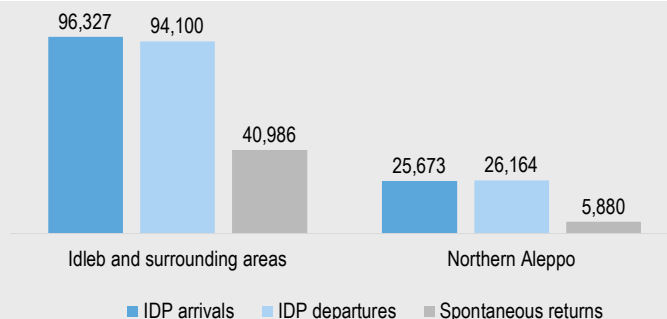


IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI)

Quarterly Trends Analysis of Displacement and Spontaneous Returns in Northern Syria, April - June 2018

Key Findings¹

Communities Assessed:	521 ²
Total IDP Departures:	120,264 ³
Total IDP Arrivals: ⁴	122,000 ⁵
Total Spontaneous Returns (SRs): ⁶	46,866



Summary of Findings

Idleb and Surrounding Areas⁷

Assessed communities in Idleb and surrounding areas witnessed a total of 96,327 IDP arrivals between 1 April and 30 June 2018. Many IDP movements were likely cross-line displacements from previously besieged opposition-held areas, with large IDP arrivals reported in April (44,570) from Eastern Ghouta and May (35,365), following relocation agreements in southern Hama and northern Homs governorates. Cross-line displacements then decreased in June due to a reduction in hostilities and a general improvement in the relative security situation. In April and May, 30,474 SRs were reported, which decreased to 3,169 SRs during the second half of June.

Northern Aleppo Region⁸

Assessed communities in northern Aleppo witnessed 25,673 IDP arrivals, 57% of whom arrived in April. Many IDPs reportedly arrived from outside of the northern Aleppo region, in particular from Duma sub-district. In addition, 5,880 SRs were reported to the region between April and June.

Major Developments

- Following weeks of intensification of conflict in the besieged enclave of Eastern Ghouta, Rural Damascus governorate, north-west Syria witnessed large IDP arrivals from the region, and most commonly from Duma, the largest urban centre in Eastern Ghouta, in the first half of April.⁹
- In May 2018, opposition-held areas in north-west Syria experienced a third successive month of large cross-line displacements from other parts of the country.¹⁰ Heavy fighting and subsequent relocation agreements reached in opposition enclaves of southern Hama and northern Homs governorates led to the displacement of tens of thousands from these areas to north-west Syria after 2 May.¹¹
- In the second half of May, large SR movements occurred to south-eastern Idleb and western Aleppo governorate following a perceived improvement in the relative security situation there.¹²
- In the first half of June, parts of Idleb governorate witnessed an escalation of aerial bombardment while conflict escalated around the besieged areas of Foah and Kafraya (Maaret Tamsrin).¹³ Despite overall conflict levels decreasing in north-west Syria, instability remained high in both regions.

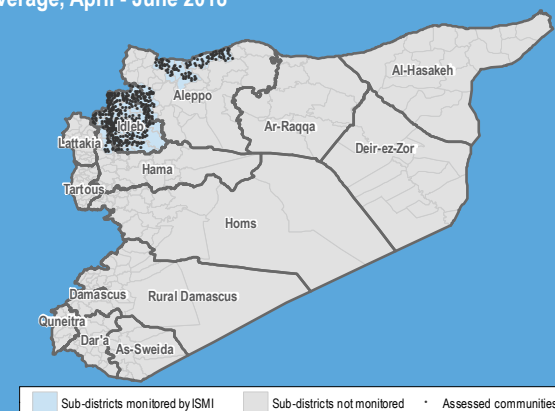
About ISMI & This Report

The IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI) is an initiative of the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, implemented by REACH and supported by cluster members.

Following a baseline assessment conducted at the end of 2016, weekly/biweekly data collection cycles were initiated. This factsheet presents an overview of reported inward and outward movements of IDPs from 1 April to 30 June 2018. Such displacements were reported in 521 communities in sub-districts monitored by ISMI. ISMI monitoring coverage varies over time depending on access. Displacements are identified through an extensive key informant (KI) network, either from alerts initiated by KIs or from follow-up by enumerators. At least two KIs are interviewed in each assessed community, and collected information is further triangulated through other sources, including CCCM member data and humanitarian updates. This approach allows for regular updates on IDP movements at the community level across sub-districts monitored by ISMI in northern Syria.

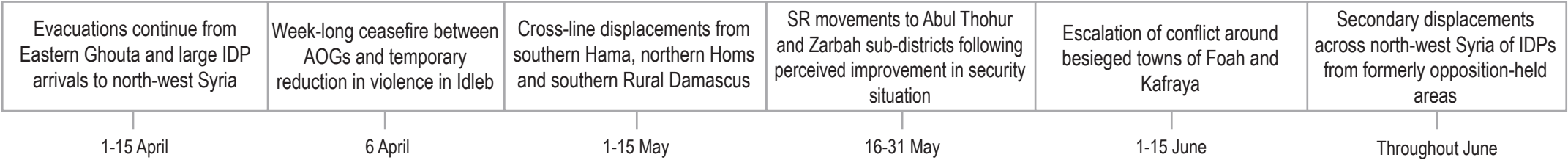
The data used for this product was collected, triangulated and verified based on submissions from ISMI's network and select CCCM cluster members following the ISMI methodology. Due to differences in methodology and coverage, figures presented in this output may differ from official CCCM Cluster or UNHCR data. All data is for humanitarian use only.

Coverage, April - June 2018



OVERVIEW

Figure 1: Timeline of key events, April - June 2018



Maps 1-3: IDP arrivals to assessed communities in sub-districts monitored by ISMI, April - June 2018

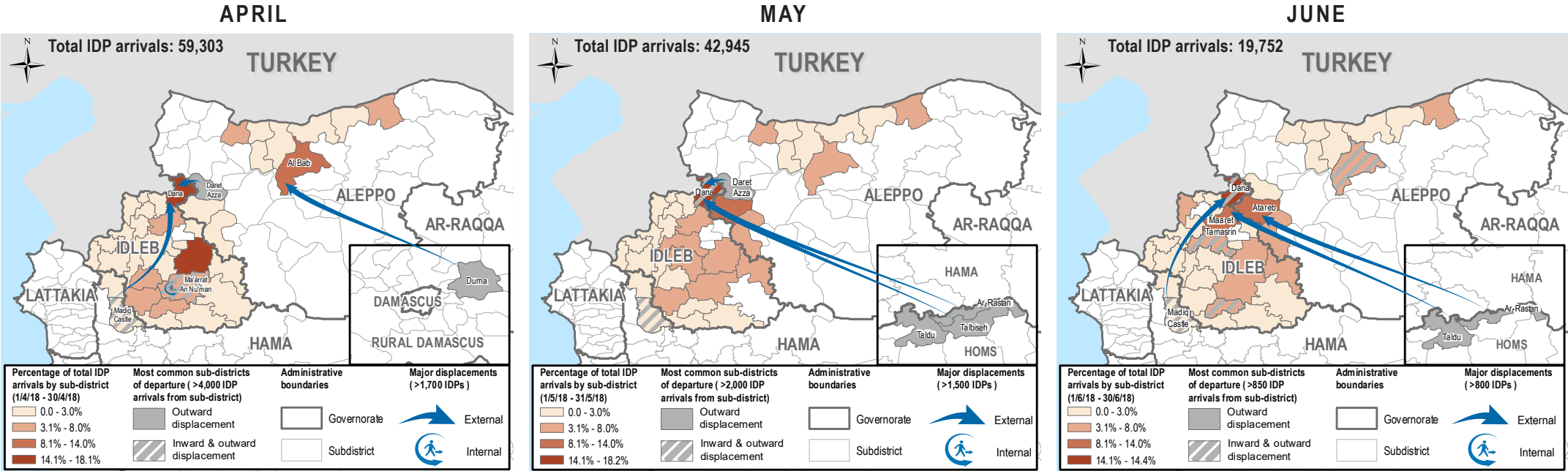
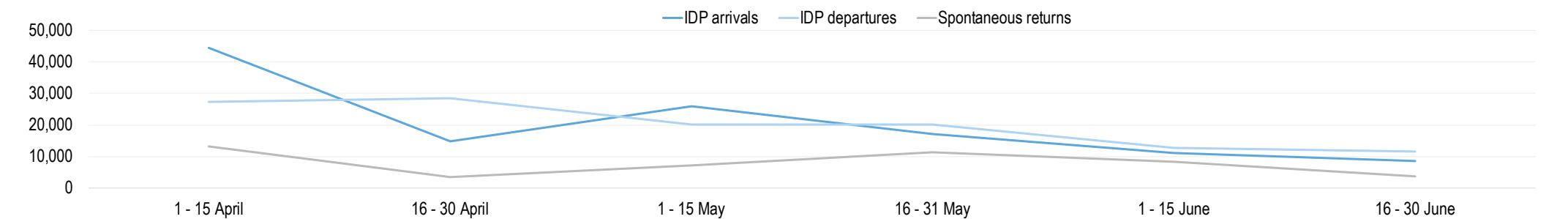
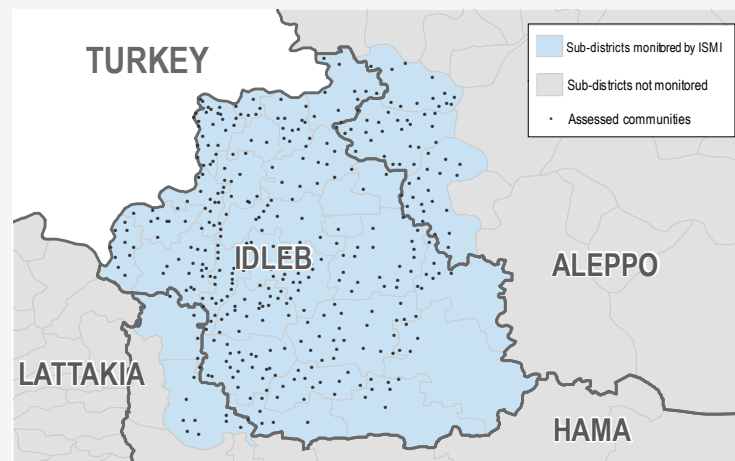


Figure 2: Timeline of new arrivals, departures and spontaneous returns to communities assessed by ISMI, April - June 2018



IDLEB & SURROUNDING AREAS

Map 4: Coverage in Idleb and surrounding areas, April - June 2018



Communities Assessed:
400

IDP Arrivals:
96,327

IDP Departures:
94,100

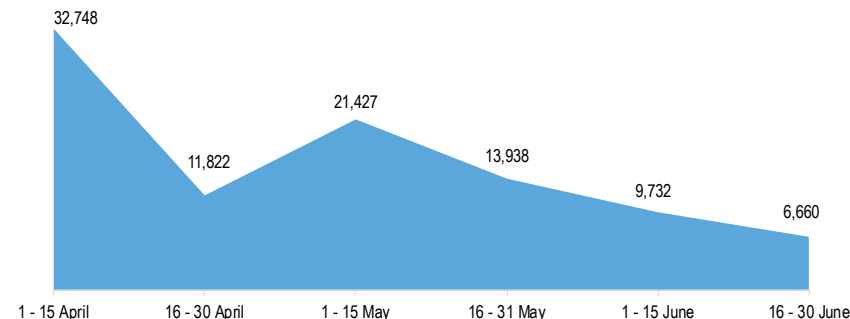
SRs:
40,986

IDP Arrivals

Between April and June 2018, assessed communities in Idleb and surrounding areas witnessed a total of 96,327 IDP arrivals, accounting for 79% of reported arrivals in monitored sub-districts of north-west Syria in this time period. A total of 86% of these arrived to communities in Idleb governorate. This marks a 70% decrease in comparison to the first quarter of the year (323,193 IDP arrivals from January to March). In the beginning of the year, IDP arrivals were mainly driven by sustained levels of conflict in south-east Idleb, north-east Hama and south-west Aleppo following a major military offensive by GoS-allied forces into the region from November 2017. In contrast, the majority of IDP arrivals from April to June can be explained by successive waves of cross-line displacement from previously besieged opposition-held areas in other parts of the country.

In April, 44,570 (46%) IDPs arrived to Idleb and surrounding areas, the majority of whom arrived in the first half of the month (32,748). These arrivals are likely continued cross-line displacements from Eastern Ghouta.¹⁴ In May, 35,365 IDPs arrived to assessed communities, a large proportion of which were driven by cross-line displacements after local relocation agreements in southern Hama and northern Homs governorates following GoS recapture of those areas.¹⁵ In June, IDP arrivals further decreased to a total of 16,392, despite continued instability and insecurity in the area. This decrease can be explained by a temporary reduction in cross-line displacements from other areas in Syria.

Figure 3: Timeline of IDP arrivals to assessed communities in Idleb and surrounding areas, April - June 2018



Throughout the reporting period, 60% of IDPs arrived from within Idleb and surrounding areas. A higher proportion of IDPs arrived to assessed communities from elsewhere within the region in April (65%) than in May (54%) and June (59%). In April, the sub-districts with the highest reported last places of departure were Madiq Castle and Daret Azza, both of which are important transit points for IDPs across Idleb and surrounding areas, as well as neighbouring regions.

Figure 4: Intra- vs. extra-region arrivals to assessed communities in Idleb and surrounding areas, April - June 2018

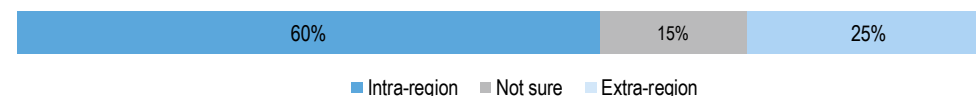


Figure 5: Main sub-district level IDP movements in Idleb and surrounding areas, April - June 2018

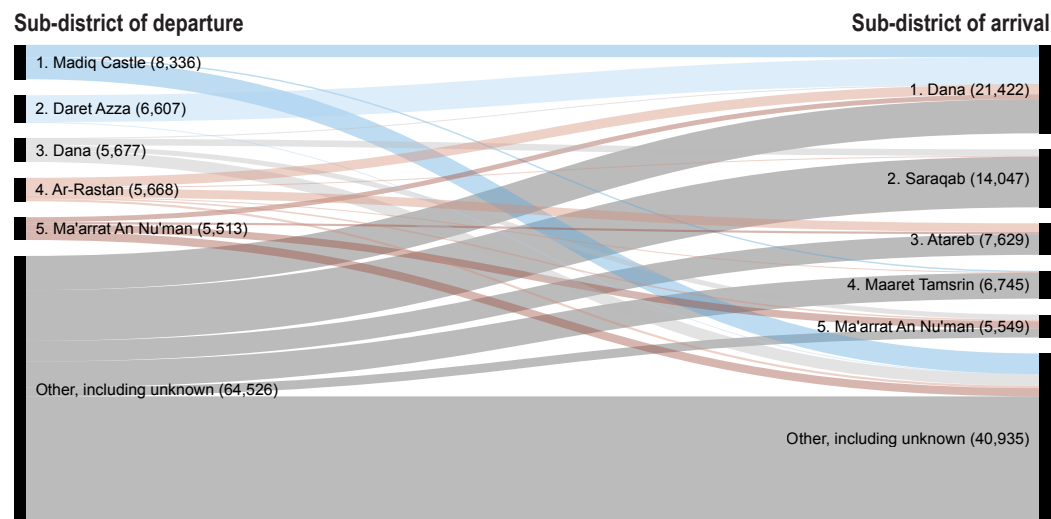
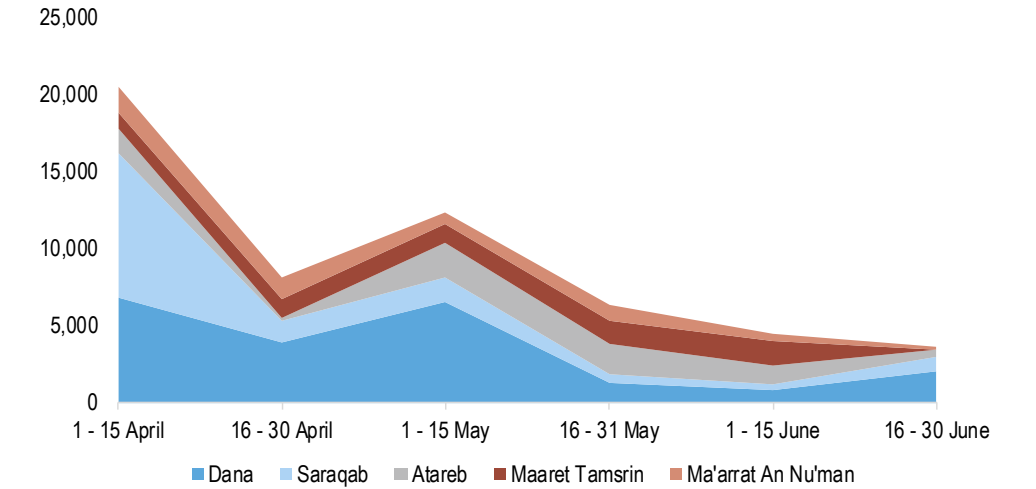


Figure 5 shows all IDP arrivals to assessed communities in Idleb and surrounding areas throughout the second quarter of the year, along with their last places of departure.¹⁶

In terms of IDP arrivals at the sub-district level, a total of 54% of IDPs arrived from Madiq Castle and 63% from Daret Azza in April, primarily in the first half of the month. Given the continuing cross-line displacements, especially from **Eastern Ghouta** in April, IDPs most likely transited through Madiq Castle, in order to reach other places in Idleb and surrounding areas. Similarly, 5,668 IDPs reportedly arrived from **Ar-Rastan sub-district**, Homs governorate, to communities in Idleb and surrounding areas in May. Of these, 60% arrived between 1 to 15 May, while 22% followed between 16 and 31 May, many likely being relocations from the previously opposition-held Ar-Rastan after a local agreement had been reached on 2 May.¹⁷ **Dana sub-district**, along Idleb governorate's north-eastern border with Turkey, **hosts one of the largest populations in the region**. As of August 2018, **almost three quarters of the reported total population in Dana sub-district were IDPs**,¹⁸ making it a **commonly reported last place of departure, as well as a common sub-district for IDP arrivals**.

Figure 6: Timeline of IDP arrivals to assessed communities in the five monitored sub-districts in Idleb and surrounding areas with highest IDP arrivals, April - June 2018

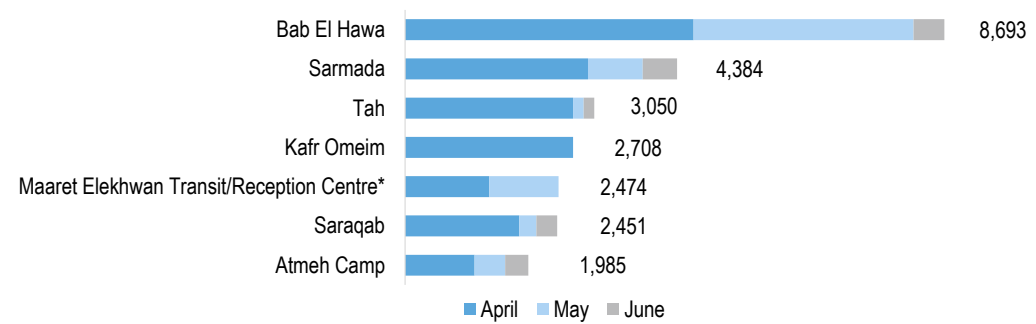


From April to June, an estimated 57% of all IDP arrivals to the region were to assessed communities in Dana, Saraqab, Atareb, Maaret Tamsrin and Ma'arrat An Nu'man sub-districts (55,369). Of these sub-districts, Dana reportedly received most IDP arrivals (21,413), approximately half of which in April. Of IDPs arriving to communities in Dana sub-district, 6,544 IDPs reportedly arrived from Daret Azza, 3,005 from Madiq Castle and 2,343 from Ar-Rastan sub-districts. These reported last places of departure follow the overall trend of cross-line displacements mentioned above.

Saraqab sub-district witnessed an estimated 14,045 IDP arrivals, of which 9,407 between 1 and 15 April. Following continued relative stability in Saraqab sub-district, **these movements likely included IDPs returning to areas they had previously resettled in, as well as SRs from northern Idleb governorate**. Many arrivals to the sub-district were likely onward movements of IDPs who had previously arrived to reception centres and transit sites in March.¹⁹

On a community level (Figure 7), the seven communities that witnessed the highest number of IDP arrivals during the reporting period experienced the majority of these arrivals in April, which then continuously decreased throughout May and June.

Figure 7: Assessed communities and IDP sites in Idleb and surrounding areas with most IDP arrivals, April - June 2018



Of the seven communities and sites that witnessed the largest IDP arrivals, three were in Dana (Bab El Hawa, Sarmada and Atmeh Camp), two in Saraqab (Kafr Omeim, Saraqab), one in Heish (Tah) and one in Maaret Tamsrin (Maaret Elekhwan Transit/Reception Centre)* sub-district. Many IDPs temporarily resided at transit/reception centres before continuing onward to other communities or camps in the region. Many IDPs also reported Rural Damascus and Homs governorates as their last places of departure (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Largest displacements to assessed communities in Idleb and surrounding areas, April - June 2018

Departure community (governorate)	Total IDPs	Arrival community (sub-district)	Coverage period
Daret Azza (Daret Azza)	1,425	Sarmada (Dana)	1 - 15 April
Daret Azza (Daret Azza)	1,425	Bab El Hawa (Dana)	16 - 30 April
Daret Azza (Daret Azza)	1,425	Bab El Hawa (Dana)	1 - 15 May
Ar-Rastan district (Homs)	1,231	Mezanaz Transit Reception Centre (Atareb)	1 - 15 May
Daret Azza (Daret Azza)	1,226	Bab El Hawa (Dana)	1 - 15 April
Ar-Rastan district (Homs)	1,117	Maaret Elekhwan Transit/Reception Centre* (Maaret Tamsrin)	1 - 15 May
Al Qutayfah (Rural Damascus)	1,112	Maaret Elekhwan Transit/Reception Centre* (Maaret Tamsrin)	16 - 31 April
Taldu (Homs)	912	Zardana Mashehad (Maaret Tamsrin)	1 - 15 June

* Transit/Reception Centre figures are based on KI reports collected by ISMI enumerators and, therefore, may differ from official figures presented by the agencies running them. For additional information, please refer to the CCCM Cluster's [IDP Sites Integrated Monitoring Matrix \(ISIMM\)](#).

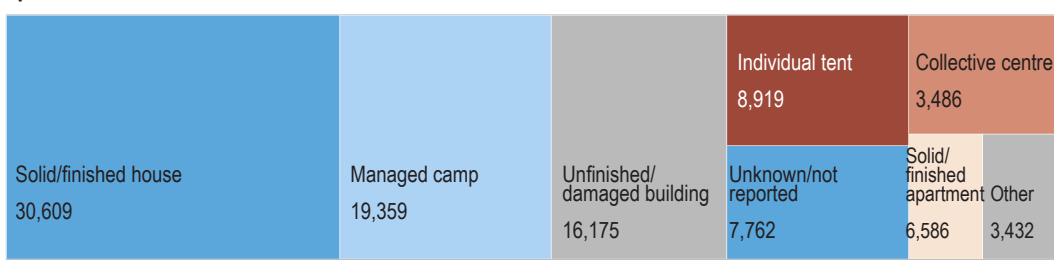
Figure 9: Top three reported priority needs of IDP arrivals, by percentage of assessed communities reporting, April - June 2018

	Shelter	Food	NFIs	Healthcare	Safety and security	Water	Education	Hygiene
1st	28%	27%	17%	16%	10%	1%		
2nd	4%	41%	35%	10%	1%	6%	1%	1%
3rd	4%	22%	26%	21%	1%	13%	5%	7%

The **most reported top priority needs of new arrivals** to assessed communities in Idlib and surrounding areas were **shelter, food, NFIs and healthcare**. Food and NFIs were also reported as important secondary and tertiary needs.

In this reporting period, **healthcare as a priority need reportedly increased** in comparison to the first quarter of the year (January to March) where healthcare needs were only reported by KIs in 5% of the assessed communities. Many IDPs may have arrived from hard-to-reach or besieged areas where health care services might have been more difficult to access.

Figure 10: Shelter types of IDP arrivals to assessed communities in Idlib and surrounding areas, April - June 2018



Shelter types were reported for 92% of IDP arrivals. **Close to one third (32%) were reportedly living in solid or finished houses, while 20% were reportedly residing in managed camps.** This high proportion of IDPs in managed camps is likely due to successive waves of evacuations from other parts of Syria. Most IDP arrivals to managed camps were reported in April (6,872) and May (6,942).

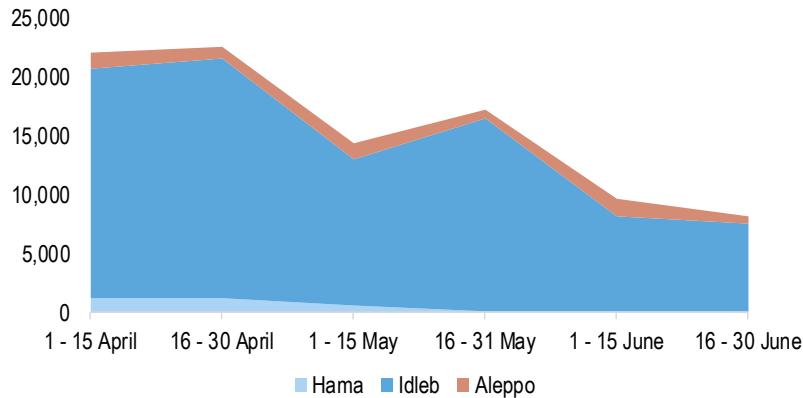
In the previous reporting period (January to March), managed camps were the third most commonly reported shelter type, whereas from April to June, managed camps were the second most commonly reported shelter type.

IDP Departures³

Throughout the reporting period, an estimated total of **94,100 IDP departures** was reported from assessed communities in Idlib and surrounding areas. The vast majority (89%) of IDPs departed from communities in Idlib governorate.

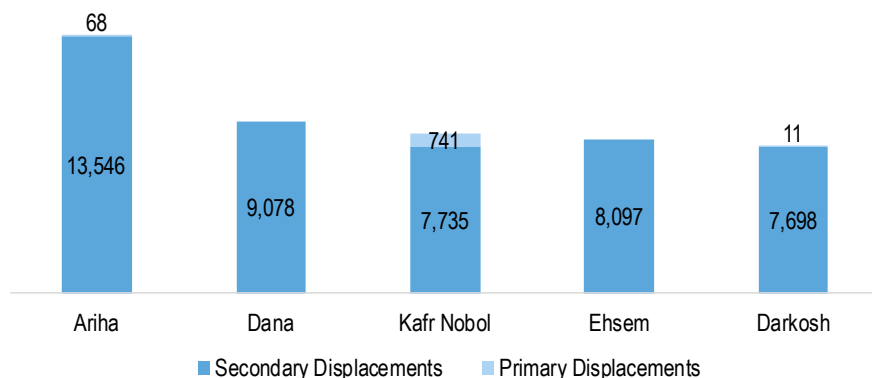
High levels of IDP departures in April (44,608) were likely due to a week-long ceasefire between AOGs that was reached on 6 April in Idlib governorate and which resulted in a temporary reduction in violence.²⁰ In April, many IDP departures likely included people who have been displaced multiple times following evacuations from Duma in Eastern Ghouta.²¹ **In May, 31,678 IDP departures were tracked by ISMI. A significant proportion of these was to sub-districts in the south-east of Idlib governorate, thereby likely to be SRs** to areas that experienced heavy clashes and IDP departures between late 2017 and early 2018.²² **IDP departures in June declined to an estimated total of 17,814. The latter likely included onward movements of recent arrivals from Eastern Ghouta²³** which, similarly to IDP arrivals, decreased in June.

Figure 11: IDP departures from assessed communities in Idlib and surrounding areas by governorate, April - June 2018



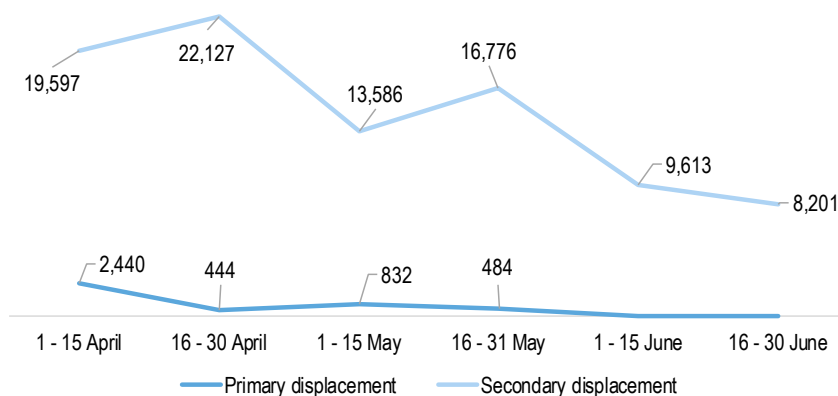
Of the 94,100 reported IDP departures, the vast majority (96%) were secondary displacements while only 4% were primary displacements.²⁴ The high proportion of secondary displacements is likely due to generally high proportions of IDP populations in assessed communities in Idlib governorate that moved on to communities further away from actual and anticipated conflict lines. More than a third of Idlib's population is comprised of IDPs. In some areas, the proportion of IDPs is significantly higher; almost three quarters of the reported total population in Dana sub-district were IDPs.²⁵ Secondary displacements can also likely be explained by onward movements of previous cross-line displacements to communities in the region.

Figure 12: Top 5 sub-districts of departures in Idleb and surrounding areas, April - June 2018



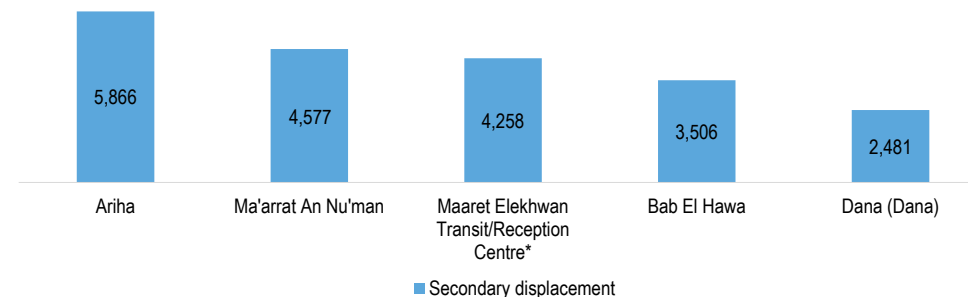
Ariha, Dana, Kafr Nobol, Ehsem and Darkosh witnessed the highest IDP departures across the region. **Most notably, almost all departures from these sub-districts were secondary departures. Overall, Afrin sub-district was the most commonly reported intended destination of secondary displacement**, with 12% of IDPs expected to move there. The next most commonly reported sub-districts that IDPs were expected to go to were **Saraqab, Abul Thohur, Ma'arrat An Nu'man, Sanjar - all four of which represent 35% of intended destinations**. The majority (51%) of IDPs leaving from communities in Ariha sub-district were expected to go to sub-districts in the south-east of Idleb governorate (Abul Thohur, Saraqab, Sanjar, Tamanaah, Ma'arrat An Nu'man and Heish). An estimated 59% of IDPs leaving from Dana sub-district were expected to go to Afrin, Jarablus and Jandairis sub-districts.

Figure 13: Primary and secondary displacement from assessed sub-districts in Idleb and surrounding areas, April - June 2018



As can be seen in Figure 13, primary displacements were generally low in comparison to secondary displacements. In the first half of April, 2,440 primary departures were reported, most commonly from Khan Shaykun (1,391) and Madiq Castle (895) sub-districts. These can be explained by the temporary cease-fire, the relative proximity of these sub-districts to conflict lines and a likely fear of escalation of conflict. Across the reporting period, Khan Shaykun is the only sub-district that saw more primary than secondary displacements (51%).

Figure 14: Assessed communities and IDP sites with highest IDP departures in Idleb and surrounding areas, April - June 2018



Among all five assessed communities, no primary departures were reported. Onward movement of IDPs that had previously arrived from Eastern Ghouta is likely to have contributed to IDP departures throughout the coverage period. High numbers of IDP departures from Maaret Elekhwan Transit/Reception Centre* underline the importance of cross-line displacement into the region for subsequent IDP departures and how centres such as these serve as key initial reception sites for IDPs arriving from other areas.

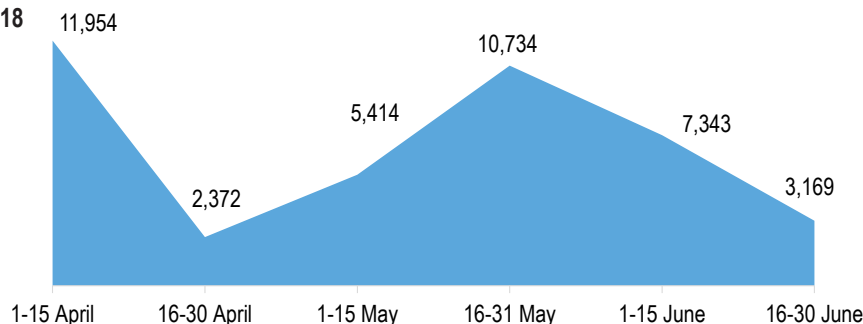
A total of 1,711 IDPs leaving Ariha community were expected to go to south-eastern sub-districts (Abul Thohur, Saraqab and Ma'arrat An Nu'man), while 44% of IDPs leaving Ma'arrat An Nu'man community reportedly intended to go to other places within the sub-district. In addition, 22% of IDPs leaving Ma'arrat An Nu'man were expected to go to Afrin sub-district.

Finally, the majority (57%) of reported IDPs leaving Dana community were expected to go to Deir-ez-Zor sub-district, while 99% of IDPs leaving Bab El Hawa were expected to go to Afrin, Jarablus or Jandairis sub-districts.

Spontaneous Returns

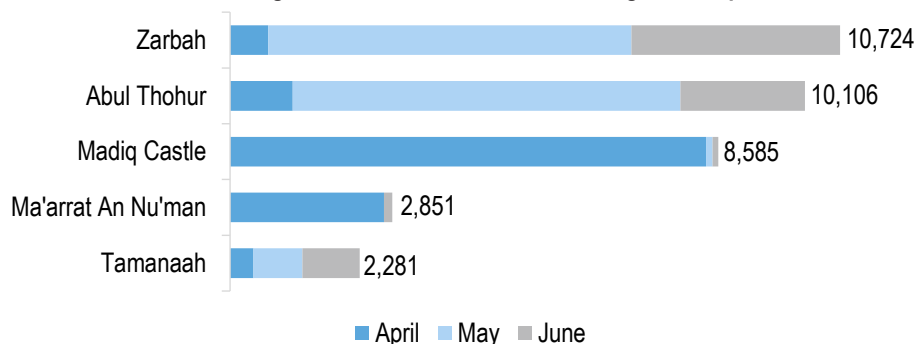
Between April and June, assessed communities in Idlib and surrounding areas witnessed 40,986 SRs. This is a significant decrease compared to the 220,544 SRs that were reported in the region from January to March following a sharp escalation and de-escalation of conflict in the region in the first quarter. The vast majority of SRs occurred in May (16,148), with 10,734 SRs arriving to their communities of origin between 16 and 31 March, following a perceived improvement in the relative security situation in Idlib and surrounding areas. Based on available information, a vast majority (94%) of SRs arrived from other locations in Idlib and surrounding areas.

Figure 15: SRs to assessed communities in Idlib and surrounding areas by governorate, April - June 2018



During the reporting period, more than half of the total reported SRs were to communities in **Zarbah (10,724)** and **Abul Thohur (10,106)** sub-districts. Throughout the month of April, SR movements were mostly concentrated in **Madiq Castle (8,368)** and **Ma'arrat An Nu'man (2,708)** sub-districts, but shifted towards **Zarbah (6,834)** and **Abul Thohur (6,816)** sub-districts in May.

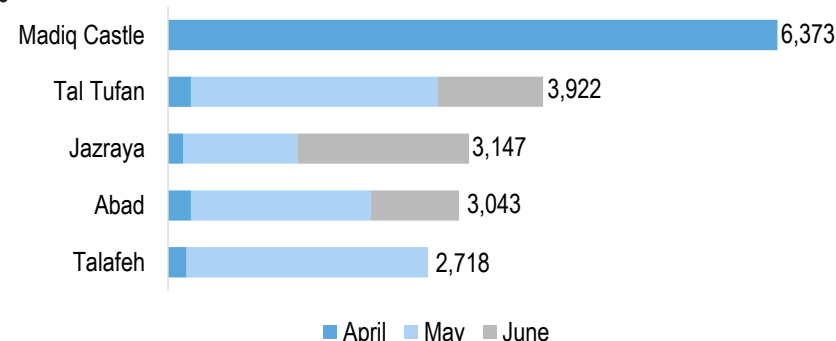
Figure 16: Sub-districts with highest SRs in Idlib and surrounding areas, April - June 2018



In April, many SRs to Abul Thohur and Ma'arrat An Nu'man sub-districts were likely return movements following significant IDP departures from these sub-districts from December 2017 until early February 2018.²⁶ Following

patterns seen in March coupled with a perceived reduction in hostilities, **assessed communities in Madiq Castle sub-district continued to witness significant SRs in April, with 74% to Madiq Castle community**, potentially related to the establishment and reinforcement of military observation posts in the region. A vast majority of SRs (99%) to the sub-district reportedly returned to their former homes.

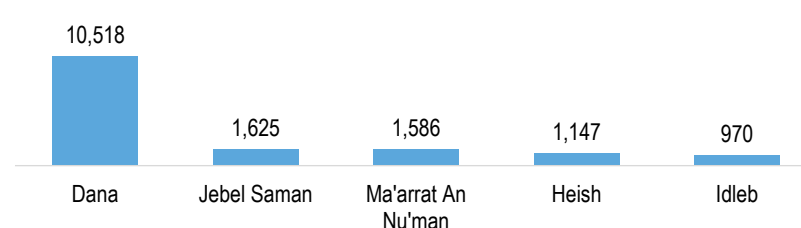
Figure 17: Assessed communities with highest number of SRs in Idlib and surrounding areas, April - June 2018



On a community level, most SRs were reported in Madiq Castle (6,373), followed by Tal Tufan (3,922) and Jazraya (3,147). Apart from Madiq Castle and Tal Tufan, the three other communities that received most SRs are located in the south-western sub-district of Zarbah (Jazraya, Abad and Talafeh) in Aleppo governorate. **The majority of SRs to these communities occurred during the second half of May, following the main displacement waves that occurred in April from previously besieged opposition-held areas.**

Out of a total of 40,986 SRs, 10,518 (26%) arrived from Dana sub-district, over a third of whom from Al Nasser (and extension) (2,708) and Atmeh (2,041) camps. **A vast majority of all SRs (98%) to assessed communities in Idlib and surrounding areas were reported by KIs to have returned to their former homes.**

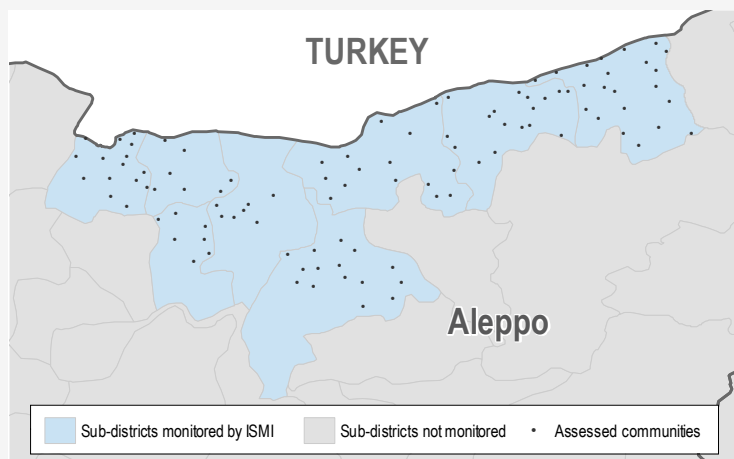
Figure 18: Most commonly reported last sub-districts of departure of SRs to Idlib and surrounding areas, April - June 2018



The most commonly reported **priority needs of SRs were healthcare, food, as well as safety and security**. Secondary and tertiary priority needs were reported to be food and water. **This indicates that SRs might be returning to unsafe conditions and continue to be reliant on humanitarian assistance.**

NORTHERN ALEPPO REGION

Map 5: Coverage in northern Aleppo region, April - June 2018



Communities Assessed:
121

IDP Arrivals:
25,673

IDP Departures:
26,164

SRs:
5,880

IDP Arrivals

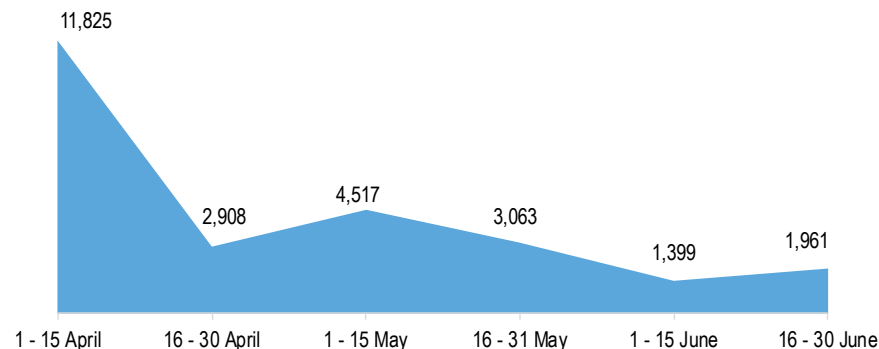
Between April and June 2018, assessed communities in northern Aleppo governorate witnessed a total of 25,673 IDP arrivals, accounting for 21% of reported arrivals in north-west Syria in this time period. In comparison to the first quarter of the year (January to March), this marks a slight increase in IDP arrivals (24,696 reported IDP arrivals between January and March).

The reported number of IDP arrivals to assessed communities decreased gradually over the course of the reporting period. While a majority (57%) of IDPs arrived in April, close to one third (30%) arrived in May, followed by June (13%).

Of IDPs arriving in April, the vast majority arrived to assessed communities between 1 and 15 April, representing 46% of overall IDP arrivals to the region. While cross-line displacements from Eastern Ghouta in the second half of March had most commonly arrived to communities in Idleb and western Aleppo governorate,²⁷ IDPs from Duma in the beginning of April most commonly arrived to assessed communities in northern Aleppo governorate.²⁸

In May, an estimated 1,697 IDPs arrived to communities in northern Aleppo from Al Bab sub-district within the region, while approximately 530 IDPs arrived from Ar-Rastan sub-district, Homs governorate.

Figure 19: Timeline of IDP arrivals to assessed communities in northern Aleppo, April - June 2018



Throughout the reporting period, the majority (52%) of IDPs arrived from outside of northern Aleppo. Similar to the number of IDP arrivals, the proportion of IDPs arriving from outside the region decreased over the three months. While 80% of IDPs in April arrived from other areas, 73% did so in May and 54% in June. As can be seen below (Figure 21), Duma was the sub-district of departure for 25% of all IDP arrivals in the reporting period. Of IDPs arriving from Duma, all 6,299 arrived in the first half of April.

Figure 20: Intra-region vs. extra-region arrivals to assessed communities in northern Aleppo, April - June 2018

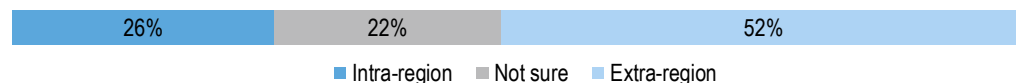


Figure 21: Main sub-district level IDP movements in northern Aleppo, April - June 2018

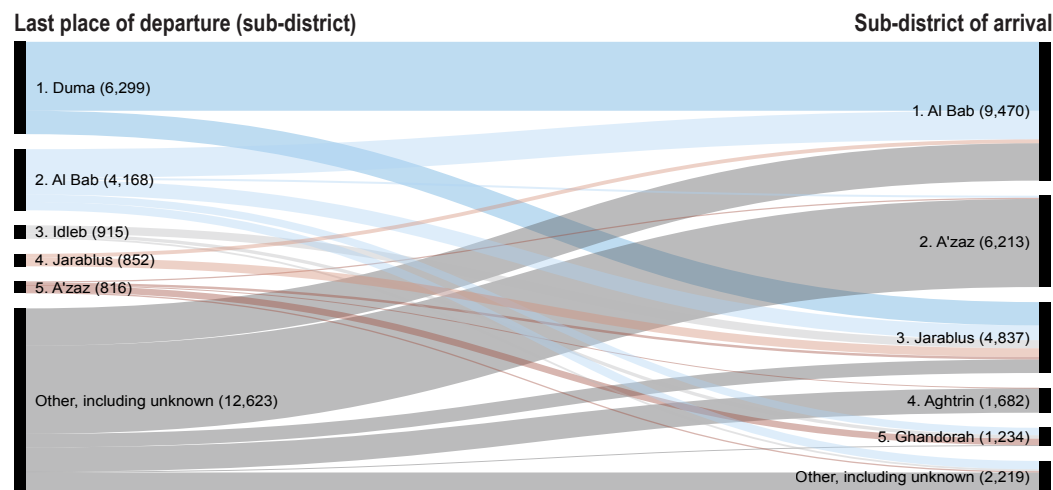
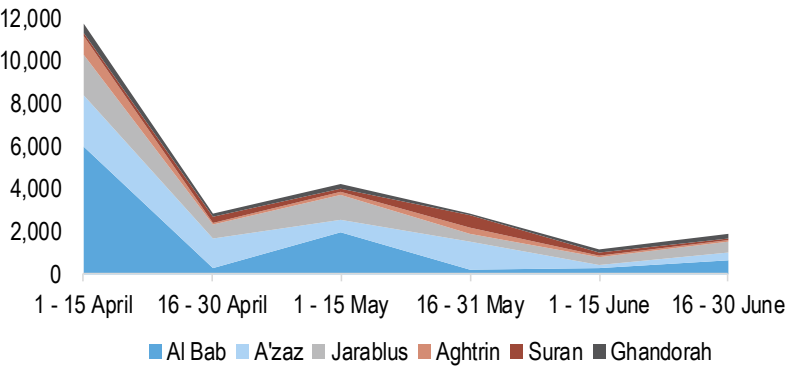


Figure 21 shows all IDP arrivals to assessed communities in northern Aleppo throughout the coverage period along with their last places of departure. **The five sub-districts with the largest IDP arrivals, also shown in Figure 22, accounted for 91% of overall arrivals to northern Aleppo.** Al Bab sub-district was the most commonly reported destination for IDPs, with an estimated 4,703 IDPs arriving from Duma, Rural Damascus governorate. Another 1,596 IDPs from Duma arrived to Zoghra Camp in Jarablus sub-district, along Aleppo governorate's northern border.

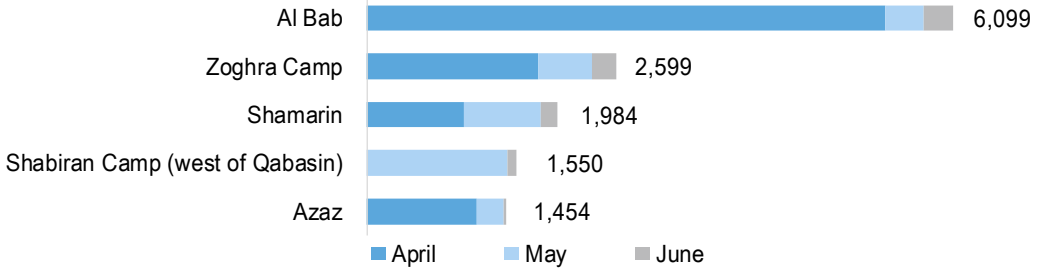
Figure 22: Timeline of IDP arrivals to top five five most common sub-districts of arrival in northern Aleppo, April - June 2018



Significant movement was further reported from communities in Al Bab sub-district to other communities within the same sub-district. This is likely linked to an **onward movement of IDPs** arriving after evacuations from previously opposition-held areas. Large arrivals to A'zaz sub-district can partly be explained by **return movements of IDPs** from communities in Idlib governorate to communities in northern Aleppo.²⁹

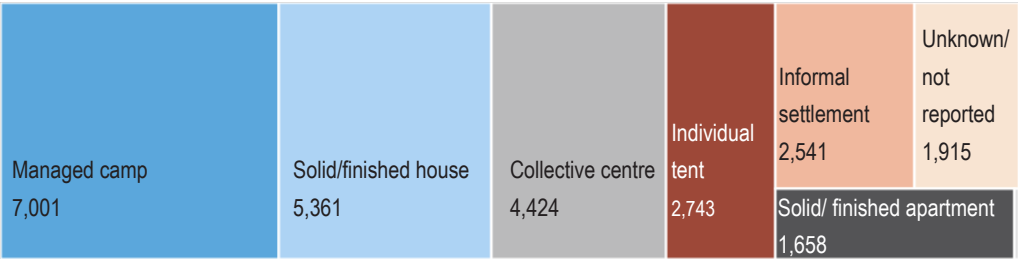
Among assessed communities, Al Bab witnessed most IDP arrivals, with 85% (5,187 IDPs) arriving in the first half of April. Especially from 8 to 14 April, evacuations from Eastern Ghouta were ongoing with large reported IDP arrivals to Al Bab community, managed camps and transit centres*.³⁰

Figure 23: Assessed communities and IDP sites in northern Aleppo with most IDP arrivals, April - June 2018



The presence of two camps, Zoghra and Shabiran Camps, in the top five places with most IDP arrivals throughout the reporting period, underlines the high proportion of cross-line displacements for overall civilian displacements in northern Aleppo.

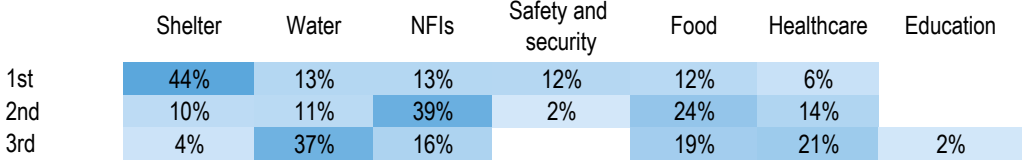
Figure 24: Most commonly reported shelter types for IDPs arriving to assessed communities in northern Aleppo, April - June 2018



In contrast to the shelter profiles for Idlib and surrounding areas, **IDPs arriving to assessed communities in northern Aleppo were reported to most commonly reside in managed camps** (27% of overall IDP arrivals), followed by **solid/finished houses** (21% of overall IDP arrivals) and **collective centres** (17% of overall IDP arrivals).

While collective centres were almost exclusively (98%) reported as shelter types for new IDP arrivals in the first half of April, managed camps and solid/finished houses were reported as shelter types in large numbers in both April and May, before slightly declining in June. **In comparison to the previous reporting period (January to March), collective centres were more commonly reported by KIs**, as the third instead of sixth most commonly reported shelter type for IDP arrivals. This is likely linked to organised responses to relocations, with many humanitarian actors establishing and expanding collective centres and camps.

Figure 25: Top three reported priority needs of IDP arrivals, by percentage of assessed communities reporting, April - June 2018



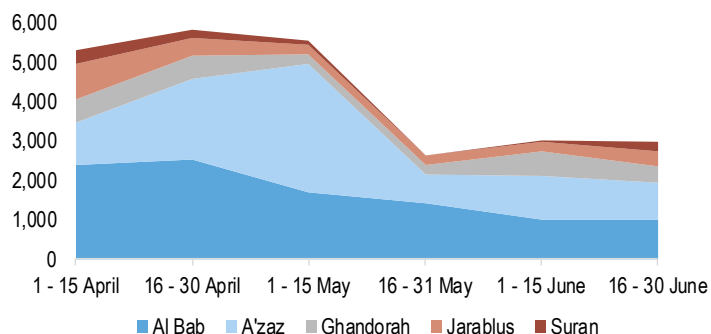
KIs most commonly reported **shelter as a priority need, followed by NFIs as a secondary and water as a tertiary priority need** for new IDP arrivals. In comparison to the first three months of the year, **reported priority needs remained relatively stable**, even if the proportion of assessed communities mentioning the top three priority needs increased in the second quarter of the year. This likely indicates increased pressure on infrastructure and services in assessed communities.

* Transit/Reception Centre figures are based on KI reports collected by ISMI enumerators and, therefore, may differ from official figures presented by the agencies running them. For additional information, please refer to the CCCM Cluster's [IDP Sites Integrated Monitoring Matrix \(ISIMM\)](#).

IDP Departures³

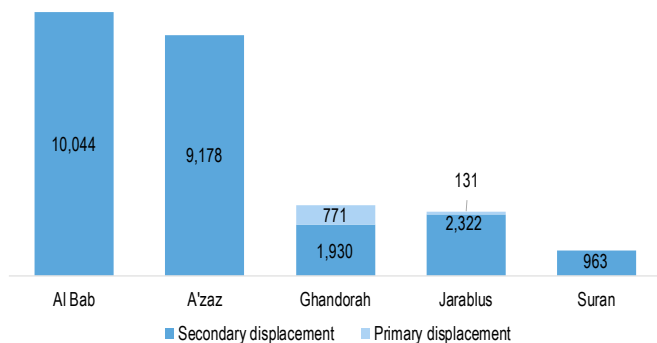
Between April and June 2018, assessed communities in northern Aleppo witnessed a total of 26,164 IDP departures. This marks a 34% increase in comparison to the first quarter of the year (January to March). This can likely be attributed to **continued secondary displacements after evacuation agreements** and subsequent IDP arrivals into the region, as well as to decreasing conflict activity in northern Aleppo in comparison to previous months. Despite overall decreasing conflict levels, **instability remained high**. While general instability and onward movement of IDPs that had previously arrived from Eastern Ghouta drove displacement in most of April and May, clashes between AOGs in Al Bab and other parts of northern Aleppo likely contributed to displacements from the area.³¹

Figure 26: Largest IDP departures from northern Aleppo by sub-districts, April - June 2018



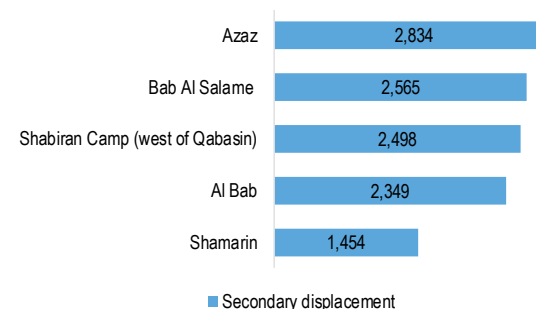
A estimated 10,044 (38%) IDPs left from assessed communities in Al Bab sub-district, while 9,178 (35%) left from communities in A'zaz sub-district and 6,117 (23%) left from communities in Ghadorah, Jarablus and Suran sub-districts. KIs most commonly expected IDPs to go to communities in Afrin district (29%), followed by communities in Ar-Raqqa (7%), Deir-ez-Zor and Al Bab districts (both at 5%).

Figure 27: Sub-districts in northern Aleppo with largest IDP departures, April - June 2018



Of all reported IDP departures from April to June, **97% were secondary while 3% were primary displacements**. The sub-district with the highest proportion of primary departures was Ghadorah (29%). Al Bab and A'zaz sub-districts reportedly witnessed the largest secondary and overall departures during the reporting period. IDP departures from assessed communities in Al Bab sub-district were most commonly expected to go to communities in Afrin district (3,445 IDPs, 34%), followed by communities in Deir-ez-Zor district (1,067 IDPs, 11%). A total of 1,440 IDPs leaving from Ghadorah and Jarablus were expected to go to communities in Ar-Raqqa district. These movements are secondary displacements and are **likely to include return movements to communities in these districts**.

Figure 28: Assessed communities and IDP sites in northern Aleppo with highest IDP departures, April - June 2018



In line with highest IDP departures on a sub-district level, of the five communities that witnessed the largest IDP departures, three were in A'zaz (Azaz, Bab Al Salame, Shamrin) and two in Al Bab (Shabiran Camp, Al Bab) sub-district.

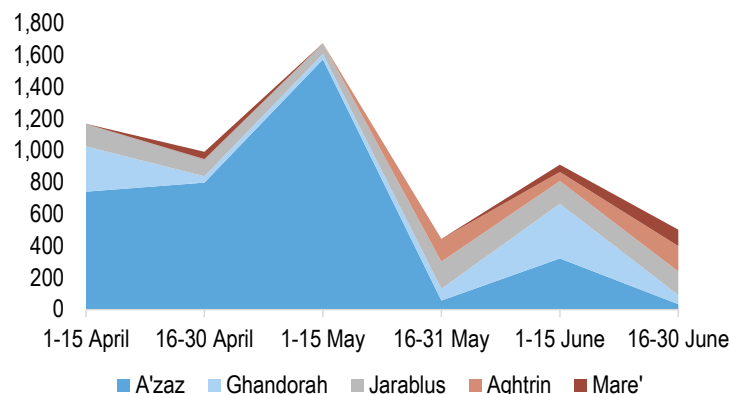
For the vast majority of departures from Azaz community (92%), KIs expected IDPs to go to communities in Afrin district. Similarly, a large majority of IDPs leaving Shabiran Camp (65%) was expected to go to Afrin district. These are likely to be onward movements of IDPs from Eastern Ghouta, as Shabiran Camp saw large arrivals from Duma, Eastern Ghouta from 1 to 14 April.³²

Spontaneous Returns

Throughout the assessment period, KIs reported 5,880 SRs to assessed communities in northern Aleppo. While SRs took place throughout the reporting period, the vast majority of SRs were reported between the months of April and May (74%, representing 4,362 SRs). A total of 5,215 SRs reportedly returned to their former homes.

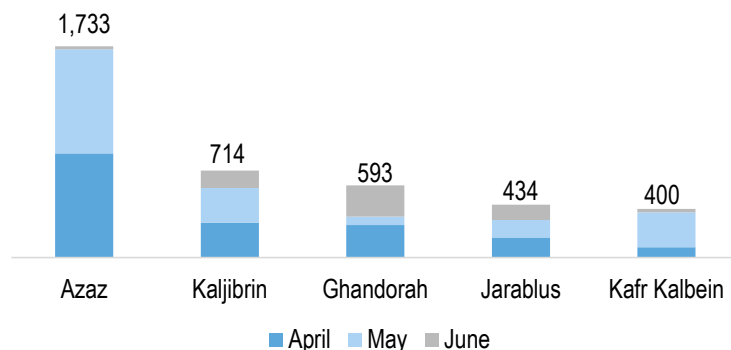
On a sub-district level, A'zaz witnessed 60% of overall SRs (3,528) and saw a significant increase in SRs in the first half of May (1,574). In the second half of May, the total number of reported SRs decreased by 73% compared to the previous bi-weekly period to 456 SRs, following patterns of decreasing IDP arrivals to assessed communities throughout the reporting period.

Figure 29: Sub-districts in northern Aleppo with largest SRs, April - June 2018



On a community level, three of the five assessed communities that witnessed the largest return flows were in A'zaz sub-district (A'zaz, Kaljibrin and Kafr Kalbein).

Figure 30: Assessed communities in northern Aleppo with largest SRs, April - June 2018



The most commonly reported **priority needs of new SRs were safety and security, as well as water.** In terms of secondary and tertiary needs, NFI and healthcare were additionally reported by KIs. Overall, this may indicate that SRs are returning to unsafe conditions and that existing infrastructure and services are potentially lacking.

Endnotes:

¹ Data for this report was collected across six bi-weekly cycles between 1 April and 30 June 2018.

² In total, 1,305 community-level assessments were made throughout the quarter, with movements reported in 521 individual communities. A 'community' is any neighbourhood, village, town, or city listed at the 4th administrative level of the UNOCHA P-Code list, in addition to managed camps, informal settlements and other IDP sites that fall outside of these communities' jurisdiction.

³ IDP departure figures, unless otherwise stated, reflect aggregated departures of IDP and host community populations.

⁴ Household numbers are collected from KIs and then multiplied by an average of 5.7 to provide estimated individual numbers. Based on extensive experience in Syria as well as other displacement contexts, key informants are generally more able or confident to report household figures than individual numbers. This is the case in particular in situations with very large IDP and returning populations.

⁵ Because ISMI assesses total arrivals to and departures from communities across a bi-weekly period, some figures reported may be repeated displacements.

⁶ SR: Spontaneous Returns (to Community of Origin) refers to IDPs or refugees who return to the community that they originated from, but not necessarily to their place of habitual residence and do not enjoy the complete rights they had prior to displacement. SRs intend to remain in the community for an undetermined period.

⁷ Idleb's surrounding areas include communities in Atareb, Daret Azza and Zarbah sub-districts in western Aleppo, as well as in Madiq Castle and Ziyara sub-districts in northern Hama. These sub-districts have been added to the larger Idleb and surrounding areas region as IDPs in these sub-districts demonstrate largely similar displacement patterns and are served by the same cross-border responses.

⁸ The Northern Aleppo region includes communities in the following sub-districts: Aghtin, Al Bab, Ar-Ra'ee, A'zaz, Ghadorah, Jarablus, Mare' and Suran. The sub-districts have been added to the larger northern Aleppo region as IDPs in these sub-districts demonstrate largely similar displacement patterns and are served by the same cross-border responses.

⁹ CCCM, REACH, [ISMI Rapid Assessment of Evacuations from Eastern Ghouta](#), 25-31 March 2018; CCCM, REACH, [ISMI Monthly Overview of IDP Movements in northern Syria](#), April 2018.

UNOCHA, [Syrian Arab Republic: East Ghouta, Response to the East Ghouta Crisis in rural Damascus, Situation Report No. 3](#), 3-11 April 2018; CCCM, REACH, [ISMI IDP Movements in northern Syria](#), 1-15 April 2018

¹⁰ CCCM, REACH, [ISMI Monthly Overview of IDP Movements in northern Syria](#), May 2018.

¹¹ UNHCR, Syria: Flash Update on Recent Events, [9 May 2018](#); [24 May 2018](#).

¹² CCCM, REACH, [ISMI IDP Movements in northern Syria](#), 16-31 May 2018.

¹³ REACH, CCCM, [ISMI IDP Movements in northern Syria](#), 1-15 June 2018.

¹⁴ CCCM, REACH, [ISMI Rapid Assessment of Evacuations from Eastern Ghouta](#), 25-31 March 2018; CCCM, REACH, [ISMI Monthly Overview of IDP Movements in northern Syria](#), April 2018.

¹⁵ UNHCR, Syria: Flash Update on Recent Events, [9 May 2018](#); [24 May 2018](#).

¹⁶ In order to provide more clarity, only the top five departure and arrival sub-districts are listed, while other

departure and arrival sub-districts are aggregated to visualise remaining IDP movements.

¹⁷ UNHCR, Syria: Flash Update on Recent Events, [9 May 2018](#); [24 May 2018](#).

¹⁸ REACH, [Situation Overview: Idleb Governorate and Surrounding Areas, North-west Syria](#), August 2018.

¹⁹ UNHCR, Syria: Flash Update on Recent Events, [9 May 2018](#); REACH, CCCM, [ISMI Monthly overview of IDP Movements in northern Syria, April 2018](#).

²⁰ CCCM, REACH, [ISMI IDP Movements in northern Syria](#), 1-15 April 2018.

²¹ CCCM, REACH, [ISMI Monthly Overview of IDP Movements in northern Syria](#), April 2018.

²² CCCM, REACH, ISMI Monthly Overview of IDP Movements in northern Syria, [May 2018](#); [December 2017](#); [January 2018](#).

²³ CCCM, REACH, [ISMI Monthly Overview of IDP Movements in northern Syria](#), 16-30 June 2018.

²⁴ Primary displacements do not necessarily capture the first time an individual or group or persons have been displaced from their community of origin.

²⁵ REACH, [Situation Overview: Idleb Governorate and Surrounding Areas](#), August 2018.

²⁶ CCCM, REACH, [ISMI Monthly Overview of IDP Movements in northern Syria](#), April 2018.

²⁷ CCCM, REACH, [ISMI Monthly Overview of IDP Movements in northern Syria](#), April 2018; CCCM, [ISMI Rapid Assessment of Evacuations from Eastern Ghouta](#), 25-31 March 2018.

²⁸ CCCM, REACH, [ISMI Rapid Assessment of Evacuations from Eastern Ghouta to North-west Syria](#), 1-14 April.

²⁹ CCCM, REACH, [ISMI Monthly Overview of IDP Movements in northern Syria](#), April 2018; CCCM, REACH, [ISMI Monthly Overview of IDP Movements in northern Syria](#), May 2018.

³⁰ CCCM, REACH, [ISMI Rapid Assessment of Evacuations from Eastern Ghouta to North-west Syria](#), 1-14 April.

³¹ CCCM, REACH, [ISMI Monthly Overview of IDP Movements in northern Syria](#), 16-30 June 2018.

³² CCCM, REACH, [ISMI Rapid Assessment of Evacuations from Eastern Ghouta to North-west Syria](#), 1-14 April.

Reference Map

