

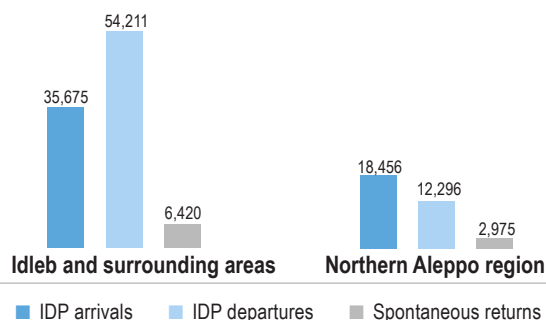
# IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI)

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

## Summary of Findings

<b>Communities assessed:</b>	<b>650</b>
<b>Total IDP arrivals:<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>54,131 (+8%)<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Total IDP departures:<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>66,507 (+40%)</b>
<b>Total spontaneous returns (SRs):<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>9,395 (+80%)</b>

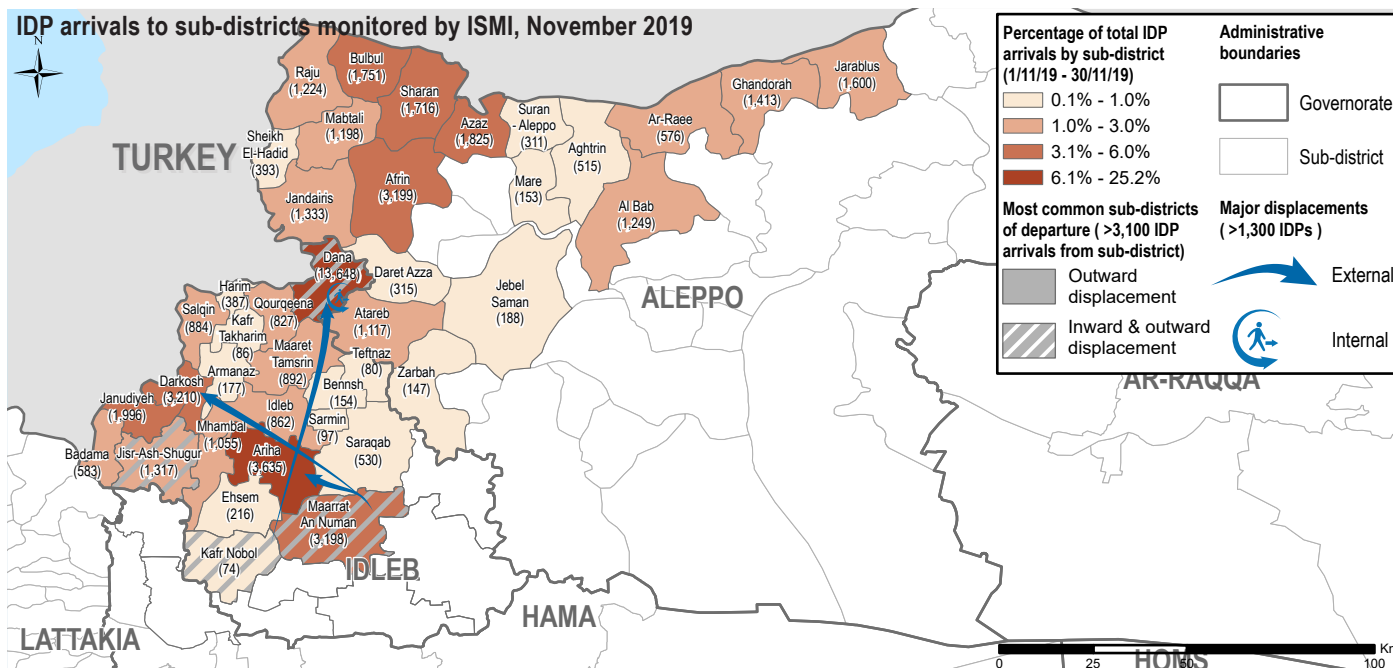
Total IDP arrivals, IDP departures and SRs by region:



Throughout November, there was an increase in IDP movement compared to October with KIs reporting 54,131 IDP arrivals across northwest Syria and 66,507 IDP departures, representing increases of 8% and 40% respectively. Meanwhile, KIs reported an 80% decrease in the number of SRs with 9,395 SRs reported compared to 47,951 SRs in October. IDPs across northwest Syria are increasingly vulnerable, particularly as the depreciating Syrian pound has led to a sharp increase in fuel and food prices.<sup>5</sup>

The reported escalation in shelling and aerial attacks in southern Idleb governorate has led to displacement across the region with civilians moving northwards, away from conflict lines.<sup>6</sup> Idleb and surrounding areas witnessed a 97% increase in the number of IDP departures compared to October and a 42% increase in IDP arrivals. Northern Aleppo meanwhile, witnessed a 26% decrease in the number of IDP arrivals, compared to October when KIs reported 18,456 IDP arrivals.

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



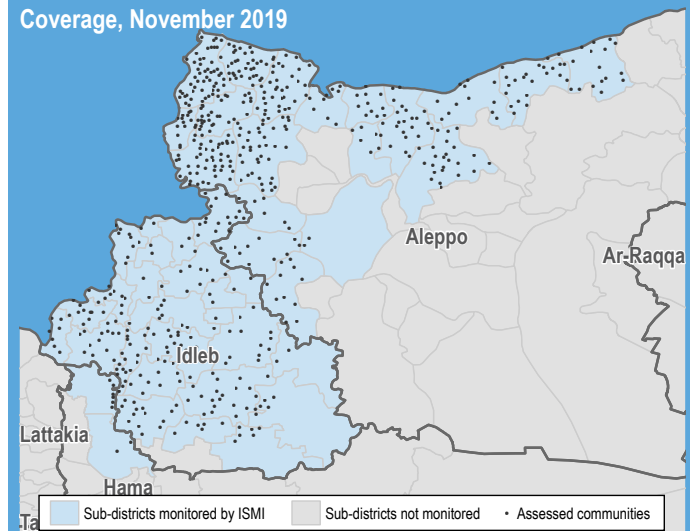
## About ISMI & This Factsheet

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 30 November 2019. Such displacements were reported in 650 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, November 2019



### IDLEB & SURROUNDING AREAS<sup>7</sup>

#### Key Figures

**Communities assessed:** 258

**Total IDP arrivals:** 35,675 (+42%)

**Sub-districts with most arrivals (# IDPs):**

Dana	13,648
Ariha	3,635
Darkosh	3,210
Ma'arrat An Nu'man	3,198
Janudiyeh	1,996

**Total IDP departures:** 54,211 (+97%)

**Sub-districts with most departures (# IDPs):**

Ehsem	12,496
Kafr Nobol	11,909
Ma'arrat An Nu'man	11,084
Dana	2,679
Jisr-Ash-Shugur	2,542

**Total SRs:** 6,420 (+85%)

**Sub-districts with most SRs:**

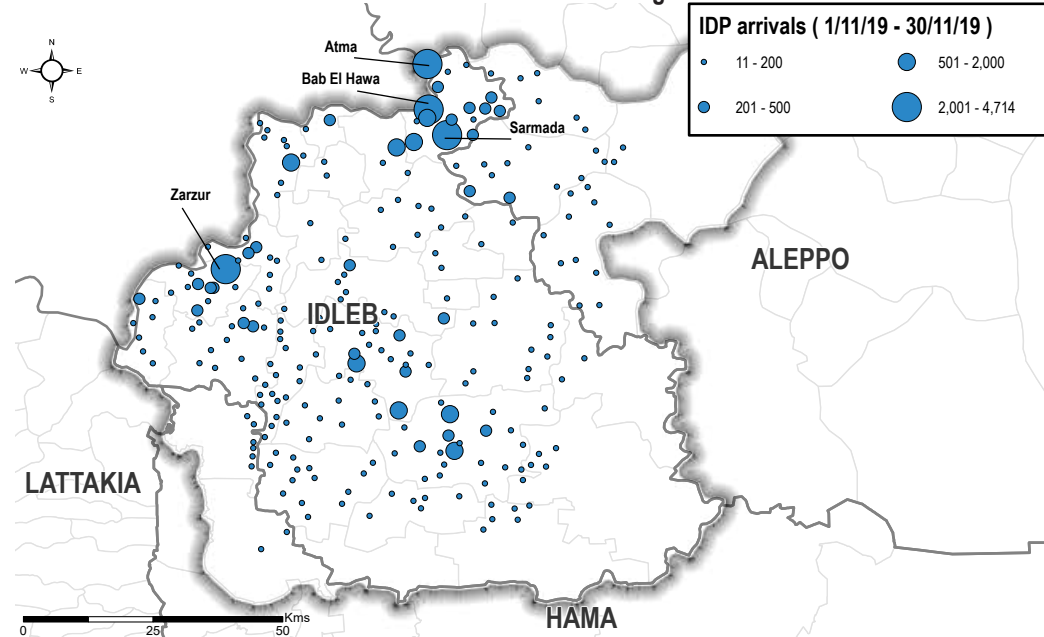
Ma'arrat An Nu'man	5,256
Zarbah	319
Kafr Nobol	246
Janudiyeh	245
Jisr-Ash-Shugur	211

#### Overview

Throughout November, **southern Idleb and surrounding areas experienced a drastic increase in hostilities** leading to civilian casualties and the destruction of civilian infrastructure, according to reports.<sup>9</sup>

As a result of increased conflict activity, **IDP arrivals in Idleb and surrounding areas increased by 42% to 35,675**, according to

IDP arrivals to assessed communities in Idleb and surrounding areas:<sup>8</sup>



KIs. **The sub-districts of Ehsem (12,496), Kafr Nobol (11,909) and Ma'arrat An Nu'man (11,084), close to conflict lines witnessed large numbers of IDP departures**, as reported by KIs. According to reports, at the beginning of November, medical facilities in Kafr Nobol were heavily damaged by airstrikes,<sup>9</sup> whilst Ma'arrat An Nu'man faced continued aerial bombardment in civilian areas.<sup>6</sup>

KIs reported that **Dana sub-district experienced the most IDP arrivals (13,648), following trends seen in previous months.** The increasing number of IDP arrivals to Dana and neighbouring sub-districts in the north is likely to exert increasing pressure on already overstretched humanitarian services, particularly as weather conditions worsen with the onset of winter.<sup>9</sup>

#### IDP Arrivals

KIs reported **35,675 IDP arrivals** during November, an increase of 10,658 (42%) compared to October. Dana (13,648) sub-district witnessed 38% of all IDP arrivals followed by **Ariha where KIs reported 3,635 IDP arrivals and Darkosh (3,210).**

**Ma'arrat an Nu'man, which in October had the most IDP arrivals, only experienced 3,198 in November, according to KIs.** This is likely due to increased aerial bombardments in this sub-district.

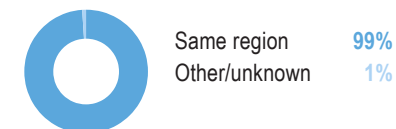
**Ma'arrat An Nu'man, Kafr Nobol and Jisr-Ash-Shugu were the most commonly reported last sub-districts of departure for IDP arrivals** within Idleb and surrounding areas.

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

Ma'arrat An Nu'Man	7,729
Kafr Nobol	7,265
Jisr-Ash-Shugur	3,595
Dana	2,783
Ehsem	1,088

These three sub-districts are all located in southern Idleb suggesting that there is a movement of IDPs northwards as the top reported sub-districts with IDP arrivals are all further north of the frontlines which are on the border between southern Idleb and Lattakia.

Last place of departure of IDP arrivals:



Safety and security in the assessed location was overwhelmingly the most common pull factor reported by KIs.

For the fourth consecutive month, access to shelter/shelter support, family ties/host community relationship and access to humanitarian assistance have been identified by KIs as significant pull factors for IDP arrivals.

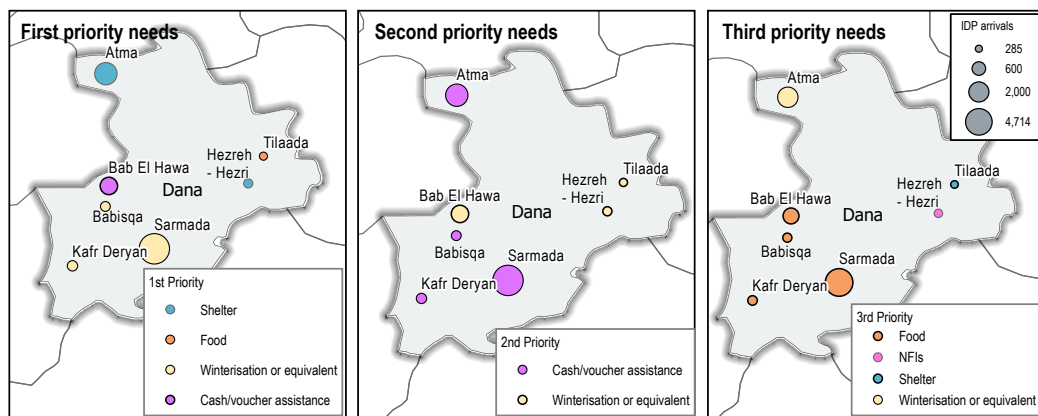
Most common pull factors for IDP arrivals:<sup>10</sup>

	1st	2nd	3rd
Safety and security situation	120	18	3
Access to shelter/shelter support	8	35	53
Family ties/host community relationship	23	30	4
Access to humanitarian assistance	4	26	23
Proximity to community of origin	1	6	26

# IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI)

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

### Top 3 priority needs of IDP arrivals in Dana:



Community	IDP arrivals	1st Priority	2nd Priority	3rd Priority
Sarmada	4,714	Winterisation or equivalent	Cash/voucher assistance	Food
Atma	3,112	Shelter	Cash/voucher assistance	Winterisation or equivalent
Bab El Hawa	2,132	Cash/voucher assistance	Winterisation or equivalent	Food
Kafr Deryan	724	Winterisation or equivalent	Cash/voucher assistance	Food
Babisqa	627	Winterisation or equivalent	Cash/voucher assistance	Food
Hezreh - Hezri	485	Shelter	Winterisation or equivalent	NFIs
Tilaada	285	Food	Winterisation or equivalent	Shelter

### Top 3 priority needs in Dana:

In Dana sub-district, the top three priority needs identified were winterisation, cash/voucher assistance and food. Harsh winter conditions have led to flooding in camps across Idleb<sup>11</sup> and humanitarian agencies are scaling up their winterisation responses.<sup>12</sup> In addition, the need for cash/voucher assistance is likely to become increasingly acute due to the continuing devaluation of the Syrian pound and the increasing prices of heating fuel as well as food.<sup>5</sup>

### Top 3 shelter types of IDP arrivals:

- (1) Managed camp 12,317 IDPs
- (2) Solid/finished house 12,000 IDPs
- (3) Solid/finished apartment 2,541 IDPs

According to KIs, there has been a sharp increase in the number of IDP arrivals residing in managed camps with 12,317 IDP arrivals reported in camps compared to 2,292 in October. Moreover, 2,406 IDP arrivals were reportedly residing in informal settlements and 2,194 were reported to be residing in unfinished/damaged buildings.

### Vulnerable groups among IDP arrivals:<sup>13</sup>



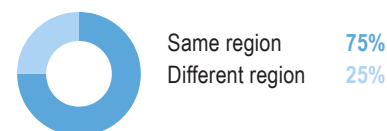
KIs reported vulnerable groups among IDP arrivals including orphans arriving alone and persons with disabilities.

## IDP Departures

The number of IDP departures reportedly increased from 27,487 in October to 54,211 in November, equivalent to an increase of 97%.

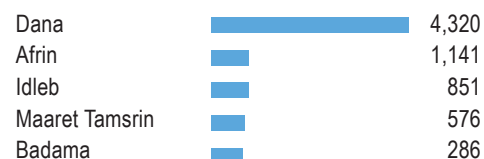
Ehsem witnessed the largest number of IDP departures for the first time since September with KIs reporting 12,496 IDP departures. Kafr Nobol sub-district (11,909) and Ma'Arrat An Nu'man sub-district (11,084) reportedly witnessed similarly high numbers of IDP departures. These sub-districts are all located near the frontlines where there are continuing clashes between Armed Opposition Groups (AOGs) and Government of Syria (GoS) forces.<sup>6</sup>

### Intended destinations of departures:



According to KIs, 75% of IDP departures intended to remain in the same region whilst 25% intended to depart to a different region.

### Top intended destination sub-districts (# IDPs):



The top intended destinations were reportedly Dana (4,320) followed by Afrin (1,141). This is the second consecutive month that Dana sub-district has been the top intended destination for IDP departures.

### Most common push factors for IDP arrivals:

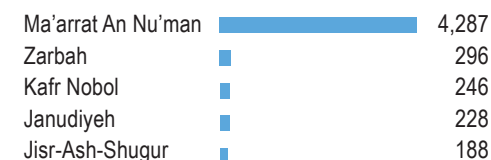
	1st	2nd	3rd
Escalation of aerial bombardment	111	36	1
Anticipation of future conflict escalation	2	48	41
Escalation of ground-based conflict	34	26	2
Loss of assets	0	20	30
Loss of income	3	21	25

The increasing intensity in violence reportedly continues to cause IDP departures with escalation of aerial bombardment, anticipation of future conflict escalation and escalation of ground-based conflict all recorded as push factors for IDP arrivals.

## Spontaneous Returns

In November, the number of reported SRs decreased by 85%, with KIs reporting only 6,420 compared to 42,182 SRs reported in October. For the third month in a row, Ma'Arrat An Nu'man (5,526) experienced the largest amount of However compared to October, this is a marked decrease of 35,762.

### Sub-districts with most spontaneous returns to former homes:



### Top 3 shelter types of SRs:

- (1) Solid/finished house 1,493 SRs
- (2) Unfinished/damaged building 289 SRs
- (3) Solid/finished apartment 200 SRs

The most common shelter type for SRs was solid/finished house (1,493).

### NORTHERN ALEPPO<sup>14</sup>

#### Key Figures

Communities assessed: **392**

Total IDP arrivals: **18,456 (+26%)**

Sub-districts with most arrivals (# IDPs):

Afrin	3,199
A'zaz	1,825
Bulbul	1,751
Sharan	1,716
Jarablus	1,600

Total IDP departures: **12,296 (-38%)**

Sub-districts with most departures (# IDPs):

Bulbul	2,133
Al Bab	1,711
Raju	1,673
Afrin	1,480
Jarablus	1,272

Total SRs: **2,975 (+48%)**

Sub-districts with most SRs:

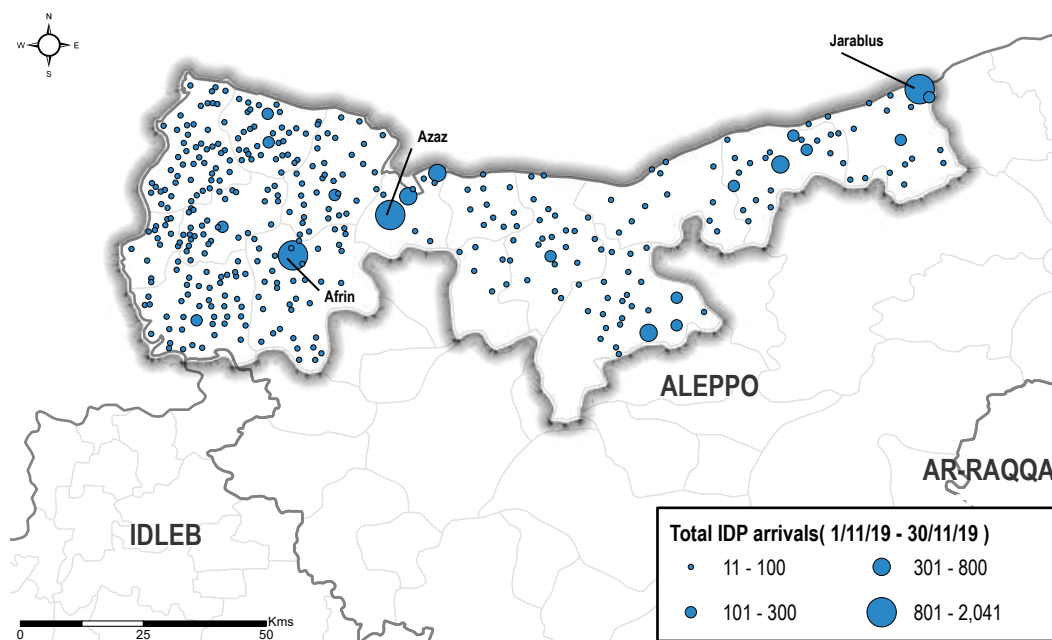
Raju	793
Afrin	654
Bulbul	502
Sharan	297
Ma'btali	268

#### Overview

There has reportedly been a decrease in the amount of reported movement within Northern Aleppo with **the number of IDP arrivals, departures and spontaneous returns reducing compared to levels seen in October.**

The **poor economic situation in Syria** and the high cost of goods have increased the

IDP arrivals to assessed communities in Northern Aleppo:



vulnerability of civilian populations with IDPs being most affected.<sup>5</sup> Moreover, **the severe escalation in conflict in neighbouring Idleb is reportedly leading to high numbers of IDP arrivals** with 992 IDP arrivals coming from Idleb and 856 coming from Ma'arrat An Nu'man. These numbers are likely to increase in the coming months if the current level of hostilities persists.

#### IDP Arrivals

There were reportedly **18,456 IDP arrivals across Northern Aleppo in November.** This is a reduction of 26% compared to October when KIs reported 24,991 IDP arrivals. Afrin sub-district reportedly experienced the most IDP arrivals with 3,199. This is the second

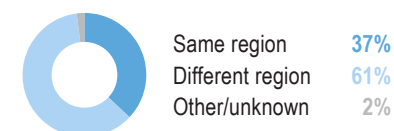
concurrent month in which Afrin witnessed the most IDP arrivals. **The sub-district of A'zaz reportedly had the second most IDP arrivals (1,825) followed by Bulbul (1,751) and Sharan (1,716).** These sub-districts are in close proximity to Dana sub-district in Idleb which has witnessed a large number of IDP arrivals due to conflict escalation in southern Idleb.

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

Idleb	992
Ma'arrat An Nu'man	856
Afrin	719
Al Bab	601
Ghandorah	508

KIs reported that **many IDP arrivals came from sub-districts in Idleb with 992 coming from Idleb sub-district and 856 from Ma'arrat An Nu'man sub-district.** Afrin (719), Al Bab (601) and Ghandorah (508) were also cited by KIs as last places of departure for IDP arrivals.

Last place of departure of IDP arrivals:



According to KIs, **the majority of IDP arrivals originated from a different region (61%).** 37% of IDP arrivals last place of departure was within Northern Aleppo. This is likely due to increasing population density in sub-districts in northern Idleb exerting pressure on employment opportunities and shelter.

This is corroborated by KIs who reported that access to income and employment was the most significant pull factor for IDP arrivals followed by safety and security and access to shelter support.

Most common pull factors for IDP arrivals:

	1st	2nd	3rd
Access to income and employment	111	102	36
Safety and security situation	150	32	9
Access to shelter/shelter support	29	55	97
Access to humanitarian assistance	13	64	71
Access to food	6	57	37

Access to income and employment, shelter/shelter support, humanitarian assistance and food were all identified by KIs as the most common pull factors by IDP arrivals.

### Vulnerable groups among IDP arrivals:



Among IDP arrivals, KIs reported that vulnerable groups were present. This included **persons with disabilities, child-headed households and elderly headed households.**

### Top 3 shelter types of IDP arrivals:

(1) Solid/finished house	10,395 IDPs
(2) Individual tent	1,712 IDPs
(3) Solid/finished apartment	1,585 IDPs

According to KIs, **solid/finished house (10,395)** was overwhelmingly the most common shelter type followed by **individual tent (1,712)** and **solid/finished apartment (1,585).**

## IDP Departures

IDP Departures in Northern Aleppo have reportedly **decreased by 38% (12,296) compared to October.**

The sub-district of **Bulbul had 2,133 departures**, this is an increase of 1,402 compared to October. This was followed by Al Bab sub-district (1,711) and Raju (1,673).

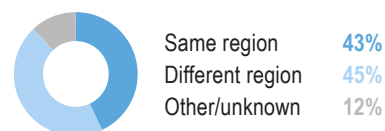
### Most common push factors for IDP arrivals:

	1st	2nd	3rd
Loss of income	107	34	53
Escalation of aerial bombardment	39	89	10
Reduced access to humanitarian assistance	21	68	33
Escalation of ground-based conflict	96	17	2
Reduced access to shelter	28	33	48

KIs reported that the most common push factor for IDP arrivals was loss of income.

**This is the third consecutive month where loss of income has been reported by KIs as the most common push factor for IDP arrivals.** Other common factors include escalation of aerial bombardment and reduced access to humanitarian assistance, according to KIs.

### Intended destinations of departures:



## Spontaneous Returns

**The number of reported SRs has decreased by 48% in November compared to October.** Of the total 2,975 SRs, 793 of these were reported in Raju followed by Afrin with 654 SRs.

### Top 3 shelter types of SRs:

(1) Solid/finished house	6,170 SRs
(2) Solid/finished apartment	724 SRs
(3) Unfinished/damaged building	80 SRs

The most commonly reported shelter types were solid/finished houses with **6,170 IDP SRs**, solid/finished apartment (724) followed by unfinished/damaged building (80).

Afrin sub-district witnessed the most IDP SRs to former homes with KIs reporting 597. Bulbul sub-district (502) was the second most common location for SRs returning to their former homes.

## Endnotes

- Some figures may be repeated displacements.
- CCCM/REACH, ISMI Monthly Displacement Summary, October 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.
- REACH, 'Syria Market Monitoring Exercise,' 11 - 18 November 2019
- Al Jazeera, 'Several killed in air raids on markets in Syria's Idlib province,' 2 December 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.
- 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, 'Northwest Syria snapshot - as of 20 November 2019,' November 2019
- Number of accessible communities in which the most common push and/or pull factors for IDP arrivals or departures.
- Al Jazeera, 'Displaced Syrians appeal for international aid after floods,' 11 December 2019
- UNHCR, 'Winter preparations for Syrian refugees and displaced in full swing,' 22 November 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.
- Figures for the northern Aleppo region include accessible communities in the following sub-districts: Afrin, Aghtrin, Al Bab, Ar-Ra'ee, A'zaz, Bulbul, Ghandorah, Jandairis, Jarablus, Ma'b'tali, Mare', Raju, Sharan, Sheikh El-Hadid and Suran.