Summary of Findings
Communities assessed: 650
Total IDP arrivals: 54,131 (+8%)
Total IDP departures: 66,507 (+40%)
Total spontaneous returns (SRs): 9,395 (+80%)

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.

The reported escalation in shelling and aerial attacks in southern Idlib governorate has led to displacement across the region with civilians moving northwards, away from conflict lines. Idlib 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.

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 850 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 CCMC 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 CCMC cluster members following the ISMI methodology. Due to differences in methodology and coverage, figures presented in this output may differ from official CCMC Cluster or UNHCR data. All data is for humanitarian use only.

Coverage, November 2019
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: 5,266
- Zarbah: 319
- Kafr Nobol: 246
- Janudiyeh: 245
- Jisr-Ash-Shugur: 211

Overview

Throughout November, southern Idlib and surrounding areas experienced a drastic increase in hostilities leading to civilian casualties and the destruction of civilian infrastructure, according to reports.

As a result of increased conflict activity, IDP arrivals in Idlib and surrounding areas increased by 42% to 35,675, according to 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, whilst Ma’arrat An Nu’man faced continued aerial bombardment in civilian areas.

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.

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-Shugur were the most commonly reported last sub-districts of departure for IDP arrivals within Idlib 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 Idlib 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 Idlib 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:

1. Safety and security situation
2. Access to shelter/shelter support
3. Family ties/host community relationship
4. Access to humanitarian assistance
5. Proximity to community of origin
Top 3 priority needs of IDP arrivals in Dana:

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: 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 Idlib and humanitarian agencies are scaling up their winterisation responses. 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.

Top 3 shelter types of IDP arrivals:

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.

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.

Most common push factors for IDP arrivals:

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:

The most common shelter type for SRs was solid/finished house (1,493).
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 vulnerability of civilian populations with IDPs being most affected. 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 sub-district. 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.

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:

Access to income and employment

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Access to shelter/shelter support

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Access to humanitarian assistance

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Access to food

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<td>57</td>
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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:

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<td>Loss of income</td>
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<td>Escalation of aerial bombardment</td>
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<td>Reduced access to humanitarian assistance</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>68</td>
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<tr>
<td>Escalation of ground-based conflict</td>
<td>96</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reduced access to shelter</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>33</td>
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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:

- Same region: 43%
- Different region: 45%
- Other/unknown: 12%

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:

1. Some figures may be repeated displacements.
2. CCCM/REACH, ISMI Monthly Displacement Summary, October 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. REACH, ‘Syria Market Monitoring Exercise,’ 11 - 18 November 2019
6. Al Jazeera, ‘Several killed in air raids on markets in Syria’s Idlib province,’ 2 December 2019
7. 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 Kaff 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.
8. 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. Al Jazeera, ‘Displaced Syrians appeal for international aid after floods,’ 11 December 2019
12. UNHCR, ‘Winter preparations for Syrian refugees and displaced in full swing,’ 22 November 2019
13. Vulnerable groups: Female-headed households/Women travelling alone
Child-headed households
Disabled-headed households/Individuals with disabilities travelling alone
Elderly-headed households/Elderly travelling alone
14. Figures for the northern Aleppo region include accessible communities in the following sub-districts: Afrin, Aghrin, Al Bab, Ar-Ra’ee, A’zaz, Bulbul, Ghandorah, Jandairis, Jarablus, Ma’btali, Mare’, Raju, Sharan, Sheikh El-Hadid and Suran.