

IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI)

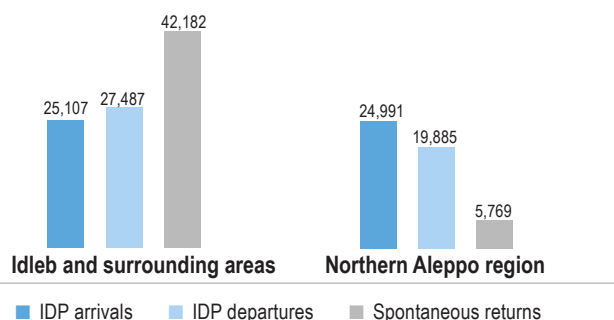
Monthly Overview of IDP Movements and Spontaneous Returns in north-west Syria, October 2019

Summary of Findings

Communities assessed:	667
Total IDP arrivals:¹	50,098(+41%)²
Total IDP departures:³	47,372(+9%)
Total spontaneous returns (SRs):⁴	47,951(+52%)

In October, assessed communities in north-west Syria witnessed a total of **50,098 arrivals**, according to KIs. KIs reported **25,107 IDP arrivals in Idleb and surrounding areas** and **24,991 IDP arrivals in northern Aleppo**. Overall, north-west Syria witnessed a 41% decrease in arrivals compared to September and a 73% decrease compared to August.

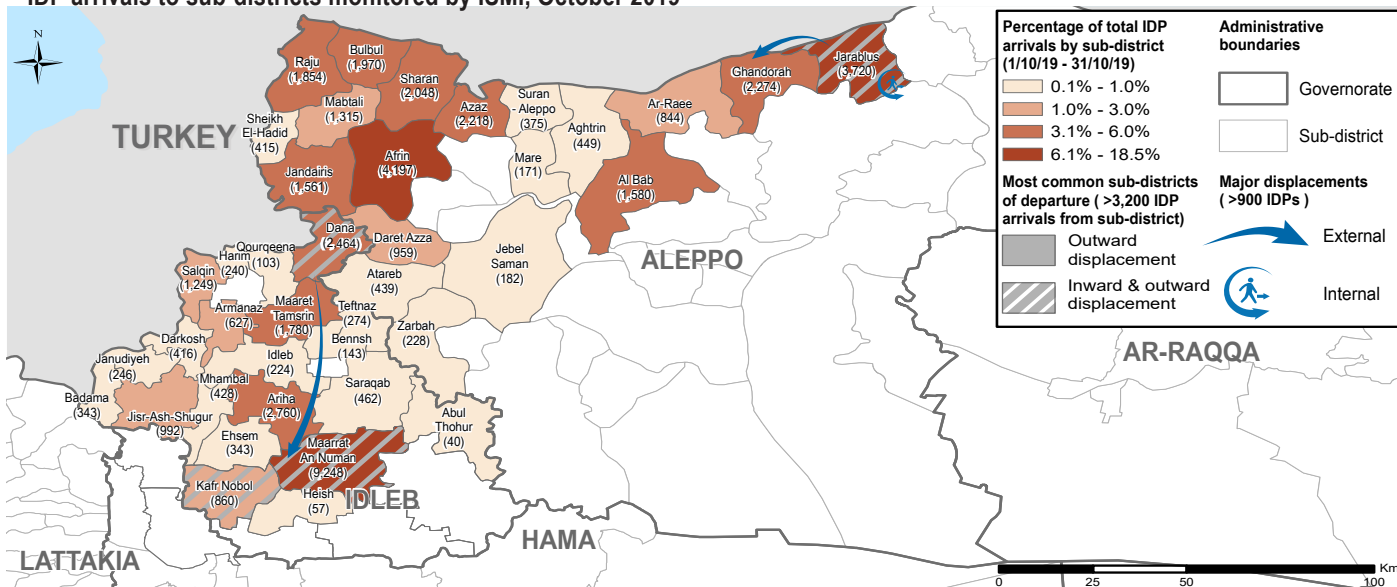
Total IDP arrivals, IDP departures and SRs by region:



A total of **47,372 IDP departures** were recorded by KIs, of which **27,487** occurred in Idleb and surrounding areas. KIs reported a 9% decrease in the number of IDP departures in north-west Syria compared to September. Meanwhile, the number of SRs increased by 52% between September and October.

North-west Syria has seen a relative reduction in the level of hostilities, however security incidents persist.⁵ Furthermore, the situation in northeast Syria has had impacts on the north-west with fuel and commodity prices increasing. Moreover, **the provision of humanitarian assistance remains a challenge with informal settlements in areas of mountainous terrain.**⁶

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



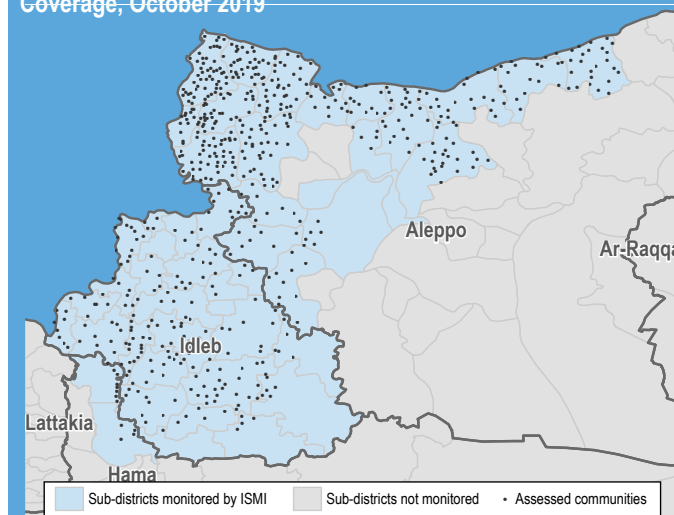
About ISMI & This Factsheet

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 31 October 2019. Such displacements were reported in 667 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, October 2019



IDLEB & SURROUNDING AREAS⁷

Key Figures

Communities assessed: **264**

Total IDP arrivals: **25,107 (+54%)**

Sub-districts with most arrivals (# IDPs):

Ma'arrat An Nu'man	9,248
Ariha	2,760
Dana	2,464
Maaret Tamsrin	1,780
Salqin	1,249

Total IDP departures: **27,487 (+27%)**

Sub-districts with most departures (# IDPs):

Ma'arrat An Nu'man	5,046
Dana	3,165
Ariha	2,784
Salqin	2,326
Atareb	1,916

Total SRs: **42,182 (+45%)**

Sub-districts with most SRs:

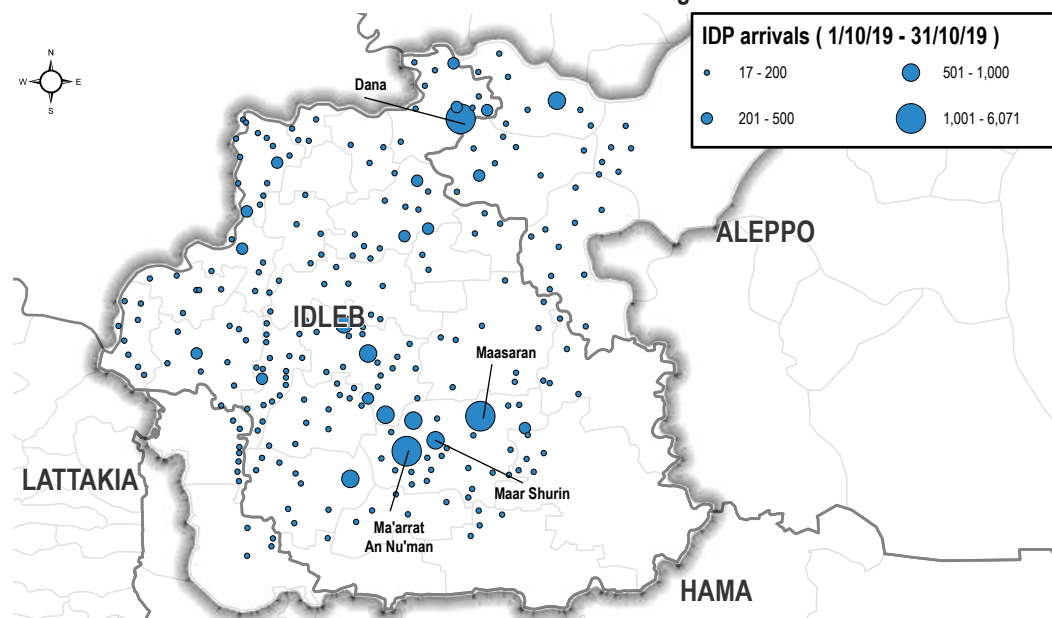
Ma'arrat An Nu'man	33,171
Kafr Nobol	4,115
Zarbah	1,243
Jisr-Ash-Shugur	1,090
Sanjar	798

Overview

The frontlines of southern Idleb and northeast Latakia governorate continue to experience **airstrikes, shelling and some ground-based conflict**.⁸

Within Idleb and surrounding areas there were a total of **25,107 arrivals**, equivalent to **50% of**

IDP arrivals to assessed communities in Idleb and surrounding areas⁹



total IDP arrivals in north-west Syria. Overall, there has been a decrease in IDP movement in comparison to previous months; KIs reported a **54% decrease** in the number of IDP arrivals compared to September and a 25% reduction in the number of IDP departures.

Ma'arrat An Nu'man witnessed the most IDP arrivals (9,248), IDP departures (5,046) and SRs (33,171).

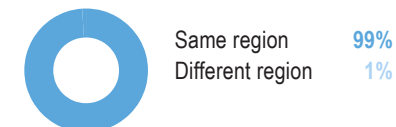
IDP Arrivals

Throughout October, KIs reported **25,107 IDP arrivals** in Idleb and surrounding areas, equivalent to a **57% decrease** compared to figures reported in September.

Ma'arrat An Nu'man sub-district witnessed the highest number of IDP arrivals in Idleb and surrounding areas with KIs reporting **9,248 arrivals**. The community of **Ma'arrat An Nu'man** experienced the majority of IDP arrivals (**6,071**), accounting for 66% of the total IDP arrivals in this sub-district. The neighbouring sub-district of Ariha witnessed 2,760 IDP arrivals.

Sub-districts in northern Idleb continue to receive IDP arrivals with KIs reporting 2,464 in Dana and 1,780 in Maaret Tamsrin. However, both Dana and Maaret Tamsrin witnessed reductions in the number of IDP arrivals of 5,261 and 8,827 respectively, compared to figures reported in September.

Last place of departure of IDP arrivals:



KIs reported that **99%** of IDP arrivals' last place of departure was within Idleb and surrounding areas. According to KIs, only **1%** of IDP arrivals had departed from another region in Syria.

Most common pull factors for IDP arrivals:¹⁰

	1st	2nd	3rd
Safety and security situation in the assessed location	77	14	3
Access to shelter/shelter support	10	39	34
Access to humanitarian assistance	6	23	23
Family ties/host community relationship	23	16	8
Access to income and employment opportunities	8	15	10

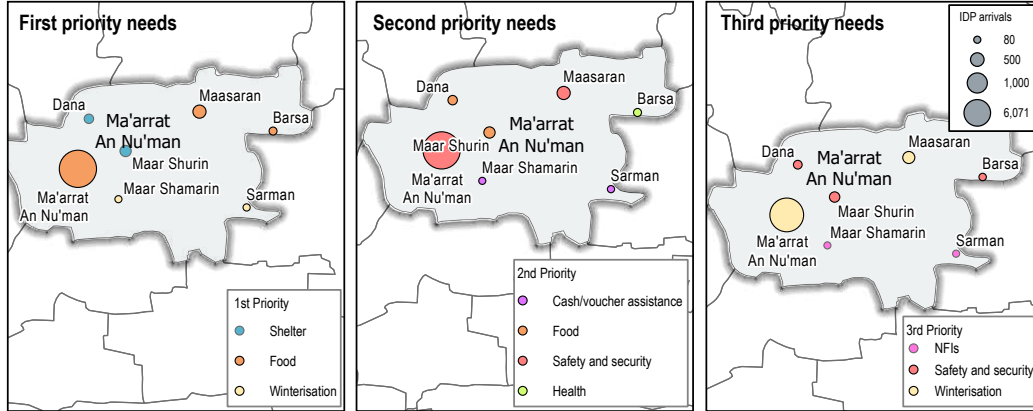
Safety and security was reported as the most common pull factor for IDP arrivals. **Access to shelter/shelter support, access to humanitarian assistance and family ties/host community relationship** have been consistent pull factors since August.

Top 3 shelter types of IDP arrivals:

(1) Solid/finished house	10,704 IDPs
(2) Unfinished/damaged building	2,966 IDPs
(3) Managed camp	2,292 IDPs

KIs reported that the majority of IDPs were residing in **solid/finished houses (10,704), unfinished/damaged buildings (2,966) and managed camps (2,292)**. In addition, IDPs were reportedly residing in **individual tents (1,997)** and living in **informal settlements**

Top 3 priority needs of IDP arrivals in Ma'arrat An Nu'man



Community	IDP arrivals	1st Priority	2nd Priority	3rd Priority
Ma'arrat An Nu'man	6,071	Food	Safety and security	Winterisation
Maasaran	1,283	Food	Safety and security	Winterisation
Maar Shurin	912	Shelter	Food	Safety and security
Dana (Ma'arrat An Nu'man)	542	Shelter	Food	Safety and security
Barsa	257	Food	Health	Safety and security
Sarman	103	Winterisation	Cash/voucher assistance	NFIs
Maar Shamarin	80	Winterisation	Cash/voucher assistance	NFIs

(1,344) making these some of the most vulnerable as winter approaches.

In Ma'arrat An Nu'man sub-district, the top three priority needs identified by KIs were **food, safety and security and winterisation**. Other needs identified among communities within Ma'arrat An Nu'man sub-district were shelter, health, cash/voucher assistance and NFIs. Organisations are preparing to support vulnerable IDP populations as winter approaches with programmes to provide shelter, food and non food items.¹¹

Vulnerable groups among IDP arrivals:¹²



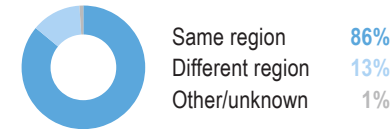
KIs reported the presence of vulnerable groups, particularly female-headed households, among IDP arrivals in Idleb and surrounding areas.

IDP Departures

Whilst witnessing the largest number of IDP arrivals, Ma'arrat An Nu'man sub-district also experienced the greatest number of IDP departures with a total of **5,046**, accounting for 18% of the total. Dana witnessed 3,156 IDP departures followed by Ariha (2,784) and Salqin (2,326), as reported by KIs.

Idleb city witnessed the most IDP departures on a community-level, according to KIs with a total of **1,710**.

Intended destinations of departures:



KIs reported that the overwhelming majority of IDPs intended to go to sub-districts within Idleb. KIs indicated that 13% intended to go to a different region.

Most common push factors for IDP arrivals:

	1st	2nd	3rd
Escalation of aerial bombardment	62	23	0
Anticipation of future conflict escalation	2	37	16
Loss of income	26	8	17
Loss of assets	1	27	20
Reduced access to humanitarian assistance	6	8	22

Within Idleb and surrounding areas, the first two push factors reported by KIs were; an **escalation of aerial bombardment and anticipation of future conflict escalation**.

Loss of income, loss of assets and reduced access to humanitarian assistance were also identified by KIs as push factors among IDP arrivals.

Top intended destination sub-districts (# IDPs):

Dana	3,792
Ma'arrat An Nu'man	3,659
Afrin	1,500
Kafr Nobol	1,248
Ehsem	946

As reported by KIs, the top intended destination for IDP departures was **Dana sub-district** (3,792) followed by Maaret Tamsrin (2,750).

Spontaneous Returns

There were **42,182 SRs** reported by KIs in **October**. This is an **increase of 45%** compared to September when KIs reported 29,093 SRs in Idleb and surrounding areas.

78% of SRs reportedly arrived to Ma'arrat An Nu'man sub-district. This was followed by the sub-districts of Kafr Nobol (4,115), Zarbah (1,243) and Jisr-Ash-Shugur (1,090).

Top 3 shelter types of SRs:

(1) Solid/finished house	4,180 SRs
(2) Solid/finished apartment	2,926 SRs
(3) Unfinished/damaged building	525 SRs

It was reported by KIs that the most common shelter type for SRs was **solid/finished houses (4,180)**. KIs reported that 2,926 SRs were in solid/finished apartments.

525 SRs were reportedly residing in unfinished/damaged buildings. These shelter types were also the most commonly cited shelter types during September.

Sub-districts with most spontaneous returns to former homes:

Ma'arrat An Nu'man	24,957
Kafr Nobol	4,087
Zarbah	1,243
Jisr-Ash-Shugur	850
Sanjar	798

KIs reported that **Ma'arrat An Nu'man had the most SRs returning to their former homes with a total of 24,957**. Kafr Nobol experienced the second highest number of SRs returning to their former homes (4,087) followed by Zarbah (1,243).

NORTHERN ALEPPO¹³

Key Figures

Communities assessed: 403

Total IDP arrivals: 24,991 (+15%)

Sub-districts with most arrivals (# IDPs):

Afrin	4,197
Jarablus	3,720
Ghandorah	2,274
A'zaz	2,218
Sharan	2,048

Total IDP departures: 19,885 (+37%)

Sub-districts with most departures (# IDPs):

Jarablus	4,126
Ghandorah	2,709
Afrin	2,552
Raju	2,423
Al Bab	1,952

Total SRs: 5,769 (+127%)

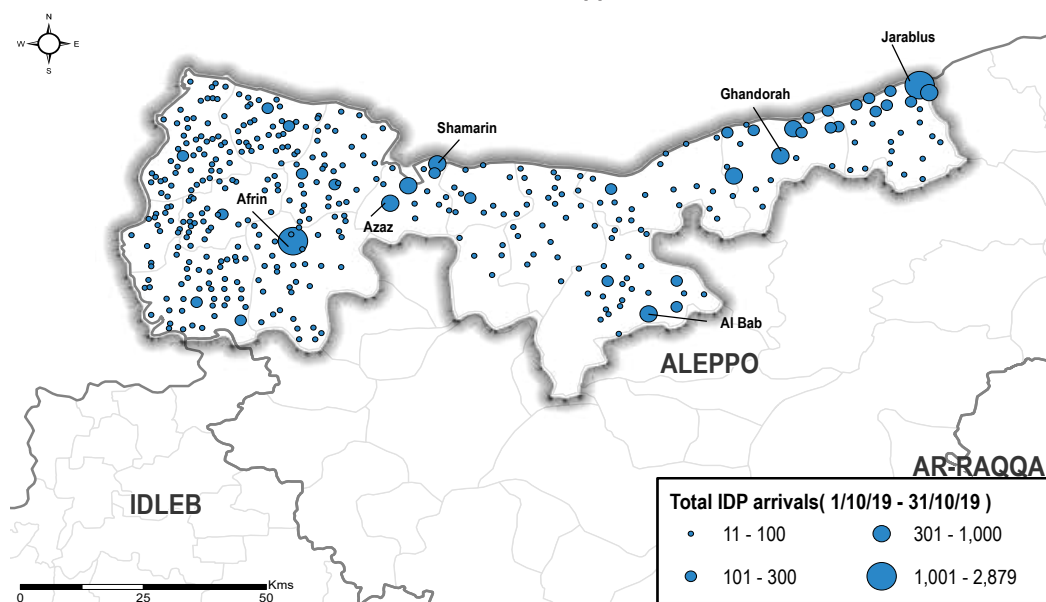
Sub-districts with most SRs:

Raju	1,579
Afrin	931
Bulbul	731
Ma'btali	681
Sharan	600

Overview

Northern Aleppo continues to experience frequent security incidents including incidences relating to inter-Armed Opposition Group (AOG) violence, kidnappings and improvised explosive devices (IED)⁸. These events result in endangerment to civilians as well as disruption to basic service provision and access.

IDP arrivals to assessed communities in northern Aleppo



Within northern Aleppo, KIs reported a decrease in IDP arrivals of 15% with a total of 24,991. Meanwhile, the region witnessed a 127% increase in the number of SRs, according to KIs.

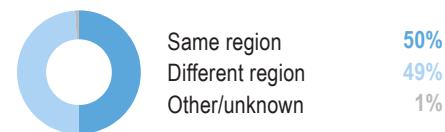
IDP Arrivals

Afrin sub-district witnessed the highest number of IDP arrivals (4,197) in Northern Aleppo. This was closely followed by Jarablus (3,720), Ghandorah (2,274) and A'zaz (2,218).

Overall, northern Aleppo has witnessed a decrease of 15% in the number of IDP arrivals. KIs reported 29,420 IDP arrivals in September.

According to KIs, the community of Afrin, witnessed the highest number of IDP arrivals (2,879).

Last place of departure of IDP arrivals:



KIs reported that IDP arrivals' last place of departure was split evenly with 50% departing from communities within northern Aleppo and 49% departing from a different region.

Vulnerable groups among IDP arrivals:



KIs reported the presence of vulnerable groups including female-headed households, women travelling alone, child-headed households, orphans and elderly-headed households among IDP arrivals.

Top 3 shelter types of IDP arrivals:

(1) Solid/finished house	14,283 IDPs
(2) Individual tent	2,532 IDPs
(3) Managed camp	2,465 IDPs

KIs reported 14,283 IDP arrivals living in solid/finished houses. This is followed by individual tents (2,532) and managed camps (2,465).

IDP Departures

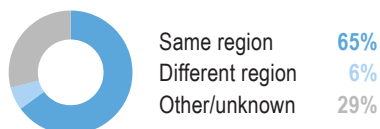
Northern Aleppo witnessed an increase of 37% (5,318) IDP departures with a total of 19,885 reported by KIs. The sub-district of Jarablus experienced a total of 4,126 IDP departures followed by the sub-districts of Ghandorah (2,709), Afrin (2,552) and Raju (2,423).

Most common push factors for IDP arrivals:

	1st	2nd	3rd
Loss of income	138	55	35
Reduced access to shelter	21	43	64
Anticipation of future conflict escalation	45	21	57
Reduced access to humanitarian assistance	17	64	30
Reduced access to food	2	57	48

The most common push factor reported by KIs was loss of income. This is the second consecutive month where loss of income has been identified as the most common push factor for IDP arrivals. At the same time, reduced access to shelter, anticipation of future conflict escalation and reduced access to humanitarian assistance were all cited as push factors by KIs.

Intended destinations of departures:



According to KIs, 65% of IDP departures intended to move to communities within northern Aleppo and only 6% intended to move to Idleb and surrounding areas. This suggests the relative stability of communities within northern Aleppo.

Top intended destination sub-districts (# IDPs):



Jarablus sub-district (2,577) was reportedly the top intended sub-district for IDP departures. As well as receiving IDP arrivals from within north-west Syria, humanitarian partners are monitoring the situation and the needs in Jarablus closely in case the area witnesses further IDP arrivals due to conflict escalation in northeast Syria.¹⁴

The sub-districts of **Ghandorah (877) and Al Bab (833) were also reported as intended destinations for IDPs.**

Spontaneous Returns

SRs in northern Aleppo made up **12% of the total SRs** within north-west Syria. A **total of 5,769 SRs were reported** by KIs with Raju sub-district experiencing the largest number of SRs (1,579) for the second consecutive month. The sub-districts of Afrin (931), Bulbul (731) and Ma'btali (681) also witnessed SR arrivals, as reported by KIs.

Whilst the total number of SRs in northern Aleppo only account for a small number of total SRs in north-west Syria, the region has still witnessed a 127% increase in SR arrivals compared to September, according to KIs.

Sub-districts with most spontaneous returns to former homes:



Afrin (892) sub-district witnessed the second largest number of SRs to returning to their former homes.

Top 3 shelter types of SRs:

(1) Solid/finished house	4,792 SRs
(2) Unfinished/ damaged building	394 SRs
(3) Solid/finished apartment	185 SRs

The majority of SRS (4,792) were reportedly residing in solid/finished houses whilst 394 SRs were residing in unfinished/ damaged buildings, according to KIs.

Endnotes

- ¹ Some figures may be repeated displacements.
- ² CCCM/REACH, ISMI Monthly Displacement Summary, September 2019
- ³ IDP departure figures reflect aggregated departures of both IDP and resident/pre-conflict populations.
- ⁴ 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.
- ⁵ UNHCR, [Whole of Syria Humanitarian Situation Report](#), October 2019.
- ⁶ MSF, [Multiple casualties from shelling on village in northwestern Syria](#), 25 October 2019.
- ⁷ Idleb 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 Idleb and surrounding areas region as populations in these sub-districts demonstrate similar movement patterns and are served by the same cross-border responses.
- ⁸ OCHA, [Syrian Arab Republic. Recent Developments in Northwestern Syria. Situation Report No. 13](#). 08 October 2019.
- ⁹ 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.
- ¹⁰ Number of accessible communities in which the most common push and/or pull factors for IDP arrivals or departures
- ¹¹ OCHA, [Syria: Winterization update in north-west](#), 05 November 2019.
- ¹² Vulnerable groups: ♀ Female-headed households/Women travelling alone ♀♀ Child-headed households ♀X Orphans ♀ Elderly-headed households/Elderly travelling alone ♀♂ Disabled-headed households/Individuals with disabilities travelling alone.
- ¹³ 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'btali, Mare', Raju, Sharan, Sheikh El-Hadid and Suran.
- ¹⁴ WFP, [North-Eastern Syria Emergency Situation Report #5](#), 24 October 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.