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

Update: as of 27 January 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 their travel group.

This 20th output reflects data collected in Sahila in between 21-23 and 25-27 January 2020. In total, 39 KIs were interviewed on behalf of their travel groups (213 displaced individuals). As data is collected through KIs and only on specific days, results should be considered indicative and are not statistically representative.

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 people remain displaced, while UNHCR reported 19,999 refugees crossing into the KR-I between 9 October 2019 and 27 January 2020. Days after a ceasefire agreement was reached on 17 October, a sharp decrease in daily refugee arrivals was observed. New refugee arrivals have been screened between the villages of Al Walid, Sahila and Kalhi in the KR-I, and have then been moved to Bardarash and Gawilan camps for registration.

There were on average 36 new arrivals per day over the last week, which is a continuation of the decrease in average daily arrivals that was seen in the last months of 2019. Numbers continued, however, to fluctuate on a daily basis, which may in part be due to adverse weather conditions. In this update, the most commonly reported recent districts of residence in Syria were Ain Al-Arab and Qamishli. This is similar to previous rounds. Furthermore, travelling by foot remained the primary mode of transportation, and was reported by 80% of KIs. Just over half (56%) of travel groups reported having travelled for several days. The most common duration was two to three days (reported by 38% of KIs) though 10% reported having been underway for seven or more 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. KIs reported that airstrikes, a lack of livelihood opportunities and the arrival of armed groups were the most common push factors to leave their place of residence in Syria.

Displacement Figures
Total number of registered refugees arriving to assessed area since 9 October 2019: 19,999.1
Total reported daily numbers of individuals arriving to screening points:1

Patterns of Displacement Map

Note: The findings in this factsheet do not include travel groups who arrived on 24 January, as no interviews were conducted on that day.

Data sources:
Displacement: REACH
Border crossing: OCHA
AOI: Syria Live UA Map January 2020

1 Based on information received from UNHCR
2 OCHA, North East Syria Displacement, 18 December 2019
3 OCHA, Syria Flash Update #7, Humanitarian impact of the military operation in north-eastern Syria, 16-18 October 2019
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Demographics

Demographics of the Displaced Groups

Average size of travel groups as indicated by KIs: 5

Demographic breakdown by age and gender as reported by KIs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40%</td>
<td>18-60</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22%</td>
<td>0-17</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vulnerable Groups

Proportion of travel group members identified as vulnerable as indicated by KIs:

- 6% of children were unaccompanied or separated.
- 1% of travel group members were physically disabled.
- 20% of women were pregnant or lactating.

Population Left Behind

69% 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

All KIs except two reported that their group had to pay someone to cross from Syria. Among those paying, groups reportedly paid on average 164 USD per person (902 USD per group), which is similar to recent updates in late 2019. Some groups reported that family members had paid for them as they did not have the money to pay themselves. Most KIs reported no water (77%) and no food (72%) as difficulties experienced on the journey. Just over half (56%) of travel groups reported having travelled for several days, with 10% reportedly having been underway for seven or more days.

Displacement Routes

Most commonly reported difficulties experienced on the journey, according to KIs:

- No water 77%
- No food 72%
- Travelling with children or elderly 44%
- No money 18%

Most commonly reported reasons for choice of displacement route:

- Perceived as safest route 77%
- Shortest route to destination 10%
- Suggested by friends 5%

Most commonly reported primary modes of transport travel groups used to crossing point from most recent residence location, according to KIs:

- Foot 80%
- Car 15%
- Horse 5%

Secondary Displacement

18% of KIs reported that the majority of their travel group members were living in displacement in their previous residence.

Previous Location in Syria

Most commonly reported districts of most recent residence in Syria:

- Ain Al-Arab 26%
- Quamishli 21%
- Al-Malikeyh 13%
- Ras Al-Ain 13%

Push Factors

Most commonly reported reasons for displacement from Syria:

- Airstrikes in the area 36%
- Lack of livelihoods 31%
- The arrival of armed forces 23%
- Home was destroyed 8%

Duration of Displacement Stages

18% of KIs reported less than 6 hours between the decision to leave their most recent location of residence and departing.

36% of KIs reported a waiting time of more than eight hours at crossing point from Syria to KR-I.

10% 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:

- Seven or more days 10%
- Four to six days 8%
- Two to three days 38%
- One day 44%

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

Most commonly reported items brought by the majority of travel group members, according to KIs:\(^1\):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identification papers</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothes</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property papers</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16% of group members did not carry any form of identification papers, as indicated by KIs.\(^2\)

Movement Intentions

After refugees transitioned through screening points, they were transported to Bardarash and Gawilan camps for registration. When asked about movement intentions of travel groups in the two days following data collection, all KIs except one reported not having any other choice than staying in camps. The other KI reported intending to join family or friends in KR-I.

Just over half (53%) of KIs reported intending to join family or friends in KR-I in the coming two weeks, while 26% reported intending to stay in the camps and 21% were unsure.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camp</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Join family/friends in KR-I</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most commonly reported priority needs, according to KIs:\(^3\):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Need</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean water</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFIs</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Movement Intentions Map

Only 0% of KIs indicated that at least one member of their group intends to return back to Syria in the two weeks following date of interview.

Main reasons reported by KIs for intentions in the two days following date of interview:

- Join family/friends in KR-I: 53%
- Camp: 26%
- Don’t know: 21%
- 100% No choice (forced)

\(^1\)KIs could select multiple needs or reasons. Therefore, results may exceed 100%.

\(^2\)The 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.

\(^3\)Movement 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.