Rapid Displacement Overview: Displacement from Syria
Al Walid, Sahila and Kalhi Villages, Dohuk Governorate, Iraq

Update: as of 24 February 2020

Background and Methodology
Due to the worsening security situation inside Syria, REACH Initiative (REACH) is conducting rapid assessments to monitor the influx and needs of Syrian refugees recently displaced to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). In order to inform and provide an evidence-base for humanitarian planning, the REACH Iraq team launched data collection close to the Syrian border, to capture the demographics, needs and displacement history of those crossing from Syria into the areas surrounding Al Walid, Sahila and Kalhi villages in the KR-I. To gather this information, REACH conducted Key Informant (KI) interviews, with one nominated KI per travel group responding on behalf of the travel group.

This 24th output reflects data collected in Sahila on 18-20 and 22-24 of February 2020. In total, 55 KIs were interviewed on behalf of their travel groups (307 displaced individuals). As data is collected through KIs and only on specific days, results should be considered indicative and are not statistically representative.

Displacement Figures
Total number of registered refugees arriving to assessed area since 9 October 2019: 21,089.1
Total reported daily numbers of individuals arriving to screening points:1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18/02</td>
<td>36</td>
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<td>19/02</td>
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<td>20/02</td>
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<td>21/02</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>22/02</td>
<td>54</td>
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<td>23/02</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24/02</td>
<td>84</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Location Map

Situation Overview
Since the outbreak of conflict on 9 October 2019, residents of Northeast Syria (NES) are experiencing a new humanitarian crisis, resulting in massive displacement from the region, both internally and, to a lesser extent, towards the KR-I. As of 18 December 2019, the UN estimated that 70,590 people2 remain displaced, while UNHCR reported 21,089 refugees3 crossing into the KR-I between 9 October and 24 February. Days after a ceasefire agreement was reached on 17 October,4 a sharp decrease in daily refugee arrivals was observed. New refugee arrivals have been screened in Sahila village in the KR-I, and have then been moved to Bardarash and Gawilan camps for registration.

There were on average 51 new arrivals per day over the last week, which is an increase compared to the previous week. Numbers have been fluctuating, but an increase occurred on the 20 and 24 February due to the weather improvement that is making it easier for the people to go through the journey. In this update, the most commonly reported recent districts of residence in Syria were Quamishli, Ain Al-Arab, Al-Hasakeh and Ras Al-Ain. Furthermore, travelling by foot remained the primary mode of transportation, and was reported by 87% of KIs. Fifty eight percent (58%) of the groups were able to finish the journey in a day, while 42% of the groups reported having travelled for several days. For most travel groups, lack of water, lack of food and challenges of travelling with children and elderly were reported as the most commonly encountered difficulties on the journey. Similar to former updates, KIs reported that the lack of livelihood, airstrikes and fear of conscription were the most common push factors to leave their place of residence in Syria.

Patterns of Displacement Map

1 Based on information received from UNHCR
2 OCHA. Syria Flash Update #12, Humanitarian impact of the military operation in north-eastern Syria, 1-19 November 2019
3 OCHA. Syria Flash Update #7, Humanitarian impact of the military operation in north-eastern Syria, 16-18 October 2019

1The findings in this factsheet do not include travel groups who arrived on 21 February, as no interviews were conducted on that day.
Most KIs (96%) reported that travel groups had to pay someone to cross from Syria, as was reported in previous updates. Travel groups reportedly paid on average 120 USD per person (724 USD per group), which is a slight decrease compared to recent updates. Most KIs reported no water (78%) and no food (76%) as difficulties experienced on the journey. Five percent (5%) of the travel groups had reportedly travelled for more than seven days, compared to 20% in the last round and 7% in the one before it.

Demographics

Demographics of the Displaced Groups

Average size of travel groups as indicated by KIs: 6

Demographic breakdown by age and gender as reported by KIs:

- 61% male | 39% female
- 1% Over 60
- 19% 18-60
- 19% 0-17

Vulnerable Groups

Proportion of travel group members identified as vulnerable as indicated by KIs:
- 5% of children were unaccompanied or separated.
- 3% of travel group members were physically disabled.
- 32% of women were pregnant or lactating.

Population Left Behind

80% of KIs reported that within their travel group at least one member had left at least one family member behind in their previous residence.

Displacement

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Displacement Routes

Most commonly reported difficulties experienced on the journey, according to KIs:
- No water 78%
- No food 76%
- Travelling with children/elderly 49%
- No money 18%

Prepared reasons for choice of displacement route, according to KIs:
- Perceived safest route 78%
- Recommended by family/friends 18%
- Shortest route to destination 4%

Most commonly reported primary modes of transport travel groups used to crossing point from most recent residence location, according to KIs:
- Foot 87%
- Car 11%
- Horse 2%

Previous Location in Syria

Most commonly reported districts of most recent residence in Syria:
- Quamishli 27%
- Ain Al-Arab 24%
- Al-Hasakeh 11%
- Ras Al-Ain 9%

Push Factors

Most commonly reported reasons for displacement from Syria:
- Lack of livelihood 44%
- Airstrikes in the area 27%
- Fear of conscription 11%
- The arrival of armed forces 7%

Duration of Displacement Stages

2% of KIs reported less than 6 hours between the decision to leave their most recent location of residence and departing.

0% of KIs reported a waiting time of more than eight hours at crossing point from Syria to KR-I.

2% of KIs reported having spent more than eight hours at screening point in the villages of Al-Walid, Sahila and Kalhi in KR-I.

Time since leaving previous residence:
- 5% More than seven days
- 4% Between four and seven days
- 33% Two to three days
- 58% One day

Secondary Displacement

35% of KIs reported that the majority of their travel group members were living in displacement in their previous residence.

*KIs could select multiple needs or reasons. Therefore, results may exceed 100%.
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Needs and Assistance

**Humanitarian Needs**

Most commonly reported items brought by the majority of travel group members, according to KIs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identification papers</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothes</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

27% of group members did not carry any form of identification papers, as indicated by KIs.

**Movement Intentions**

KIs were asked about the intentions of their travel groups both in the short term (in the two days following their arrival) and in the intermediate term (in the two weeks following data collection).

When asked about movement intentions of travel groups in the **two days** following data collection, 100% of KIs reported that they intend to stay in camps.

When asked about movement intentions of travel groups in the **two weeks** following data collection, most of KIs (75%) reported their intention to join family or friends in KR-I within this timeframe, while 18% reported intending to stay in the camps and 7% were unsure.

98% of KIs indicated that no member of their group intends to return back to Syria in the two weeks following date of interview.

**Short-Term Intentions**

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

- **Camp** 100%

**Intermediate-Term Intentions**

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

- **Join Family and friends in KR-I** 75%
- **Camp** 18%
- **Don't know** 7%

**Movement Intentions Map**

4KIs could select multiple needs or reasons. Therefore, results may exceed 100%.

5The most commonly reported reason for travel group members to not bring identification papers was that they were too young to have individual personal identification documents.

6Movement intentions of travel groups in the next two weeks were only asked to respondents who had indicated that they intended to move to a camp or options other than joining family and friends in KR-I or Dohuk in the next two days.