

## Northwest Syria Update

14 February 2020

*Introduction: Syrian Civic Platform will monitor the situation in the Northwest of Syria from 8 to 14 February 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 due to the escalation in violence by the Syrian Regime and Russia.*

This report monitors the humanitarian and field conditions in Northwestern of Syria in the period from 8 to 14 February in areas outside the control of the Regime in Idlib Governorate, South and West of Aleppo Governorate, Western Hamah countryside, and Lattakia countryside, where this region is inhabited by more than 3.5 million people.

The North-West is still suffering from the shelling and war operations launched by the Regime forces and Russia. Regime forces have taken control of large areas South and West of Aleppo, and attacks continue in the Southern and Eastern Idlib countryside at a lower rate, resulting in the displacement of more than 100,000 people from their homes and the fall of more than 60 civilian victims of this military campaign.

Stability in the exchange rate of the Syrian pound against the US dollar has been marked at 1065 SP per dollar. The lack of a decrease in the exchange rate has led to a rise in the prices of most commodities and weakened the commercial market, especially as the prices for vegetables and fruits have risen as a result of the loss of most agricultural lands in the Northwest and the displacement of farmers in light of the progress of the Regime forces. Large areas of land are no longer accessible for agricultural endeavours due to the conflict, which has further burdened the people who suffer from major economic problems such as poverty and unemployment. Winter has increased the need for heating fuel, and in these difficult circumstances, people have resorted to replacing fuel by burning clothes and used shoes in addition to tires and plastic waste despite their great harm this has to human health.

A slight decrease in fuel prices in the Northwest has been noted, where a litter of diesel recorded a price of 800 SP, while a household gas pipeline recorded 11,500 SP per pipe.

The rise in fuel prices continues due to the continued closure of the road between the Northeast and Northwest by the Syrian Democratic Forces, which was securing the needs of the Northwest with fuel in sufficient quantities. While fuel is currently secured through import through the Bab Al-Hawa border crossing with Turkey this has been in limited quantities and high prices.

### Education

The education sector is still suffering from a near paralysis and almost complete cessation of the 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 Kimonex Organization's 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.

With the huge increase in the numbers of the displaced, some community activities in many areas have resorted to housing the displaced in schools and public facilities, which has led to the further cessation in the educational process in a large number of schools in the Northern region.

### **Displacement Movement**

The total number of displaced people in the North-West during the period from 8 to 14 February is more than 100,000 displaced.

The total number of IDPs from 1/11/2019 to 7/2020 has reached more than 900,000 IDPs, 75% of whom are women, children and special needs cases.

The displaced people have moved primarily to the Northern countryside of Aleppo (Azaz and Afrin) and the Northern countryside of Idlib towards the villages near the border strip.

The Northern countryside of Idlib, near the Turkish border, is witnessing a very large population congestion that has exceeded its absorptive capacity. Newly displaced people have taken refuge in agricultural lands and mountains. In some villages, some of the IDPs have housed in schools and mosques.

The displaced people in the Northern regions suffer from difficult humanitarian conditions, especially in light of the bad weather and severe cold, and their suffering has increased while the response of organizations to the humanitarian needs of the displaced has remained low. This is particularly clear in terms of shelter, food, education, water, sanitation, as well as heating and fuel.

### **Victims**

The number of casualties during the period from 8/2/2020 to 14/2/2020 has reached 62 civilians killed, in addition to a larger number of wounded, due to the shelling of the Regime forces and their allies.

<b>68 Dead</b>		
Men	Women	Children
39	6	17

## Field Conditions

### **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 areas South and West of Aleppo has resulted in those areas being bombed by Russian and Syrian warplanes and helicopters. The following areas have been subjected to daily bombing by various types of weapons.

<b>Southern and Western Aleppo Countryside</b>				
<b>The Target Areas of the Bombing</b>				
Al-Atarib	Al-Sheikh Ali	Jidraya	Maaret Naasan	Ketyan
Kafar Amma	Abbin Samaan	Kafar Nouran	Orm Al-Sughra	Al-Fouj 46
Kafar Halab	Al-Kamari	Al-Barqoum	Al-Zirba	Qubtan Al-Jabal
Jub Kass	Al-Ksebiya	Al-Bawwabiya	Qanatir	Mezanaz
Rif Muhandisin	Khan Assal	Aradi	Kafarjourn	Al-Talhiya
Al-Abzemo	Yaqid Al-Addis	Al-Sheikh Aqiee	Dawwar Somaa	Hretan
Kafar Hamra	Enjara	Al-Jina	Al-Sheikh Sleman	Jameit Sahafin
Al-Kallariya	Orm Al-Kubra	Hayyan		

As a result of this campaign, the Regime forces and their allies have managed to control the entire Damascus-Aleppo M5 road in addition to several areas in the Western countryside of Aleppo, where they took control of more than 45 villages and towns South and west of Aleppo:

Southern and Western Aleppo Countryside				
Areas Controlled by the Regime Forces and their Allies				
Al-Zirba	Icarda	Al-Barqoum	Tall Al-Iss	Al-Iss
Rasm Al-Ward	Mekhli	Al-aasriya	Al-Zahriya Farm	Tall Karratin
Aradi	Arbikh	Al-Talhiya	Al-Bawwabiya	Khan Assal
Rasm Sahrij	Al-Ksebiya	Rasm Al-Iss	Jub Kass	Om Ataba
Al-Sheikh Ahmad	Eajaz	Arnaz	Al-Sheikh Ali	Baniss
Zahret Madaain	Kafarjoum	Al-Kallariya	Al-Kamari	Al-Salhiya
Abo Shlem	Hay Zed	Al-Rashidin 4	Mezanaz	Kherbet Jizraya
Al-Shamico	Rif Muhandisin 1	Al-Qanatir	Kafar Halab	Tall Kleriya
Orm Al-Kubra	Orm Al-Sughra	Al-Fouj 46	Dawwar Soma	Rif Muhandisin 2

### Southern and Eastern Idlib:

The continued bombing campaign on the areas of Southern and Eastern Idlib by Russian and Syrian warplanes and the ground forces of the Regime forces in addition to helicopters of the Regime forces, where the following areas were subjected to almost daily bombing:

Idlib Southern and Eastern countryside				
The target areas of the bombing				
Kafar Arouq	Shellakh	Zardana	Kafar Nubul	Ram Hamdan
Al-Fouaa	Alnerab	Qminas	Sarmin	Taftanaz
Kfarya	Marret Masrin	Al-Sheikh Damis	Maarbaya	Maarzita
Ariha	Nehlayya	Hass	Msibin	Hzarin
Bsanqoul				

### Idlib City:

On 10/2/2020, Idlib city was bombed by Russian warplanes.

On February 11, 2020, Idlib city was bombed by warplanes of the Regime forces, targeting a popular market, which led to a massacre of 14 civilians, including 7 children, and the injury of 40 others, including two women and 9 children.

On February 13, 2020, Idlib city was bombed by Russian warplanes.

### Northern Idlib:

On February 14/2020, Regime forces shelled with artillery shells a camp for the displaced, near the town of Sarmada, near the Syrian-Turkish border, which resulted in the injury of the displaced.

### Idlib west:

The Western countryside of Idlib witnessed intermittent artillery shelling by the Regime's land forces, which targeted the following areas:

Idlib West				
Areas targeted by artillery and missile shelling				
Bdama	Kherbet Martin	Ain Asafir	Al- Hanboushiya	Jisr Al- Shughur
Aalia				

### Northeast Lattakia:

The region is witnessing intermittent clashes between the Regime forces and its allies and the Opposition forces, without changing the map of control over the ground.