

Northwest Syria Update

11 – 20 January 2020

Introduction: the Syrian Civic Platform will monitor the situation in the Northwest of Syria from November through January 2020 and will update the Syrian and international actors on the situation. This is in response to the concerns Syrian civilians have in those areas due to the escalation in violence by the Syrian regime and Russia

This report monitors the humanitarian and field situation in Northwestern Syria in the period from 11 to 20 January in areas outside the control of the Regime in Idlib Governorate, South and West of Aleppo Governorate, Western Hama countryside, and Lattakia countryside, where the mentioned region inhabits more than 3.5 million people.

The Northwest is still suffering from shelling and war operations launched by the Regime forces and Russia, despite the announcement of a ceasefire on January 12, 2020.

The Syrian pound witnessed a sharp decline in its value against the US dollar; the exchange rate of the Syrian pound has now reached to 1270 SP per dollar, which has led to an increase in prices of most commodities and has weakened the commercial movement. It was clearly observed that population movement in the markets have decreased, which has burdened the population with great economic problems such as poverty and unemployment, especially being in the middle of the winter season and the increasing need of people for heating fuel, and in light of these difficult circumstances, the residents have resorted to replacing fuel by burning clothes and used shoes in addition to tires and plastic waste, despite its great harm to human health and the environment.

There has been a continued rise in fuel prices in the Northwest, where a liter of diesel has been recorded to be at a price of 920 SP, while the price of a household gas pipeline has increased to 12500 SP.

Education

The education sector is still suffering from a paralysis and has almost completely ceased its educational process, especially after the European Union suspended its grant to the education sector in Idlib, which used to cover 65% of the total grant for education from the Manahel Project for the Kimonex organization.

The continuous repeated displacement has cast a shadow over the educational process in terms of displaced students, as well as the inability of schools in the host areas to absorb the large and increasing numbers of students.

Displacement movement

The villages in the Southern and Western Aleppo countryside witnessed a strong displacement movement as a result of the systematic bombing campaign by the Regime forces and Russia, where more than 26,700 people (4,698 families) displaced with more than 73% of them women and children. Their main destination was border camps and villages in addition to the Northern countryside of Aleppo (areas Euphrates Shield and Olive Branch).

The displacement movements continued from the Eastern and Southern countryside of Idlib with the return of Russian warplanes belonging to the Regime forces, bombing these mentioned areas.

The total number of displaced people during the period between January 11 - 20 in the Northwestern region reached to more than 32,000 and nearly 73% of them are women and children. This was as a result of the military operations launched by the Syrian Regime forces backed by Russian forces and a heavy air covering implemented by Russian warplanes.

The displaced people in the Northern regions suffer from difficult humanitarian conditions, especially being in the middle of the winter season and with a weak response of organizations to support the humanitarian needs of the displaced, especially shelter, food, education, water, sanitation and heating fuel, where a large part of them are still without shelter, or live in tents within the agricultural lands.

Victims

The number of victims during the period from of January 11, 2020 and January 20, 2020 was 47 civilian deaths, in addition to a greater number who have been wounded.

61 Dead		
Men	Women	Children
33	6	22

Field conditions

Southern and Eastern Idlib:

The Syrian Regime forces have continued their military campaign on the East and South of Idlib supported by Russian forces. They have shelled these areas by Russian and Syrian warplanes and Regime forces' ground and helicopter despite the announcement of a cease-fire agreement in Idlib on January

Idlib southern and eastern countryside: The target areas of the bombing					
Marshimsha	Kafarrouma	Talminnis	Saraqib	Marret Nuaman	Al-Kanayis
Benin	Deir Sunbul	Hantoutin	Khan Subul	Kaddoura	Al-Bweti
Dadikh	Al-Nerab	Sarmin	Kafar Battikh	Sarja	Mardikh
Maasran	Babila	Al-Hamdiya	Rweeha	Maardibsa	Tall Sheikh
Kafarbasin	Deir Gharbi	Heesh	Deir Sharqi	Marshorin	Ihsem
Al-Ghadfa	Maarshimarin	Baarbo	Al-Rakaya	Tqaana	Kafarlata
Kafarsijna	Aljarada	Al-Hartamiya	Tall Msetef	Al-Dana	Tall Kursian
Al-Qaraa Farm	Abo Jreaf	Jabal 40	Sheikh Idrees	Al-Nqier	Babolin
Maarzita	Al-Bara	Hass	Kafranbel	Ariha	Mentif
Hazzan	Shinan	Bzabour	Maarzaf		

12, 2020, where the following areas were subjected to almost daily bombing with various types of weapons.

The same witnesses saw frequent clashes and hit-and-run operations between opposition forces and Regime forces and its allies.

Idlib city and the North: On January 15, 2020, the Regime's warplanes bombed the city of Idlib with several air strikes, which resulted in a massacre of civilians, killing more than 19 people and left 68 wounded, including critical cases.

On January 11, 2020, the warplanes of the regime forces bombed Benish and Marret Masrin, which are north of Idlib, at the site of a massacre in the village of Binish, which killed 7 people (a woman and 6 children).

Western Idlib: Badama village was hit by artillery shelling on January 18, 2020 without any casualties.

Northwest Hama: Some villages in the Northwestern countryside of Hama witnessed intermittent artillery shelling by the Regime's ground forces.

Northwest Hama: Artillery target areas					
Jub Suleiman	Jisr Beit Rass	Shhab	Koura	Al-Hawija	Al-Angawi

South and West Aleppo: On January 15, 2020, the Syrian Regime forces began a violent bombing campaign on the Southern and Western areas of Aleppo supported by Russian warplanes, where those areas are bombed by Russian and Syrian warplanes and the ground forces of the Regime forces, despite the announcement of a ceasefire agreement on January 12, 2020, as the following areas were subjected to almost daily bombing with various types of weapons.

Southern and western Aleppo countryside: The target areas of the bombing				
Awejel	Shamco	Enjara	Al-Jina	Sheikh Ali
Reef Muhandisin	Kafarnaha	Kafarnouran	Mezanaz	Al-Qasimiya
Al-Mansoura	Al-Zirba	Kafarjourn	Kafartaal	Al-Bwabiya
Khalsa	Khan Touman	Kafar Halap	Atarib	Bala
Al-Rashidin	Khan Al-Assal	Kafar Dael		

Northeast Lattakia:

The region witnessed intermittent clashes between the Regime forces and Opposition forces on the Kablna axis in the Lattakia countryside. There were repeated attempts by the Regime forces and their allies to control the area however, there has not been any changes to the controlled areas on the ground.