

Northwest Syria Update

8-10, 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 the North-West region of Syria during the period of December 8-10, 2019. The areas covered include areas outside of the Syrian regime control (Idlib, Southern and Western Aleppo, the Lattakia countryside and the Western area of the Hama countryside) which encompasses a population of more than 3.5 million people.

This period was almost calm. Where there were no instances of bombing or flying with warplanes, only the regime targeted some areas with artillery shells.

This decline in currency has led to an increase in prices of most commodities, weakening in economy, poverty, unemployment and difficulty purchasing heating fuel with the upcoming winter. This has severely impacted the population increasing the suffering of the Syrian population.

Education

The education sector is still suffering from weakness due to security for children who want to attend school, 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 raise awareness with the local communities to collect the costs of the educational process from the people in these regions and also to advocate for donor agencies to re-support the education sector.

Displacement Movement

Rural villages in the southern and eastern areas of the province of Idlib, which are close to regime controlled areas, are still mostly abandoned.

IDPs in the Northern areas suffer from difficult humanitarian conditions, especially with the advent of winter and the weak response of organizations to the humanitarian needs of the displaced, especially shelter, food, education, water, sanitation and heating fuel, where many of them are still homeless, or live in tents on agricultural land.

Victims

The number of victims during the period from December 8-10, 2019 are 3 dead and 11 injured. In some cases of serious injuries, it means that the number of victims and deaths can increase.

3 Dead		
Men	Women	Children
2	-	1

11 Wounded		
Men	Women	Children
6	3	2

Field Conditions

Southern Idlib: No warplane flights were recorded in the area, but cases of artillery bombardment were recorded by Regime Forces stationed in and around the Khan Sheikhoun area.

Southern Idlib Countryside: The Targeted Areas by Regime Ground Forces' Shelling					
Alteh	Marret Hurma	Kafarsajna	Kafa Awid	Qastoun	Jarjanaz
KafrNabl	Maar Zita	Erinba	Sheik Mustafa	Alfattira	Stouh Deir
Babolin	Heesh	Sfouhen	Tarmala	Maar Hatat	

East of Idlib:

Eastern Idlib Countryside: The Targeted Areas by Regime Ground Force Shelling					
Um Jlal	Alsarj	Abo Habba	Hlubba	Tal Sheikh	Samga
Abe Sherjy	Alshurra	Alkherba	Um Tina		

West Idlib:

Western Idlib Countryside: The Targeted Areas by Regime Ground Forces' Shelling						
Alhjanboushiya	Alghassaniya	Jisr Shughur	Alnajya	Bdama	Zaeniya	Aljanoudiya

North East Lattakia: Russian warplanes continue daily shelling in the Kabina area Northeast of Lattakia.

Mutual ground shelling between regime forces and opposition forces, and attempts by Regime Forces to advance on this axis without any change to the map of control over the ground.