

Northwest Syria Update

11-20, December, 2019

Introduction: Syrian Civic Platform will monitor the situation in the Northwest of Syria from November 2019 – January 2020 and will update the Syrian and international actors on the situation. This will respond to the concerns that the Syrian civilians have in those areas because of the escalation by the Syrian regime and Russia.

This report monitors the humanitarian and field conditions in northwestern of Syria in the period from 11 to 20 December, and in areas outside the control of the regime in Idlib Governorate, south and west of Aleppo Governorate, Western Hamah countryside, and Latakia countryside, where this region is inhabited by more than 3.5 million people.

This period witnessed an intensification of shelling with various types of weapons and aviation, especially in the area located on the M5 road from Khan Sheikhoun to the southern countryside of Aleppo, with an intense focus on the eastern countryside of al-Maara and Maarat al-Numan.

Fuel prices continue to rise, where a liter of diesel was recorded at 650 SP, while the price of the domestic gas has reached 8800 SP (300 SP more than the last report). The price of the Syrian pound is still low, while the dollar as the exchange rate of the Syrian pound is 880 SP per dollar. This led to a rise in the prices of most commodities and has increased the burden on Syrian people, who suffer from major economic problems such as poverty and unemployment. This calamity is exacerbated with the coming of winter and the increasing need for heating fuel.

Education

The education sector is still suffering from weakness due to security for children, lack of qualified teachers, and a mass exodus of professionals who left the province or country. The formal education process has almost been completely suspended, especially after the European Union stopped their grant to support education in Idlib, which covered 65% of the total grant for education in the region (reference: Manahel project).

Some activists at the district level have launched initiatives to support the education sector. These initiatives aim to collect the costs of the educational process from the people in these regions.

Education in the Northwest has ceased as the continuous bombing in the area results in displacement of families, destruction of schools and other vital institutions to the community and public.

Displacement Movement

The areas of Maarat al-Numan and its countryside has witnessed a large wave of displacement, where more than 120,000 people were displaced and the land has become semi-empty areas of any population, especially after the regime forces advanced in the villages in the eastern countryside of Maarat al-Numan. There is a fear that heavy bombing will continue.

The displaced people in the northern regions, especially the newly arrived IDPs, suffer from difficult humanitarian conditions. The cold, winter, and lack of shelter for the new IDPs is a great burden, which is due to the weak response of the organizations to the humanitarian needs of the displaced. These needs include shelter, food, education, water, sanitation and heating fuel. Many live without

shelter or live in tents on Agricultural land which expose them to drowning as a result of rain and the absence of public or humanitarian services.

Victims The number of victims during the period from 11-20 December, 2019 reached to 63 dead and 137 people seriously injured. In some cases, if the injuries are severe, the number of fatal victims can increase after the reporting period.

63 Dead		
Men	Women	Children
30	14	19

137 Injured		
Men	Women	Children
89	22	26

Field conditions

Southern and Eastern Idlib: This region has witnessed a continuous military campaign by the regime forces backed by Russian aviation, which focused in particular areas of the southeastern countryside of Idlib and the eastern countryside of Maarat al-Numan. The regime forces took control of 11 villages after violent bombing in the eastern countryside of Idlib Governorate

Southern countryside of Idlib: The regions controlled by the regime forces					
Al-Furaijah	Al-Khuraibah	Tal al-Sheikh	Al-Rabi'a	Al-Raffa	Um Jalal
Al-Buraisa	Um Tinah	Bernan	Um Habba	Sahhal	

Southern countryside Idlib: The targeted areas in bombing by the aviation					
Tel Mardikh	Ma'ar Shummarin	Ma'ar Shamsha	Telminnis	Ma'asaran	Ma'arat al-Numan
Al Hiraki	Abu Daffah	Harran	Mu'aisaruna	Al-Ghadfah	Al-Sarman
Babila	Khan al-Subul	Al-Tah	Babulin	Hish	Sahian
Al-Deir al-shrqi	Kefranbel	Kefrumah	Al-Halbah	Jerjanaz	Tahtaia
Abu Makki	Al-Bersah	Al- Bulaisa			

Southern countryside of Idlib: Targeted areas in bombing by the regime ground forces					
Um al-Tina	Um Jalal	Tahtaia	Babulin	Al-Tah	Hish
Samaka	Halban	Tel Khatra	Al-Shaara	Farwan	Qatra
Al-Halbah	Al-Raffa	Al- Rakaia	Kafar Sejnah	Jerjanaz	Al-Sheih Idris
Al-Sarj	Tal Al-Sheikh	Tal Dam	Al-Tinah	Al-Buraisa	Al-Farjah
Sahhal	Harran	Abu Habba	Al-Burj		

Eastern Idlib: Regime forces were reported to fire missiles with artillery and missile attacks towards villages and towns of Saraqib and its countryside, in addition to bombings in the city of Binnish.

Western of Idlib: The towns of Al-Najia, Al-Kinda, Bdama, and Jisr Al-Shughour were subjected to artillery and missile shelling by the regime forces.

Southern countryside of Aleppo: Regime forces and aviation shelled the towns of Ikarda, Al-Eis, Huwair, Al-Zammar, and Humira in Aleppo.

Northwestern of Lattakia: Russian aviation continued their daily bombardment of the Kabina area, northeast of Lattakia during a mutual ground shelling between the regime forces and opposition forces. There were attempts by regime forces to advance on the axis, without any change to the map of control on the ground.