

## Northwest Syria Update

21-25, November, 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 is in response to the concerns that the Syrian civilians have in those areas due to the escalation of violence by the Syrian Regime and Russia.*

This report monitors the humanitarian and field conditions in North-West Syria during the period from 25-21 November, 2019, within the areas outside the regime's control in Idlib Governorate, Southern and Western Aleppo Governorate, as well as Western Hama countryside and Lattakia countryside. This area is inhabited by more than 3.5 million people.

Fuel prices have continued to rise significantly in the North-West. This is primarily due to the fuel transmission lines from the Eastern regions which have been impacted by the conflict. A liter of diesel has been recorded to cost 700 SP, while the price of domestic gas pipe rose to 7,000 SP. The cost of gas is further exacerbated by the continued decline of the Syrian pound against the US dollar. The exchange rate of the Syrian pound reached 750 SP per dollar.

This decline in currency has led to an increase in prices of most commodities. This in turn continues to weaken and already struggling economy, causing a marked increase in poverty, unemployment, and difficulty related to purchasing heating fuel for the upcoming winter. This has severely impacted the population increasing the suffering of the Syrian population who require humanitarian assistance.

**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.

The Southern areas of Marret Nuaman have seen an increase in civilian movement towards the Northern areas near the Syrian-Turkish border after the Regime forces advanced and took control of three new villages (Mshirfa - Zarzour - Om Al-Khalakhil). This has further contributed to the total number of those displaced since the beginning of November, of which to date 75,000 are estimated to have been displaced.

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: shelter, food, education, water, sanitation and heating fuel. Many of the IDPs are still homeless, or live in tents on agricultural land.

**Victims:** The number of victims during the period from 21/11/2019 to 25/11/2019 is reported to be 21 dead 54 injured. Of those injured, some of the cases are most serious and it is predicated that the number of dead will increase.

21 Dead		
Men	Women	Children
13	2	7
54 Wounded		
Men	Women	Children
30	9	15

## Field Conditions

**Southern Idlib:** Russian warplanes have concentrated heavily on Southern Idlib and areas of Western Marret Nuaman countryside.

Russian warplanes targeted Kiwan Hospital in Kansafra town and Al Rawdha Hospital in KafrNabl city, which led to the two hospitals becoming non-operational, foreshadowing a humanitarian catastrophe in the newly liberated areas.

In addition, Russian warplanes bombed a bakery in the town of Benin.

Southern Idlib Countryside: The Targeted Areas Bombed by Warplanes					
Benin	Bsaqla	Dir Sunbul	Kararoma	Kafarsajna	Marret Nuaman
Ehsem	Balshoun	Nqier	Eblin	Albara	KafrNabl
Maar Zita	Mereian	Erinba	Jbala	Hzarin	Hass
Heesh	Daar Kabira	Kansafra	Sarja	Rakaya	Marret Hurma
Hassana	Kursaa	Tarmala	Alfattira	Sheikh Bahr	Maare Naasan

The Regime Forces also continued to shell several areas South of Idlib daily.

Southern Idlib Countryside: The Targeted Areas by Regime Ground Forces' Shelling				
Maar Zita	Armanaya	Kafarsajna	Hzarin	Marre Matir
KafrNabl	Rakaya	Erinba	Sheik Mustafa	

**East of Idlib:** Russian warplanes have continued almost daily shelling of several areas of the Eastern Marret Nuaman countryside, which coincided with the progress of Regime forces to control new areas.

Eastern Idlib Countryside: The Targeted Areas Bombed by Warplanes					
Um Jlal	Alteh	Alsarj	Almshefa	Sihal	Hlubba
Um Khalakhil	Zarzour				

The frequency of the ground shelling by Regime forces on the areas of Eastern Idlib increased to the point where select areas in Eastern Idlib were they were bombed on a daily basis.

Eastern Idlib Countryside: The Targeted Areas by Regime Ground Force Shelling					
Albarsy	Alriffa	Um Jlal	Altina	Breisa	Alteh
Hlubba	Tall Dam	Alfrija	Alsarj	Sihal	

**West Idlib:** Artillery shelling by Regime forces have targeted Bdama elementary school.

In addition to the following areas:

Western Idlib Countryside: The Targeted Areas by Regime Ground Forces' Shelling		
Bdama	Alnajiya	Maraand

**North East Lattakia:** Russian warplanes continued their daily shelling of the Kabina area Northeast of Lattakia.

The Regime's helicopters are reported to have dropped explosive barrels daily in the same area.

Mutual ground shelling between Regime forces and Opposition forces have continued without resulting in any change to regions controlled by both parties.