flash Update on Recent Events, 9 August 2018; REACH/CCCM, ISMI Monthly Displacement Summary, January 2018; REACH/CCCM, ISMI Monthly Displacement Summary, March 2018; REACH/CCCM, ISMI Monthly Displacement Summary, April 2018, REACH/CCCM, ISMI Monthly Displacement Summary, May 2018.

[5] IRIN News, 'Idlib briefing: "Humanitarian catastrophe" feared as Syria war reaches final rebel stronghold', 3 September 2018; France 24, 'UN fears 800,000 could be displaced in Syria's rebel-held Idlib', 29 August 2018; United Nations Secretary-General, Statement attributable to the Spokesman for the Secretary-General on Syria, 29 August 2018.

[6] Data was collected until 20 August 2018. Scenario 1, therefore, refers to any intensification in conflict after that date.

[7] For population numbers, KIs were asked to provide the number of resident and IDP households present in the community as of 31 July 2018, as well as individual figures if known. A minimum of two KIs were interviewed in each assessed community, with a third KI being interviewed in communities with total populations of more than 15,000 households, or where discrepancies in the information provided by two KIs was deemed too large. In those cases, an average was calculated based on submissions by the three KIs. Triangulated household figures were then multiplied by a calculated average household size of 5.7, based on several rounds of population assessments conducted under the REACH/CCCM IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative, to attain estimated individual figures for all assessed communities. KIs were also asked whether the IDP figures reported included IDP populations in nearby camps and sites. If not, known IDP populations in nearby camps and sites, provided by the IDP Sites Integrated Monitoring Matrix (ISIMM), were added to the IDP population figures reported by KIs. Estimated individual figures in this report are rounded to the nearest ten. Population data was reported for 355 out of 362 assessed communities.

Discrepancies with other available population data may be the result of any of the following: differences in assessment coverage dates; differences in definitions of population sub-groups (IDPs and residents); differences in geographic scope of assessed locations (e.g. included/excluded nearby camps and sites); differences in KI types interviewed; and differences in average household sizes used to calculate individual numbers, among others.

The definition of IDPs used by enumerators for this assessment was 'Individuals or groups of people who have been forced to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights, or natural or man-made disasters, and who have not crossed an international border'. The definition of resident (pre-conflict) population was 'Individuals or groups of people who currently reside in their communities of origin, or communities of permanent residence prior to the Syrian conflict. This includes populations that were never displaced as well as previously displaced populations that have returned to their communities of origin'.

[8] These numbers were calculated by aggregating the number of reported intended departures of IDP and resident populations per assessed community for this assessment if conflict intensified. KIs in each assessed community provided an estimate of the proportion of IDPs and residents that they expected to leave if conflict intensified. The lowest point and the highest point of this proportion have each been multiplied by the number of IDPs and residents living in each community, thereby giving an estimated range of the total number of people that might be displaced from assessed communities.

[9] These numbers were calculated by aggregating the number of reported intended departures of IDP and resident populations per assessed community in the month following data collection, based on the security situation and movement restrictions at the time of data collection. KIs in each assessed community provided an estimate of the proportion of IDPs and residents that they expected to leave. The lowest point and the highest point of this proportion have each been multiplied by the number of IDPs and residents living in each community, thereby giving an estimated range of the total number of people that might be displaced from assessed communities.

[10] REACH, Situation Overview: Idleb Governorate and Surrounding Areas, North-west Syria, May 2018.

[11] REACH, CCCM, ISMI: Quarterly Trends Analysis of Displacement and Spontaneous Returns in Northern Syria, January - March 2018; Monthly Overview of IDP Movements in Northern Syria, April 2018, May 2018, June 2018.

[12] REACH, Situation Overview: Idleb Governorate and Surrounding Areas, North-west Syria, May 2018.

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