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.

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. 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.

### Summary of Findings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communities assessed:</th>
<th>667</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total IDP arrivals: 1</td>
<td>50,098(+41%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total IDP departures: 3</td>
<td>47,372(+9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total spontaneous returns (SRs): 4</td>
<td>47,951(+52%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total IDP arrivals, IDP departures and SRs by region:

- **Idleb and surrounding areas**
  - IDP arrivals: 25,107
  - IDP departures: 27,487
  - SRs: 5,769

- **Northern Aleppo region**
  - IDP arrivals: 42,182
  - IDP departures: 19,885
  - SRs: 13

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

Percentage of total IDP arrivals by sub-district (1/10/19 - 31/10/19):

- 0.1% - 1.0%
- 1.0% - 3.0%
- 3.1% - 6.0%
- 6.1% - 18.5%

Most common sub-districts of departure (>3,200 IDP arrivals from sub-district):

- Outward displacement
- Inward & outward displacement

Administrative boundaries:

- Governorate
- Sub-district

Major displacements (>900 IDPs):

- External
- Internal

Displacements are identified through feedback from KIs and are assessed by ISMI Sub-districts not monitored.

The data used for this product was collected, triangulated and verified based on submissions from ISMI’s network and select CCM Cluster members following the ISMI methodology. Due to differences in methodology and coverage, figures presented in this output may differ from official CCM Cluster or UNHCR data. All data is for humanitarian use only.

### Coverage, October 2019

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 CCM 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 CCM Cluster members following the ISMI methodology. Due to differences in methodology and coverage, figures presented in this output may differ from official CCM Cluster or UNHCR data. All data is for humanitarian use only.
IDLEB & SURROUNDING AREAS

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
- Maaret Tamsrin: 2,760
- Atareb: 1,916

Total SRs: 42,182 (+45%)
Sub-districts with most SRs:
- Ma’arrat An Nu’man: 33,171
- Kafr Nobol: 4,115
- Zarih: 1,243
- Jisr-Ash-Shugur: 1,080
- Sanjar: 798

Overview

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

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

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

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

### Intended destinations of departures:

- **Same region**: 86%
- **Different region**: 13%
- **Other/unknown**: 1%

#### Most common push factors for IDP arrivals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Escalation of aerial bombardment</th>
<th>Loss of income</th>
<th>Loss of assets</th>
<th>Reduced access to humanitarian assistance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>62</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Within Idlib 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.

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

#### 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.

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

- **Ma’arrat An Nu’man**: 24,957
- **Kafir 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. Kafir Nobol experienced the second highest number of SRs returning to their former homes (4,087) followed by Zarbah (1,243).
IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI)
Monthly Overview of IDP Movements and Spontaneous Returns in north-west Syria, October 2019

 northern Aleppo

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
- 'Azz: 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'bitali: 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). These events result in endangerment to civilians as well as disruption to basic service provision and access.

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).

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:
1. Loss of income: 55%
2. Reduced access to shelter: 43%
3. Anticipation of future conflict escalation: 30%
4. Reduced access to humanitarian assistance: 28%
5. Reduced access to food: 23%

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:
- Female-headed households
- Women travelling alone
- Child-headed households
- Orphans
- Elderly-headed households

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

### 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-district</th>
<th>Arrivals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afrin</td>
<td>892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulbul</td>
<td>731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ma‘btali</td>
<td>583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghandorah</td>
<td>394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raju</td>
<td>354</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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**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. Idlib governorate’s surrounding areas include communities in Atareb, Daret Azza, Harlant, Jebel Saman and Zarb sub-districts in western Aleppo governorate, as well as in Kafri Zita, 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.
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 a community; Only major departure movements for known communities of origin are shown with regards to large IDP arrival movements.
12. Vulnerable groups: Elderly-headed households/Elderly travelling alone
   Child-headed households
   Orphans
   Female-headed households/Women 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, Azaz, Bulbul, Ghandorah, Jandairis, Jarablus, Ma‘btali, Mare’, Raju, Sharan, Sheikh El-Hadid and Suran.