

IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI)

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

Summary of Findings

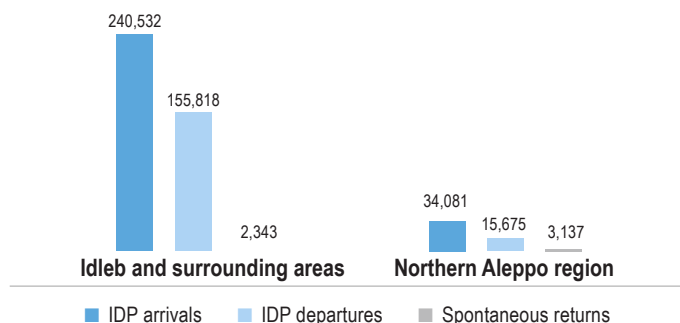
Communities assessed: 714

Total IDP arrivals:¹ 274,613 (+399%)²

Total IDP departures:³ 171,493 (+45%)

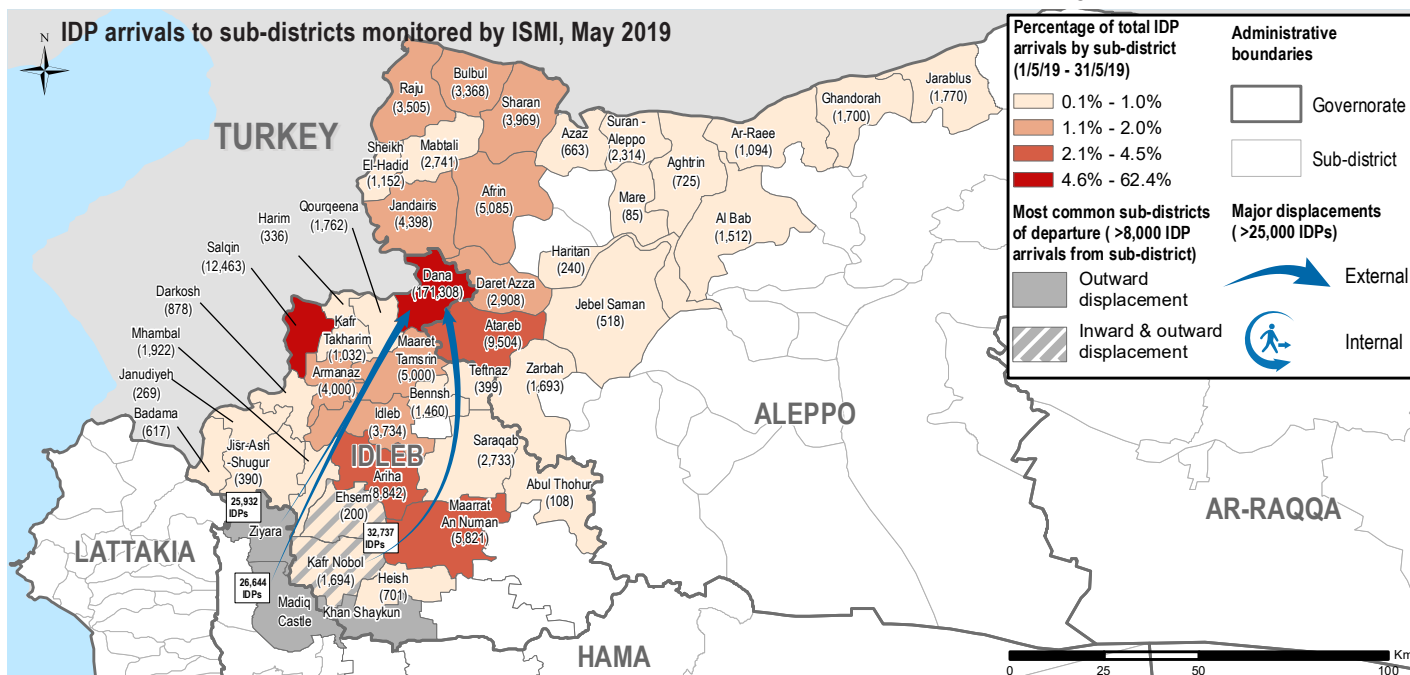
Total spontaneous returns (SRs):⁴ 5,480(+40%)

Total IDP arrivals, IDP departures and SRs by region:



Assessed communities in north-west Syria witnessed a total of 274,613 IDP arrivals in May, 87% of which were reported in Idleb and surrounding areas. **Idleb and surrounding areas witnessed an exponential intensification of aerial bombardment precipitating mass displacement** across the region.⁵ There were **240,532 IDP arrivals** compared to 29,702 IDP arrivals in March representing a huge increase of 709%. **The majority of arrivals (171,308 IDPs) were reported in Dana sub-district.** The humanitarian situation across Idleb governorate remains grave with the continued violence severely hampering the provision of basic services, causing the suspension of humanitarian operations in many areas and most crucially, leading to high civilian casualties and loss of life.⁶

Northern Aleppo governorate witnessed markedly less movement in comparison to Idleb governorate. **34,081 IDP arrivals and 15,675 IDP departures** were reported across 393 communities in May. Nearly half of IDP arrivals in Northern Aleppo reportedly came from Idleb and surrounding areas.



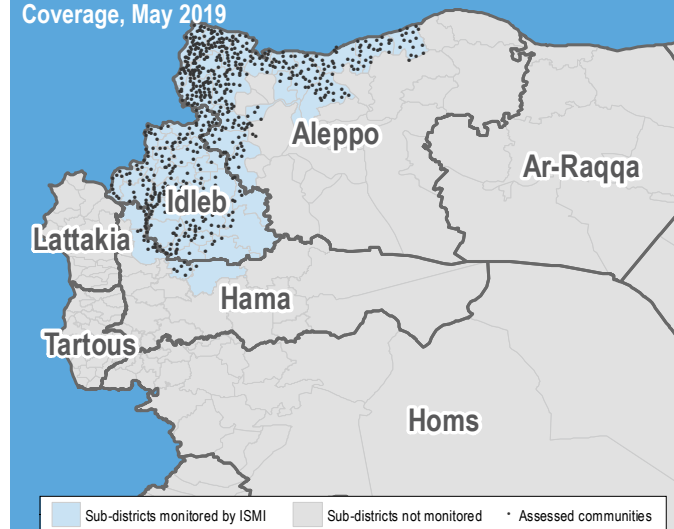
About ISMI & This Factsheet

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 31 May 2019. Such displacements were reported in 714 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, May 2019



IDLEB & SURROUNDING AREAS⁷

Key Figures

Communities assessed: 321

Total IDP arrivals: 240,532 (↑710%)

Sub-districts with most arrivals (# IDPs):

Dana	171,308
Salqin	12,463
Atareb	9,504
Ariha	8,842
Ma'arrat An Nu'man	5,821

Total IDP departures: 155,818 (↑52 %)

Sub-districts with most departures (# IDPs):

Heish	42,193
Khan Shaykun	31,966
Ziyara	24,267
Madiq Castle	14,618
Suran	10,808

Total SRs: 2,343 (↑53%)

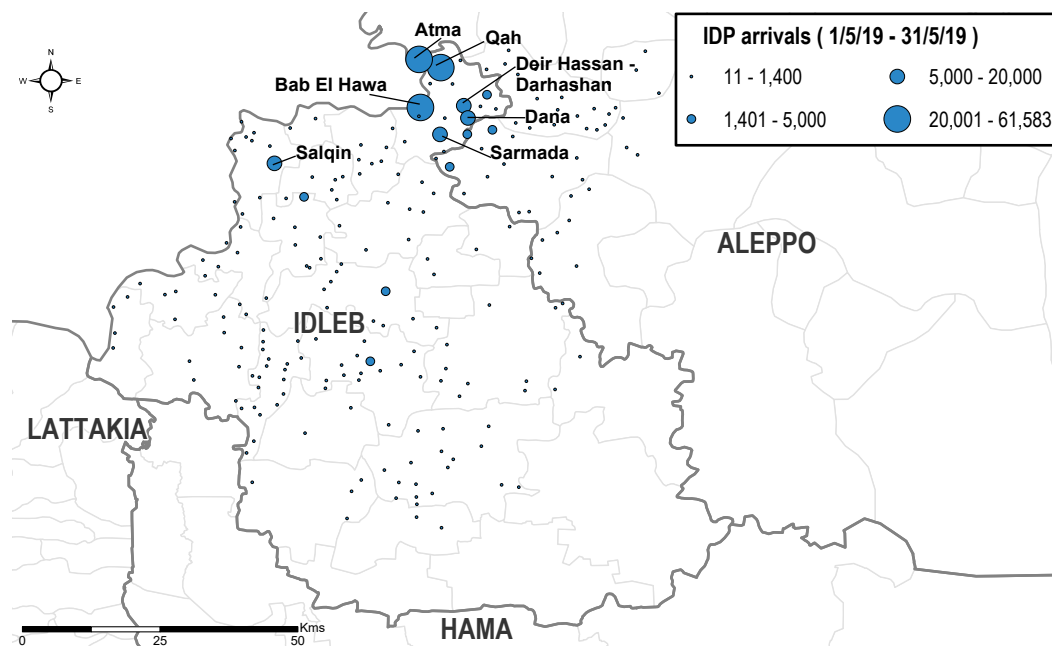
Sub-districts with most SRs:

Kafr Nobol	2,041
Ma'arrat An Nu'man	302

Overview

Towards the end of April, there was a rapid escalation in violence in Idleb and surrounding areas despite much of northern Hama and southern Idleb being declared a demilitarised zone.⁸ As a result, throughout May, there was a huge wave of movement northwards with 71% of all total IDPs across the region arriving to Dana sub-district (171,308). The majority of IDP departures were from

IDP arrivals to assessed communities in Idleb and surrounding areas⁹



the southern sub-districts of Heish (42,193), Khan Shaykun (31,966) and Ziyara (24,267). The sheer number of new arrivals has placed increased pressure on basic services in Dana sub-district putting humanitarian operations that are already at or above capacity under considerable strain.¹⁰

The situation in many communities has become insupportable due to the severe level of violence. A total of 24 health facilities, 35 schools, four facilities providing protection services, three IDP settlements, and one refugee camp were reportedly affected by hostilities throughout May.¹¹ In addition, more than 300 civilians have been killed since the

conflict escalation began in late April, according to reports.¹²

IDP Arrivals

Though Dana sub-district witnessed the overwhelming majority of IDP arrivals, Salqin (12,463), Atareb (9,504), Ariha (8,842) and Ma'arrat An Nu'man (5,821) sub-districts also received IDP arrivals.

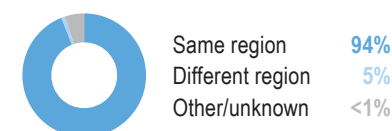
On a community level, Qah (61,583), Atmeh (50,730) and Bab El Hawa (21,426) received the highest number of IDP arrivals. Qah and Atmeh communities accounted for 46% of all IDP arrivals throughout May.

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

Kafr Nobol	43,614
Madiq Castle	41,800
Ziyara	27,205
Khan Shaykun	17,106
Ehsem	7,343

IDP arrivals generally came from sub-districts situated in southern Idleb which faced the most severe escalation in violence. **Kafr Nobol and Madiq Castle were the most common last sub-districts of departure at 43,614 IDPs and 41,800 IDPs respectively.** According to reports, both of these sub-districts faced a severe intensification of aerial bombardments leading to high fatalities among the civilian population.¹³

Last place of departure of IDP arrivals:



The most common push factor for IDP arrivals in Idleb and surrounding areas was **the escalation of ground-based conflict followed by escalation of aerial bombardment and anticipation of future conflict escalation.** The top three pull factors for IDP arrivals in the region were; **safety and security in the assessed location, family ties/ host community relationship and, access to humanitarian assistance.** In areas most impacted by the renewed conflict escalation, 16 humanitarian agencies were forced to suspend operations.¹⁴

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Vulnerable groups among IDP arrivals:¹⁵



Multiple displacements and the lack of access to basic services worsen individual and community needs with a high prevalence of disabilities, gender-based violence and trauma.¹⁶

Top 3 shelter types of IDP arrivals:

(1) Managed camp	151,837 IDPs
(2) Solid/finished house	28,709 IDPs
(3) Solid/finished apartment	23,430 IDPs

151,837 IDP arrivals, representing 63% of total IDP arrivals, were residing in managed camps, according to KIs. 52,139 IDP arrivals were residing in solid/finished houses or apartments. 10,874 IDP arrivals were reported to be living in individual tents. The sheer number of IDP arrivals continues to put pressure on shelter with KIs reporting a sharp increase in rental costs and the price of tents.

IDP Departures

There was a **52% increase in the number of IDP departures throughout May in comparison to April.** Additionally, figures suggest a severe escalation in violence in comparison to March. 155,818 IDP departures were recorded in May, compared to March when 48,816 IDP departures were reported.

65% of IDP departures were displaced for the first time and 35% were facing multiple displacements, according to KIs.

On a community-level **Kafr Nobol (6,614), Madiq Castle (5,236) and Hbit (4,033)**

witnessed the highest number of departures. These communities have witnessed a severe escalation in hostilities which has prevented people from being able to access basic services. According to reports, Madiq Castle sub-district faced continued aerial bombardment from 28 April.¹⁷

Top intended destination sub-districts (# IDPs):

Dana	21,367
Qourqeena	4,560
Atareb	1,710
Ma'arrat An Nu'man	1,273
Ehsem	787

KIs reported that **Dana (21,367) sub-district was the top intended destination for IDP departures followed by Qourqeena sub-district (4,560) and Atareb sub-district (1,710).**

Intended destinations of departures:



KIs reported that **safety and security, access to employment and, family ties to the host community were the primary factors motivating IDP departures to move to intended destinations.** The main push factors forcing IDPs to leave communities were; escalation of ground-based conflict, followed by escalation of aerial bombardment and, anticipation of future conflict escalation.

NORTHERN ALEPPO¹⁸

Key Figures

Communities assessed: 393

Total IDP arrivals: 34,081 (+35%)

Sub-districts with most arrivals (# IDPs):

Afrin	5,085
Jandairis	4,398
Sharan	3,969
Raju	3,505
Bulbul	3,368

Total IDP departures: 15,675 (↓1%)

Sub-districts with most departures (# IDPs):

Afrin	2,901
Al Bab	2,530
Jandairis	1,796
Raju	1,776
Sharan	1,181

Total SRs: 3,137 (↓<1%)

Sub-districts with most SRs:

Afrin	701
Jarablus	422
Raju	410
Ma'btali	366
Sharan	278

Overview

Northern Aleppo witnessed 34,081 IDP arrivals in May representing a 35% increase in comparison to April. The number of movements in Northern Aleppo is much lower in comparison to Idlib and surrounding areas which witnessed a surge in violence in recent weeks. At the same time, **northern Aleppo**

continues to witness sporadic inter-Armed Opposition Group (AOG) violence including shelling. However, clashes generally occur in Aleppo city and along the Turkish border.^{19,20} Northern Aleppo was also affected by the escalation in hostilities in Idlib governorate and absorbed a number of IDPs.

IDP Arrivals

Sub-districts situated in the northeast of Aleppo and near Idlib reported the highest number of IDP arrivals. **5,085 IDP arrivals were recorded in Afrin sub-district followed by 4,398 IDPs in Jandairis sub-district, 3,969 IDPs in Sharan sub-district, 3,505 IDPs in Raju sub-district and 3,368 IDPs in Bulbul sub-district.**

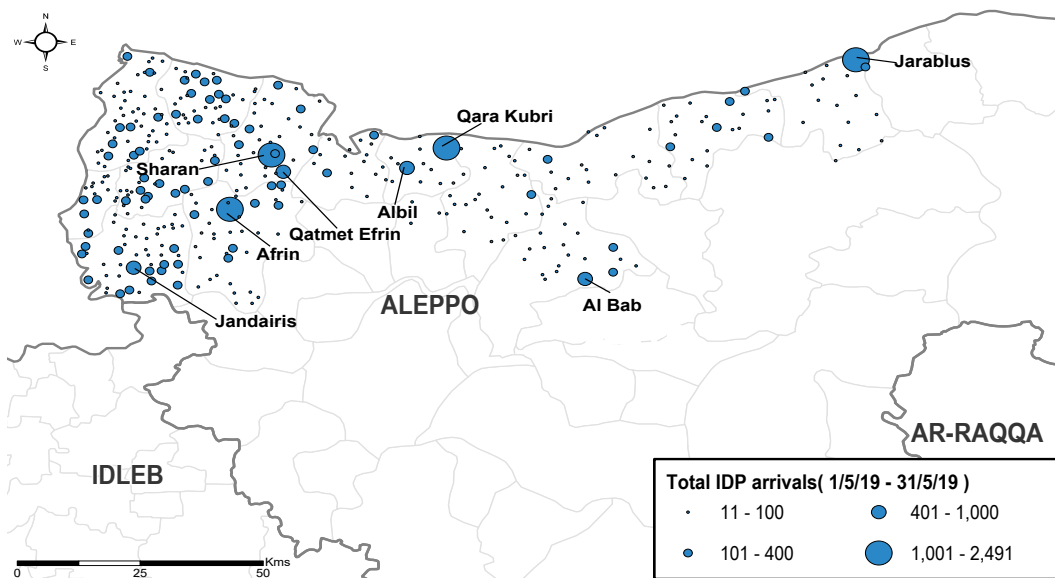
Last sub-district of departure of arrivals (#IDPs):

Afrin	1,480
Dana	1,128
Ma'arrat An Nu'man	990
Idlib	962
Al Bab	901

Afrin sub-district also witnessed the highest number of IDP departures, 1,480 IDPs. Many IDP arrivals departed from sub-districts situated in Idlib including Dana sub-district (1,128 IDPs), Ma'arrat An Nu'man sub-district (990 IDPs) and, Idlib sub-district (962 IDPs). This suggests the high level of violence in Idlib governorate as well as the high concentration of IDPs in Dana sub-district where services are overstretched potentially forcing people to move. According to KIs, 49% of IDP arrivals came from outside the northern Aleppo region.

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Vulnerable groups among IDP arrivals:



The most common pull factors for IDP arrivals were safety and security, access to income and employment and, family ties/host community relationship. 63% of total IDP arrivals were reported to be living in solid/finished houses.

Top 3 shelter types of IDP arrivals:

(1) Solid/finished house	21,358 IDPs
(2) Managed camp	2,977 IDPs
(3) Individual tent	2,340 IDPs

IDP Departures

Northern Aleppo witnessed 15,675 IDP departures, a steady decrease of 1% in comparison to April's figures indicating the relative stability in this region.

Top intended destination sub-districts (# IDPs):

Ghandorah	506
Afrin	290
Menbij	287
Aghtrin	165
Salqin	132

Ghandorah sub-district (506) was the top intended destination for IDP departures followed by Afrin sub-district (290) and Menbij sub-district (287). On the community level, Al-Bab witnessed the highest number of IDP departures (1,089) followed by Enab (599) and Mreimin Afrin (542).

According to KIs, the most common push factors for IDP departures were: **loss of income; reduced access to humanitarian assistance; and, the opening of safe passages.**

Endnotes

- Some figures may be repeated displacements.
- CCCM/REACH, ISMI Monthly Displacement Summary, [April 2019](#)
- IDP departure figures reflect aggregated departures of both IDP and resident/pre-conflict populations.
- Spontaneous returns: Former IDPs and/or refugees who return to their community of origin, with the intention of staying for a prolonged period of time, but not necessarily to their places of habitual residence, and who do not necessarily enjoy the full spectrum of rights afforded to them prior to displacement.
- The Independent, [New wave of violence in Syria war as 200,000 flee Idlib offensive: "There were bombs every minute."](#) 21 May 2019
- OCHA, [Syria: Situation Report 4: Recent Developments in Northwestern Syria \(as of 31 May 2019\)](#), 31 May 2019
- 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.
- Reuters, [Russia, Syrian army step up attacks on rebel-held northwestern Syria: residents, medics](#), 02 May 2019
- Community markers also account for camps, informal settlements and other IDP sites when they are in close proximity to a community; Only major departure movements for known communities of origin are shown with regards to large IDP arrival movements.
- OCHA, [Syrian Arab Republic: Recent Developments in Northwestern Syria Situation Report No. 6 - as of 28 June 2019](#), 28 June 2019
- OCHA, [Syria: Situation Report 4: Recent Developments in Northwestern Syria \(as of 31 May 2019\)](#), 31 May 2019
- UN News Service, [Syria's Idlib 'on the brink' of a nightmare, humanitarian chiefs warn, launching global solidarity campaign](#), 27 June 2019
- OCHA, [Syria: Flash Update: Recent Developments in North-western Syria \(As of 07 May 2019\)](#), 07 May 2019
- Al Jazeera, [Syria's war: NGOs suspend aid to embattled Idlib province](#), 11 May 2019
- 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.
- OCHA, [Syria: Situation Report 4: Recent Developments in Northwestern Syria \(as of 31 May 2019\)](#), 31 May 2019
- OCHA, [Syria: Flash Update: Recent Developments in North-western Syria \(As of 07 May 2019\)](#), 07 May 2019
- Figures for the northern Aleppo region include accessible communities in the following sub-districts: Afrin, Aghtrin, Al Bab, Ar-Ra'ee, A'az, Bulbul, Ghandorah, Jandairis, Jarablus, Ma'btali, Mare', Raju, Sharan, Sheikh El-Hadid and Suran.
- Euronews, [Two shells fall in Syria's Aleppo - Syrian TV](#), 22 May 2019
- Reuters, [Turkey-backed Syrian rebels launch attack into Kurdish-held area](#), 04 May 2019

ABOUT REACH INITIATIVE

REACH is a leading humanitarian information provider that uses primary data collection and in-depth analysis as tools to enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development settings.