

Northwest Syria Update

21-31 December, 2019

Introduction: The 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 from the period between December 21-31, 2019 and in areas outside the control of the Regime in Idlib Governorate, South and West of Aleppo Governorate, Western Hamah countryside, and Lattakia countryside, where more than 3.5 million people live.

Fuel prices continue to rise; a liter of diesel was recorded at 660 SP, while the price of the domestic gas has reached to 8500 SP.

The price of the Syrian pound is still low, while the dollar as the exchange rate of the Syrian pound has risen to 920 SP per dollar. This has led to a rise in 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 by the winter season and the increased need for heating fuel.

Education

The education sector is still suffering from paralysis and almost complete cessation of the educational process, especially after the European Union suspended its grant to the education sector in Idlib, which covered 65% of the total scholarship provided to education from the Manahel project for the Comenex organization.

Health

The health sector was greatly affected by the result of the military campaign launched by the Syrian Regime backed by Russian forces on the Southern and Eastern countryside of Idlib. The destruction and discontinuation of 11 hospitals and health facilities were documented during this campaign:

Hospitals and health facilities bombed			
Kiwan Hospital	Al-Rawda Hospital	Al-Rahma Hospital – Talminnis	Sham Hospital
Marret Nuaman Hospital	Saraqib Hospital	Alsalam motherhood Hospital	Myassar Hospital - Ghadfa
	Jisr Shoghour Clinic	Health center in Maarshorin	Saraqib Health Center

The health sector also suffers from a decrease in financial and in house capacity support, and thus the management of the Aqrabat Hospital issued a statement announcing the suspension of surgeries and the reception of patients from 01/01/2020 onwards until further notice.

Displacement Movement

The villages in the Southern and Eastern countryside of the Idlib governorate close to Regime's control areas are still semi-empty of population.

The Southern countryside of the governorate has also witnessed a movement of displacement towards the Northern regions near the Syrian-Turkish border. 109,000 people have been displaced from December 21, 2019 to December 30, 2019 bringing the number of displaced people since the beginning of November to more than 283,000 people, as a result of military operations launched by the Syrian Regime backed by Russian forces.

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 for shelter, food, education, water, sanitation and heating fuel. Many are still without shelter, or live in tents within the agricultural lands.

The suffering of the displaced persons was further affected by the IDP camps, as a result of heavy rains, as the number of affected IDP camps reached to 17, overpopulated by 2,133 families.

Victims

The number of victims during the period from December 21-30, 2019 reached to 38 dead and large number of people seriously injured.

38 Dead		
Men	Women	Children
23	6	9

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. The military campaign was accompanied by a heavy bombardment by Russian and Syrian warplanes and the ground forces of the Syrian Regime, where the following areas were subjected to almost daily bombing with various types of weapons.

Southern and Eastern Idlib: The regions controlled by the Syrian regime forces					
Jarjanaz	Marret Nuaman	Maarshorin	Talminnis	Al-Ruffa	Khan Subul
Al-Barsi	Al-Haraky	Saraqib	Maarshimsha	Deir Gharby	Bzabour
Qarraty	Al-Tehh	Harran	Maesrouni	Maarshimarin	Hass
Kansafra	Mardanin	Al-Burj	Maasran	Kafar Awid	Babila
Sheikh Idris	Al-Hartamiya	Tarmala	Kafranbil	Babolin	Maardibsa
Dadikh	Jabal 40	Benin	Sarja	Sfouhin	Joubas
Deir Sharqy	Hlubba	Ghadfa	Catiba Mahjoura	Hantoutin	Mentif
Kafarrouma	Al-Hamdiya	Mejlaya			

- The city of Saraqib was bombed with cluster bombs on December 31, 2019.
- Clashes took place between the Regime forces and the Opposition forces on the Al-Rashideen and Zahraa hubs in the Western countryside of Aleppo.
- The Regime forces and their allies have been able to control several villages in Eastern Idlib since the start of the military campaign on December 12, 2019.

Southern and Eastern countryside of Idlib: Areas controlled by the regime forces and their allies					
Um al-Tina	Um Jalal	Tahtaia	Al-Khraiba	Al-Tehh	Al-Rbaiaa
Samga	Al-Shourra	Bernan	Al-Sayyadi	Al-Ali Farm	Qatra
Hlubba	Al-Ruffa	Al- Haraky	Al-Minzar	Jarjanaz	Al-Qarraty
Al-Sarj	Tal Al-Sheikh	Tal Dam	Kursanti	Al-Buraisa	Al-Farjah
Sihhal	Harran	Abu Habba	Al-Burj	Maesrouni	Sqea
Al-Surman	Abo Makki	Maarata	Faaloul	Al-Haditha	Abo Difna
Tqaana	Al-Metrawa	Kherbet Sarouni	Al-Bustan	Al-Maasara	Kherbet Arnaba
Msebti	Abo Sherjy	Jdedet Nawwaf			

Western Idlib: Some areas of the Western countryside have been subjected to intermittent shelling by Regime warplanes and the Regime's ground forces.

Western countryside of Idlib: The regions controlled by the regime forces					
Hersh Bsanqoul	Mhambil	Maraand	Al-Kinda	Al-Najiya	Bdama

Northwest Hama: During the observation period, the region witnessed violent clashes between the Regime forces and the armed Opposition forces on the Badriya axis. Several villages in the Northwestern countryside of Hama also witnessed intermittent artillery shelling by the regime's ground forces.

Northwest Hama: The regions controlled by the regime forces					
Jub Suleiman	Al-Omqiya	Sahab	Hourta	Al-Badriya	Midan Ghazal
Al-Sermaniya	Al-Hawwash	Al-Hawija	Qastoun	Al-Araima	Shir Mghar
Dwer Akrad	Al-Ziyara	Al-Mshaiyk	Tal Wasit	Al-Angawy	

On December 21, 2019, warplanes of the Regime forces bombed the Al-Sermaniya village with vacuum rockets.

South and West Aleppo:

The region witnessed clashes between the Regime forces and the Opposition forces on the axis of the town of Zammar, south of Aleppo, in conjunction with the ground shelling of the Zammar and Jazraya villages.

Northeastern Lattakia:

The region witnessed intermittent clashes between the Regime forces and the Opposition forces on the Kabina axis in Lattakia countryside, as a result of repeated attempts by the Regime forces and their allies without any change to the control mapping on the ground.

There has been almost daily bombing by Russian warplanes and helicopters of the Regime forces, in addition to the Regime forces' ground shelling.