

## Northwest Syria Update

21-25 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.*

The Northwest is still suffering from the frequent shelling and war operations launched by the Regime forces and Russia, despite the announcement of a ceasefire on 12/1/2020.

Semi-stability was observed in the exchange rate of the Syrian pound against the US dollar as it stabilized around 1,100 SP per dollar. This has led to an increase in the prices of most commodities and a weakening of the commercial movement. This has been most evident in the fact that the number of persons attending the markets has decreased. Another factor of this trend is the major economic problems face by Syrians, such as poverty and unemployment. This is most marked as with the onset of winter the need for fuel for heating and other necessities has increased sharply. In light of these difficult conditions, the residents have resorted to replacing standard fuel with whatever is at hand—be that through the burning of clothes and used shoes in addition to the tires and plastic waste easily available, despite its great harm to human health. The cost of fuel continues to rise in the Northwest, where a liter of diesel has been recorded a price of 920 SP, while the price of domestic gas pipelines rose to 12,500 SP.

### Education

The education sector is still suffering due to a lack of security for children in attendance, 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).

The continuous and 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 of Southern and Western Aleppo countryside have witnessed a strong displacement movement as a result of the systematic bombing campaign by the Regime and Russia, where more than 45,000 people were displaced, their main destination was has been the Northern countryside of Aleppo (the Euphrates Shield regions and the olive branch) in addition to the camps and border villages.

The displaced people in the Northern regions suffer from difficult humanitarian conditions, especially with the onset of winter and the weak response of organizations to the humanitarian needs of the

displaced, especially in regards to shelter, food, education, water, sanitation and heating fuel. A large number of the displaced are still without shelter, or live in tents within the agricultural lands.

### Victims

The number of victims during the period from 21/1/2020 to 25/01/2020 has been documented as 38 civilian deaths, in addition to a greater number of wounded individuals.

38 Dead		
Men	Women	Children
14	8	17

### Field Conditions

**Southern and Eastern Idlib:** The Syrian Regime forces continue their military campaign in the East and South of Idlib and are supported by Russian forces. This military campaign has been accompanied by violent shelling by Russian and Syrian warplanes and helicopters manned by Regime forces. The following areas were subjected to daily bombing with various types of weapons.

The Regime forces also bombed the villages of Maasran and Khan Al-Subul with missiles loaded with cluster bombs on 25/1/2020.

The seam lines witness violent clashes, amid repeated attempts by the Regime forces and its allies.

Southern and Eastern Countryside of Idlib: The Target Areas of the Bombing					
Marret Nuaman	Taftanaz	Al-Bara	Kafarrouma	Maarshorin	Deir Sharqi
Maarshimarin	Maasran	Khan Subul	Deir Sunbul	Mardikh	Maardibsa
Al-Hamdiya	Bsida	Babila	Hantoutin	Al-Dana	Al-Ghadfa
Tall Al-Nabi	Jouzif	Arnaba	Saraqib	Ariha	Deir Gharbi
Hass	Maarshimsha	Kafarnubul	Abo Jreaf	Benin	Mentif
Ferkia	Al-Jarada	Tall Kursian	Talminnis	Ihsem	Sarja
Al-Mastouma	Maarzita	Meraian	Shinan	Kafar Battikh	Heesh
Al-Qermid	Kafar Ammim				

**Western of Idlib:** The Regime forces carried out artillery shelling on the villages of Badama, Maraand, Al-Zainiya on 21/1/2020 without any casualties.

**Northwest Hama:** Helicopters of the Regime forces dropped barrel bombs on the outskirts of the village of Zayzoun on January 22/2020.

Also, some villages in the Northwestern countryside of Hama witnessed intermittent artillery shelling by the Regime's ground forces.

Northwest Hama: Artillery Target Areas					
Al-Qarqour	Zayzoun	Al-Mshiek	Al-Sirmaniya	Al-Ziyara	Al-Hawija

**South, West and North Aleppo:** The continuation of the military campaign launched by the Regime forces, backed by its Russian and Iranian allies, on the Southern and Western Aleppo regions, has resulted in the region witnessing frequent clashes following by repeated attempts by the Regime to gain control. During the ongoing bombing campaign, which is reported to be the fiercest in the area, the area has been steadily bombed by Russian and Syrian warplanes and the ground forces of the Regime forces. The following areas have been subjected to daily bombing with various types of weapons.

Southern and Western Aleppo Countryside: The Target Areas of the Bombing				
Fouj 46	Kafarnaha	Khan Al-Assal	Kafar Dail	Al-Mansoura
Albawabiya	Daret Azza	Orm Al-Kubra	Arhab	Tqaad
Khan Touman	Reef Muhandisin	Al-Kamari	Jidraya	Bshantra
Tallet Shwihni	Kafar Hamra	Al-Rashidin	Zetan	Khalsa
Al-Hmera	Al-Liramon	Icarda	Kafar Nouran	Awejil
Om Atba	Buhouth Elmiya	Maaret Artiq	Al-Mallah	Jameyit Zahraa
Al-Qasimiya	Al-zirba	Al-Iss	Al-Qarasi	Hretan
Al-Atarib	Al-Sheikh Ali	Al-Barq	Barna	Al-Qalajiya

**Northeast Lattakia:** The region is witnessing a relative calm in light of the high rate of bombing on the rest of the Northwest regions.