

ALEPPO – Governorate profile

Syria Needs Analysis Project

March 2013

This document is the first Governorate profile published by the Syria Needs Analysis Project (SNAP). The profile describes the current situation in Aleppo, with regards to the conflict, the subsequent displacement situation and the humanitarian needs, where available per district. The Syria Needs Analysis Project welcomes all information that could complement this report. For additional information, comments or questions please email SNAP@ACAPS.org.

Content

[Data sources](#)

[Information gaps and limitations](#)

[Governorate profile \(pre-2011\)](#)

[Conflict overview](#)

[Displacement](#)

[Governorate profile \(current\)](#)

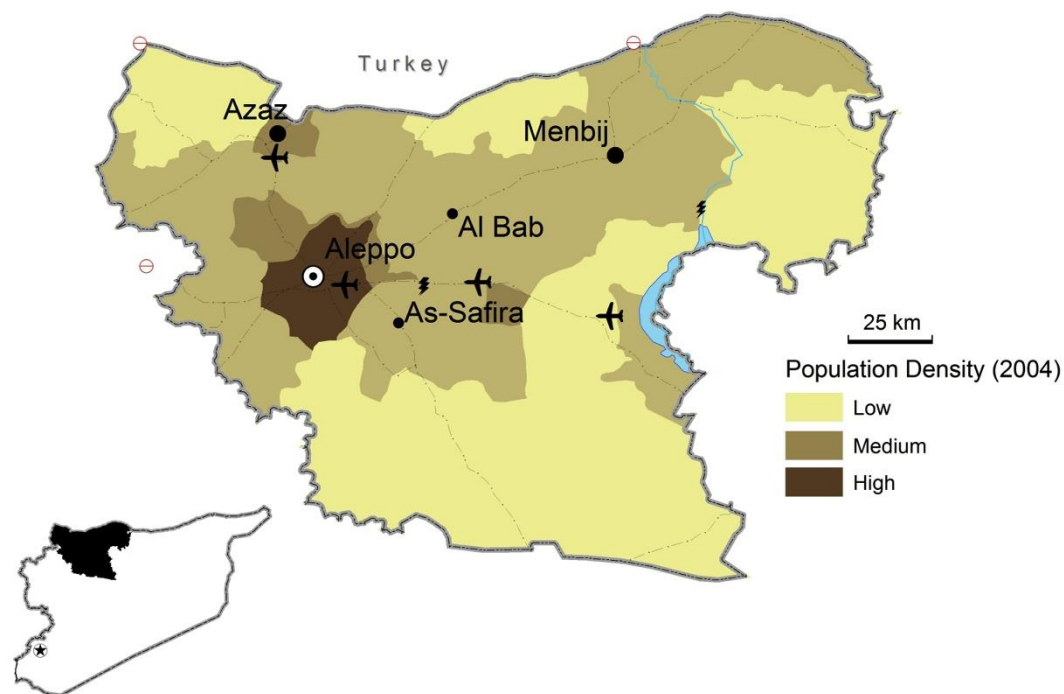
[Map - Severity of needs per sector](#)

The north-western governorate of Aleppo is home to around one fifth of Syria's total population and experienced a large influx of IDPs as the crisis escalated in Dara'a, Hama, Homs and Idleb in 2011 and early 2012. Initially considered something of a safe haven, Aleppo has suffered from fierce and protracted conflict since mid 2012 witnessing large-scale offensives by both the Syrian Government troops and anti-Government fighters. A large part of the governorate and parts of Aleppo city are currently under control of a multitude of anti-Government groups. The most recent attack on a neighbourhood in Aleppo has once again focused attention on the fragile humanitarian situation in the governorate.

Much of Aleppo city has been destroyed during what has been some of Syria's fiercest violence, and residents suffer constant power cuts and frequent water shortages. Fighting and indiscriminate bombing, including the use of heavy weaponry such as scud missiles, is widespread in the governorate and is continuously causing large-scale displacement. Around 900,000 IDPs were identified in January and March, of which 500,000 reside in Aleppo city – although these estimates are considered low and because of the fluidity of the situation, secondary and tertiary movement is common. There are two unofficial IDP camps near the border with Turkey, hosting an estimated 25,000 people.

While significant information gaps remain, particularly with regards to baseline data; market prices on a local level; and the protection situation, the governorate is the best covered in terms of available information. Two Joint Rapid Needs Assessments were undertaken in Aleppo, covering 23 sub-districts and 52 city-neighbourhoods during which 5.8 million people were found in need, with food

security and health as main priority sectors. Although the governorate borders Turkey, and cross-border trade is booming, food security is one of the main problems facing Aleppo's population. Access to food is very limited, primarily because prices are high and people have lost their main source of income. Widespread destruction of health infrastructure and a lack of supplies and staff make access to appropriate care increasingly difficult. Some 99% of homes were connected to the electricity network before the start of the crisis but long power cuts are now common and in some areas electricity has been unavailable for months. This lack of power, together with the exodus of many Government employees who run and maintain public services has impacted public services (such as urban water supply; solid waste removal, health services). With the increase in temperatures, up to 23°C in April, WASH related concerns are becoming more pressing, with communicable diseases such as Hepatitis A on the rise.



Aleppo overview

Key issues - March 2013

Kurdish areas

Overall the amount of fighting within these areas has been limited. The predominantly Kurdish district of Afrin has experienced a significant influx of primarily Kurdish IDPs.

Humanitarian concerns

The J-RANS identified at least 5.8 million people in need of humanitarian aid. Priority needs are in the areas of food security, health and water. Electricity cuts, widespread infrastructure damage and a general breakdown of public

Supply routes

Supply routes into Aleppo city have been divided between the western, Government controlled areas that are being supplied from Damascus and the eastern, opposition areas that are being supplied from Turkey. As a result the availability and pricing of goods varies between areas.

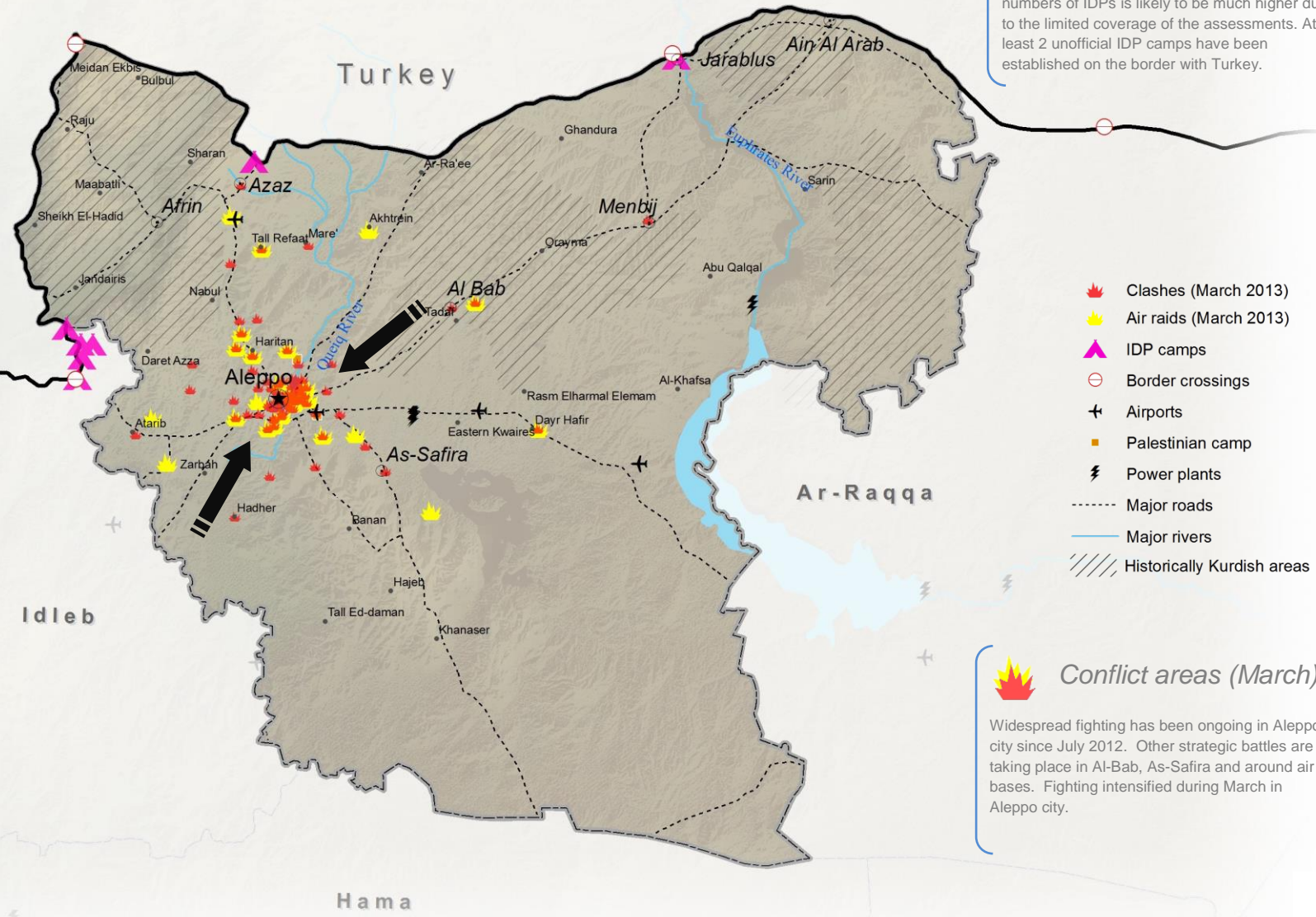
Internal displacement

Approximately 900,000 IDPs have been identified through assessments, of which more than half reside in Aleppo City. The actual numbers of IDPs is likely to be much higher due to the limited coverage of the assessments. At least 2 unofficial IDP camps have been established on the border with Turkey.

-  Clashes (March 2013)
-  Air raids (March 2013)
-  IDP camps
-  Border crossings
-  Airports
-  Palestinian camp
-  Power plants
-  Major roads
-  Major rivers
-  Historically Kurdish areas

Conflict areas (March)

Widespread fighting has been ongoing in Aleppo city since July 2012. Other strategic battles are taking place in Al-Bab, As-Safira and around air bases. Fighting intensified during March in Aleppo city.



H o m s

H a m a

I d l i b

A r - R a q q a

T u r k e y

A i n ' A l ' A r a b

M e n b i j

A l B a b

A l e p p o

A s - S a f i r a

A z a z

A f r i n

I d l i b

H a m a

H o m s

A r - R a q q a

T u r k e y

A i n ' A l ' A r a b

M e n b i j

A l B a b

A l e p p o

A s - S a f i r a

A z a z

A f r i n

Data sources

J-RANS: This profile is primarily based on the results of Phase I of the Joint Rapid Assessment in Northern Syria (J-RANS), which was conducted in January 2013 in 6 governorates. The assessment was a collaborative effort between a range of humanitarian actors, supported by ECHO, DFID and OFDA and facilitated by the Assistance Coordination Unit (ACU). International needs assessment and GIS experts provided technical support.

During the J-RANS, 58 out of 128 sub-districts were assessed in 6 districts of Aleppo: Afrin, Al Bab, A'zaz, Jebel Saman, and Menbij. Sub-districts of Aleppo city were surveyed in March.

In these areas, qualitative and quantitative data was gathered on conflict impact and the humanitarian needs in the sectors food security, health, shelter/NFIs, and WASH. The J-RANS distinguishes between high conflict intensity (HCI) and low conflict intensity (LCI) sub-districts:

Sub-districts assessed during the J-RANS

Districts	Low conflict intensity (LCI)	High conflict intensity (HCI)
A'zaz		A'zaz, Suran, Tall Refaat, Aghtrin
Afrin district	Sheikh El-Hadid, Sharan, Afrin, Jandairis, Raju, Ma'btali	Bulbul
Al Bab	Ar-Ra'ee, A'rima	Tadaf and Al Bab
Jebel Saman		Daret Azza, Haritan, Hadher, Atareb, Zarbah, Aleppo city
Menbij	Qalqal, Menbij	Al-Khafsa

Please note that the categorisation of sub-districts as LCI/HCI describes the situation in the visited areas during the time of the assessment (mid January 2013) and can be subject to change over time.

Information gaps and data limitations

Baseline:

As in the rest of the country, there are large information gaps with regards to the pre-crisis situation in Aleppo:

- The number of people living in the governorate before the start of the crisis, including migrants and refugees: the latest 2004 census is relatively old and therefore does not reflect the impact of recent significant events such as the years of drought leading to displacement.
- The latest poverty survey is from 2007 and there is a lack of updated statistical data on poverty levels per governorate.

Crisis information

Aside from the J-RANS results, almost no information is publicly available on the needs within the governorate or on the number of displaced and affected. As a result, the humanitarian situation in the areas not covered by the J-RANS is largely unknown. The J-RANS faced three main analysis challenges:

- **Sectoral coverage:** although it is recognised that there are substantial problems in the assessed area in the sectors of protection and education, the scope of the J-RANS in the initial phase covers 4 sectors of Health; Food security; Shelter and WASH (due to the rapid character of the exercise and sensitivities surrounding protection issues).
- **Geographical coverage:** The J-RANS phase 1a reached 58 (45%) of all 128 sub-districts in Aleppo governorate in January while phase 1b covered 52 of the 125 (42%) neighbourhoods in Aleppo city. The population figures provided by the J-RANS are therefore estimates made on the ground by observers and verified through existing registration lists, beneficiary lists, and local knowledge or data verifications. While these figures should not be considered precise, the trends reported were verified.
- **Relevance of the data** decreases with time: as in the rest of the country, the situation in Aleppo governorate is highly fluctuant: frontlines are constantly changing and secondary and tertiary displacement is common. In addition, while the J-RANS was conducted during the winter months (with temperatures below 0 during the night), temperatures are currently increasing as a result of which humanitarian priorities are changing: winterisation becoming less urgent, while access to potable water and prevention of disease outbreaks becomes more of a priority.

Further to these three challenges, data collection for phases 1a and 1b took place 5 weeks apart during which time there will have been population movement.

Governorate profile pre-2011

Demographics

More than 25% of Syria's total population lived in the governorate prior to the crisis: the 2004 census estimated the population of Aleppo governorate at 4,045,166 of whom 4,018,008 were Syrians and 18,899 Palestinians and other Arabs such as Iraqis as well as non-Arabs. The total population in 2011 was estimated at 5.9 million. The population of the city itself is estimated at around 2.5 million inhabitants (WHO 2008-2013, The New York Times 2012/12/23).

While more than 70% of Aleppo's inhabitants were Sunnites, Aleppo was home to minority communities such as Christians, Kurds, Armenians and Turkmen. The neighborhoods of Sulamaniyeh, Aziziah, Almidan, Serian, Jdaide and Telal in the city were mainly inhabited by Christians (AFP 2012/8/23). Few Christians live in the rural area like Hayyan, Hreitan, Albab and Minbej.

Population figures

2011 estimates	Aleppo governorate	All Syria	% Aleppo governorate
Population	5,927,000	24,504,000	24.2%
Population actually resident	4,806,000	21,124,000	23%
Urban population	3,002,000	11,297,000	27%
% of urban to total population	62%	53%	
Rural population	1,804,000	9,827,000	18%
% of rural to total population	38%	47%	

Source: *Syrian Central Bureau of Statistics 2011*

Geography

The governorate is situated on the Aleppo Plateau, a low undulating area with an average elevation of around 380m above sea level. The northern and western areas are most fertile and to the east the governorate is bounded by the Euphrates river valley. The climate is semi-arid with a declining rainfall towards the south-east of the governorate, leading to a largely unpopulated desert, punctuated with several large saline lakes.

Services

Communications: Aleppo has an international airport and railway network connecting northern Syria with Europe. Telephone infrastructure was extensive with one line for every 7 people. (2011 MOAAR)

Electricity: All cities, towns and villages of the governorate had electricity supply. 99.7% of homes had electricity. (2011 MOAAR)

Health: Maternal mortality ratio in 2008 in Aleppo was estimated at 56 deaths for each 1,000 live births – similar to the national average. The percentage of births attended by skilled health personnel in 2009 in Aleppo was estimated at 95.5%. Only 46.5% of households used family planning methods in 2009. (Family Health Survey 2009, UNDP 2010, Syria Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006)

59% of children between 12-23 months received the required vaccinations against childhood diseases in 2006, against 67% of children countrywide. (Family Health Survey 2009)

Potable water: Around 90% of the population in Aleppo used an improved drinking water source (protected from outside contamination) and 98% used improved sanitation in 2009. In 2010, of the total 850,000 dwellings around 94% were attached to the water network. (2011 MOAAR, Family Health Survey 2009, SCBS 2010)

The water system in Aleppo relies on traction projects from Assad Lake on the Euphrates River to provide water for the citizens in the city of Aleppo and the bulk of the rural area. (SCBS 2010)

Sewage networks existed in all major cities of Aleppo governorate. 98.4% of the population had access to the sewage networks. (2011 MOAAR)

Education: In 2006, 95.6% of children of basic school age were enrolled in primary or high school in Aleppo. Some 1.3% of children between 5 and 14 years old worked inside or outside their households. (Syria Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006)

By 2011, 97.5% of 6 – 11 year-olds were in school but the dropout rate exceeded 9.5%, while the rate of illiteracy from 15 years and over exceeded 20.2%. The rate of those who can read and write from 15 – 24 years reached 93.9%. The ratio of girls to boys in primary education was 89.2%. (2011 MOAAR)

In 2010, there were 3,384 primary schools in the governorate – 3,301 public schools (of 16,626 nationwide), 72 private schools (of 378 nationwide) and 11 UNRWA schools (of 116 nationwide). (SCBS 2010)

Shelter & NFI:

- An estimated 45% of the population in Aleppo city lived in 22 informal or 'illegal' settlements in 2008, which constituted 35% of the city's built-up area. (UNDP 2010, SCBS, DPU 2008, IDMC 2008).

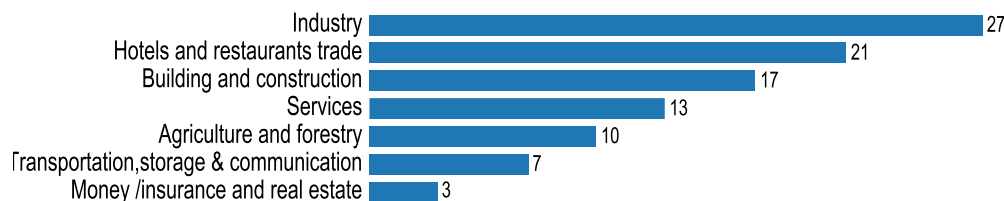
Economy

Aleppo city was the economic capital of Syria and the centre of agriculture, industry and trade. Nevertheless, Aleppo was found to be the poorest governorate, by far, in 2003-2004, especially the rural areas, where the poverty level was more than twice the national rural average, and nearly three times the urban level. (2011 MOAAR, UNDP 2005/6)

Typical monthly household incomes before the conflict were 25,000- 50,000 SYP (\$350-700) for a skilled worker (e.g. construction), and up to 100,000 SYP (\$1,400) for a Government employee. (INGO 2013/01)

The unemployment rate in Aleppo was estimated at 4.9% in 2010 (8.6% in Syria) and 7.6% in 2011 (14.9% in Syria). (SCBS 2011, SCBS 2010)

Livelihoods pre-crisis



Aleppo is an important transportation corridor for the region and the souq in Aleppo acts as a market for regional agricultural produce.

Industry: Together with Idlib, Aleppo governorate was considered the primary industrial zone in Syria with textile, engineering, chemical and food industries. The Industrial city of the northern zone was located in al-Sheikh Najjar, 15km northeast of Aleppo city covering 4,412 hectares. (2011 MOAAR)

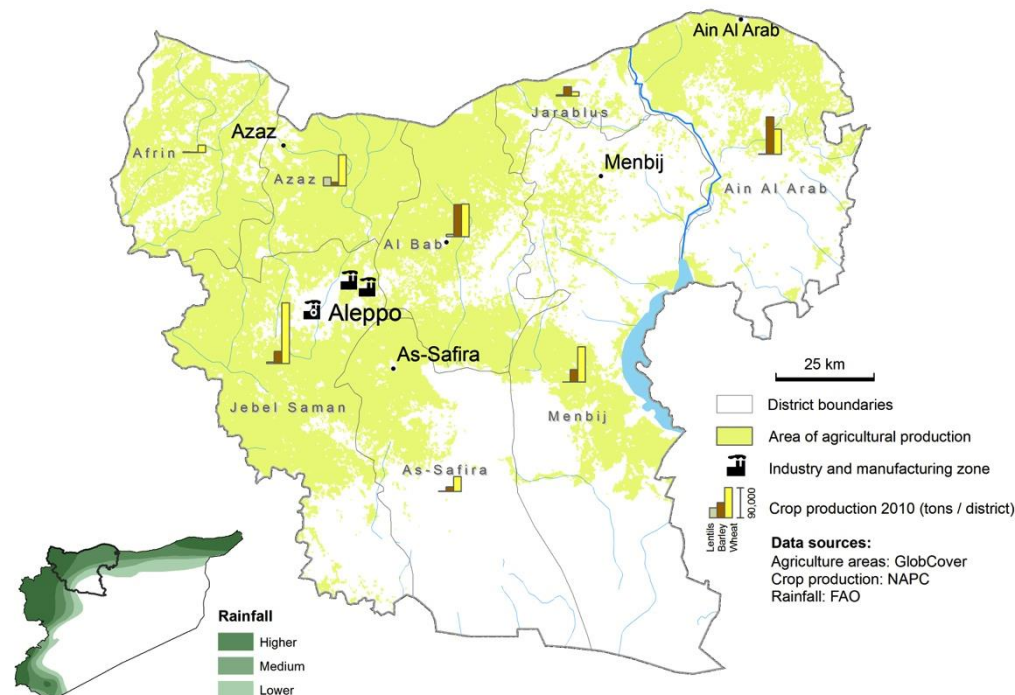
Trade: Aleppo city in particular, was an important commercial centre for export and import and an internationally deep-rooted market. It contained special markets for wholesale and retail, in addition to semi-wholesale. Retail trade was prevalent throughout the governorate. Aleppo souq (the longest covered market in the world) was 17 km long. (2011 MOAAR)

Tourism: Aleppo is rich in archaeological sites: Aleppo Citadel, Sam'an monastery, Najm Citadel, Ahmar Hill and Maskanah and tourism was a significant contributor to income. (2011 MOAAR)

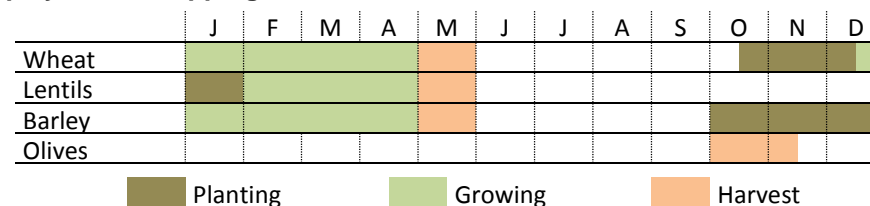
Prices: The average household monthly expenditure on food commodities in Aleppo in 2009 was estimated at SYP 29,994. Average price per food commodity can be found in Annex A (SCBS 2010, SCBS 2009).

Agriculture: Much of Aleppo governorate lies in Syria's most fertile belt. In 2010, Aleppo governorate produced over 616,246 tons of wheat crop (20% of total country wheat production). Aleppo governorate is the second governorate in terms of wheat production (after al Hasakeh), and first in terms of barley and lentils. Total land under cultivation in Aleppo governorate was estimated at 1,107,000 hectares in 2010 (23% of the country's total). Field crops, vegetables; fruit trees; livestock (cows, sheep and goats for milk and meat) and poultry are farmed. (SCBS 2010, FAO 2013/03/01, MOAAR 2011)

Agriculture in Aleppo governorate



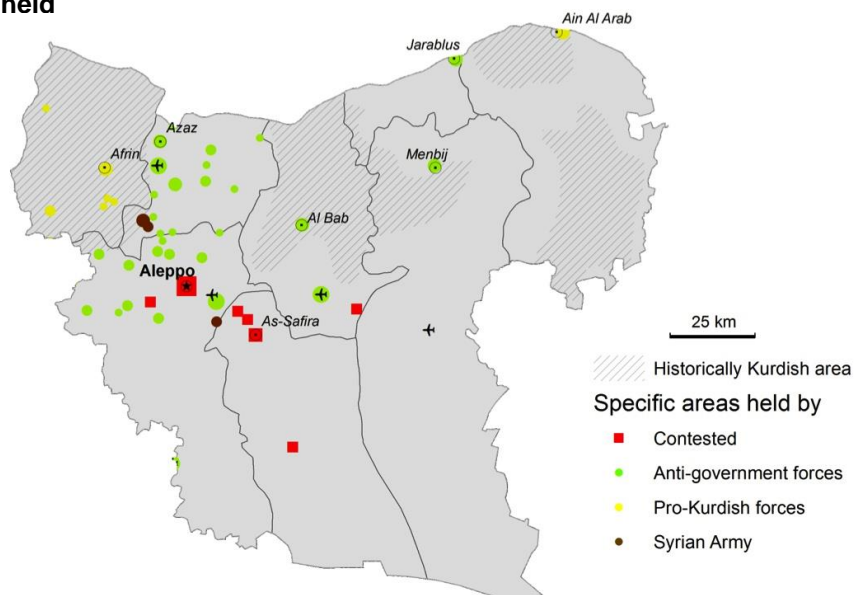
Crop cycle for Aleppo governorate



Conflict overview

- **Start of the conflict:** Fighting in Aleppo governorate started in February 2012, almost a year after the unrest began in Dar'a. Amidst heavy fighting, opposition fighters have slowly expanded the areas under their control. At the end of July 2012, the FSA gained control of the city of Al-Bab, leaving anti-Government groups in control of the northern area between Aleppo and the Turkish border and the two official border crossings into Turkey.
- **Current clashes:** Intense clashes currently focus on several areas of strategic military importance with insurgents in Aleppo launching 'the battle of the airports' on 12 February 2013, with the apparent aim of obtaining ammunition and weaponry, and putting military aircraft out of action to end the bombing of rebel controlled areas. Heavy clashes continue around Aleppo's international airport where anti-Government groups have made headway in recent weeks, overrunning checkpoints and capturing a military base charged with protecting the airport. Anti-Government groups also intensified their assault on the Nairab and Mannagh air bases, as well as on an airfield nearby known as Kweires.
- In Aleppo city, fierce clashes started at the end of March in the Sheikh Maqsud district, with anti-Government groups taking part of the neighbourhood at the start of April. The predominantly Kurdish neighbourhood sits atop a hill, with vantage points over all the city and its capture would be a key victory for the rebels, allowing them to target districts still in regime hands. In addition, clashes in the neighbourhoods of Achrafieh, Salah al-Din and Karam Aljibal in the city and in Alsfeereh and Khan Al-Asal in the rural Aleppo. ([Daily Star 2013/04/01](#), [Assafir 2013/03/30](#))

Areas held



- Another key front is the police academy in Khan al Asal district, which has been used as a military base to shell opposition area, and the Umayyad Mosque in Al Jalloum district, which has been transformed into a military encampment and checkpoint by regime forces and was recently taken by anti-Government groups.
- Fighting among anti-Government groups over control of areas and resources is increasing: on the 17 March clashes erupted between Islamist fighters belonging to an Islamic court body in the city and members of a rival opposition brigade in the Sakhur neighbourhood. In addition, clashes occurred in the fiercely contested neighbourhood of Sheikh Maqsud between elements of the YPG (pro-regime) and opposition fighters.
- In March, the FSA announced a plan to launch a large-scale attack to win control of Aleppo - although it is unclear when this will happen.
- **Use of weapons:** As opposition groups have seized Syria Armed Forces (SAF) installations, they have captured increasingly heavy weapons, although the bulk of the opposition fighters remain armed with small arms.
- Although anti-Government forces disrupt supply routes and have seized control of weapon depots and air bases, regime warplanes continuously carry out **air raids** on opposition-held areas in Aleppo governorate, particularly around the towns of Al Bab and as-Safira and districts of Aleppo city. In March, the opposition controlled neighbourhoods of Sukari, Bani Zeid, Ashrafieh and Sheikh Saad and Masaken Hanano were bombed, as well as the town of Haritan and Andan Hayyan. **Scud missiles** were launched on the town of Awram Alsoghra and on 1 March, a **cluster bomb** attack was reportedly launched against the densely populated Hanano district.
- On 19 March, alleged **chemical weapons** hit the town Khan al-Assad. Neither opposition nor the Government admitted being responsible for the attack. The UN is currently investigating whether chemical weapons have been used. At the start of March, opposition fighters controlled the town until the regime regained large parts of the town in a counter-attack at the end of March.
- **Supply routes:** The Aleppo airport has, in the past, been used to re-supply Government troops in the city although current fighting has forced the Government to close the airport and re-route reinforcements and supplies by road. However, with anti-Government forces controlling sections of the M4 and M5 highway and the road from As-Safira to the airport, many of the Syrian Army supply routes are blocked. By late January 2013, Deputy Prime Minister Qadri Jamil admitted that all supply routes to Aleppo had been cut off by opposition forces - although, in February, the army seized control of a key road linking the central province of Hama to Aleppo international airport, allowing troop deployments and supplies to reach the area surrounding the airport and Nayrab military airbase. ([Al Jazeera 2013/03/28](#), [IKJ 2012/10/25](#); [AFP 2012/10/27](#), [Al Jazeera 2012/08/12](#), [Huffington post 2013/02/27](#), [LA Times 2013/02/26](#), [HRW 2013/02/26](#), [Guardian 2012/07/12](#), [AFP 2013/02/26](#),

[AFP 2013/02/26](#), [AFP 2013/02/27](#), [AFP 2013/03/04](#), [UNRWA 2013/03/16](#), [UNHCR 2013/03/15](#), [INGO 2013/03/15](#), [AFP 2013/03/02](#), [AFP 2013/03/17](#))

- **Armed groups:** Over 300 anti-Government factions reportedly operate in Aleppo and the number is said to be increasing. Some of these groups operate under the auspice of the FSA, while other function independently. The influence of militant Islamic groups is increasing, notably of the al-Nusra Front. The group has seen its popularity surge in Aleppo, because of its resources and ability to provide services and security and it is estimate that the Front currently controls more than half of Aleppo Governorate. In December 2012, the Front declared a (only partially successful) "no-fly-zone" over Aleppo, enforced by anti-aircraft guns.
- The conflict is becoming increasingly tribal. At least four large tribes in Aleppo fight against the Government, whilst the al-Berri tribe joined the Government following the execution of their tribal leader by opposition forces. Some minorities who fear possible oppression and expulsion under Islamists, such the Christians and Armenians, formed their own militias to fight the anti-Government forces. Syria's Turkmen have also aligned themselves with the opposition and their Turkmen Sultan Abdulhamid Han Brigade reportedly has 400 fighters.
- Aleppo's Kurds formed armed groups of which the most notable is the Kurdish Salahaddin Brigade, an organisation with a more secular outlook seeing to balance any Islamic fundamentalists in a post-Assad Syria, which operates in close alliance with opposition forces. The Kurdish areas in Aleppo are mainly under the control of the Kurdish Democratic Union party (PYD). The PYD have formed armed units called People's Defence Units (YPG) which frequently fight with the FSA, although they have signed localised peace agreements in the past. ([Al Jazeera 2012/07/21](#), [BBC 2012/08/09](#), [NYT 2013/02/22](#), [Syria Deeply 2013/01/013](#))
- **Areas of control:** Anti-Government groups are in control of a large part of the countryside in the northeast, ranging from Aleppo up to the border with Turkey. Aleppo city has been divided between opposition forces and troops loyal to President al-Assad since last year. Western neighbourhoods tend to be under Government control and while eastern areas are under control of a multitude of anti-Government groups. The north of the city contains several Kurdish controlled neighbourhoods – Asharfiyeh and sheikh Maqsoud. Afrin district and Ayn al-Ara city are reportedly under Kurdish control as well. ([Amnesty 2013/03/02](#), [UNHCR 2013/03/15](#), [INGO 2013/03/15](#), [AFP 2013/03/02](#))

Governance

- **FSA governance structures:** The FSA has established several governance structures in areas under their control in Aleppo, including a Revolutionary Security office and Military Council. The Aleppo Military Council was established in September 2012 and includes all armed groups, brigades and battalions in the governorate of Aleppo. The aim of the new council is to coalesce and organise

armed resistance groups in accordance with international laws and conventions in order to avoid any further violations by rebel fighters. ([Aljazeera 2012/9/11](#), [Vancouver Observer 2012/9/11](#))

- At the start of March, the FSA initiated elections for an Aleppo provincial council which, for security reasons, took place in Turkey. Some 29 provincial council members were elected to run rebel-held areas as well as 25 members into a city municipal council. The purpose of both councils is to arrange administrative affairs for civilians residing in rebel held areas. ([SN 2013/03/14](#), [AFP 2013/03/03](#))

Displacement

Pre 2011

- Large-scale rural-urban displacement has taken place in Aleppo since the late eighties, due to the deterioration of the agricultural sector and an increase in poverty in the rural areas of the governorate. A second wave of displacement to Aleppo city occurred in the period between 2006-2010 due to a drought accompanied by a slowdown in economic growth. As a result, the current residents of the city Aleppo have a predominantly rural origin, especially the residents of Saladin, Al Bab and Hanano neighbourhoods. ([Assafir 2012/11/10](#), [Al-akhbar Newspaper 2012/12/03](#))

2011-2012

- At the start of the crisis, Aleppo city attracted a large number of IDPs from other governorates, including Homs and Idleb. However, most of these IDPs moved to other areas after the conflict in the city of Aleppo intensified at the end of 2012. Most IDPs outside of Aleppo city originate from Aleppo city or the governorates of Homs and Ar-Raqqa. As in the rest of the country, secondary and tertiary displacement is common. ([INGO 2013/02/20](#))

Current situation

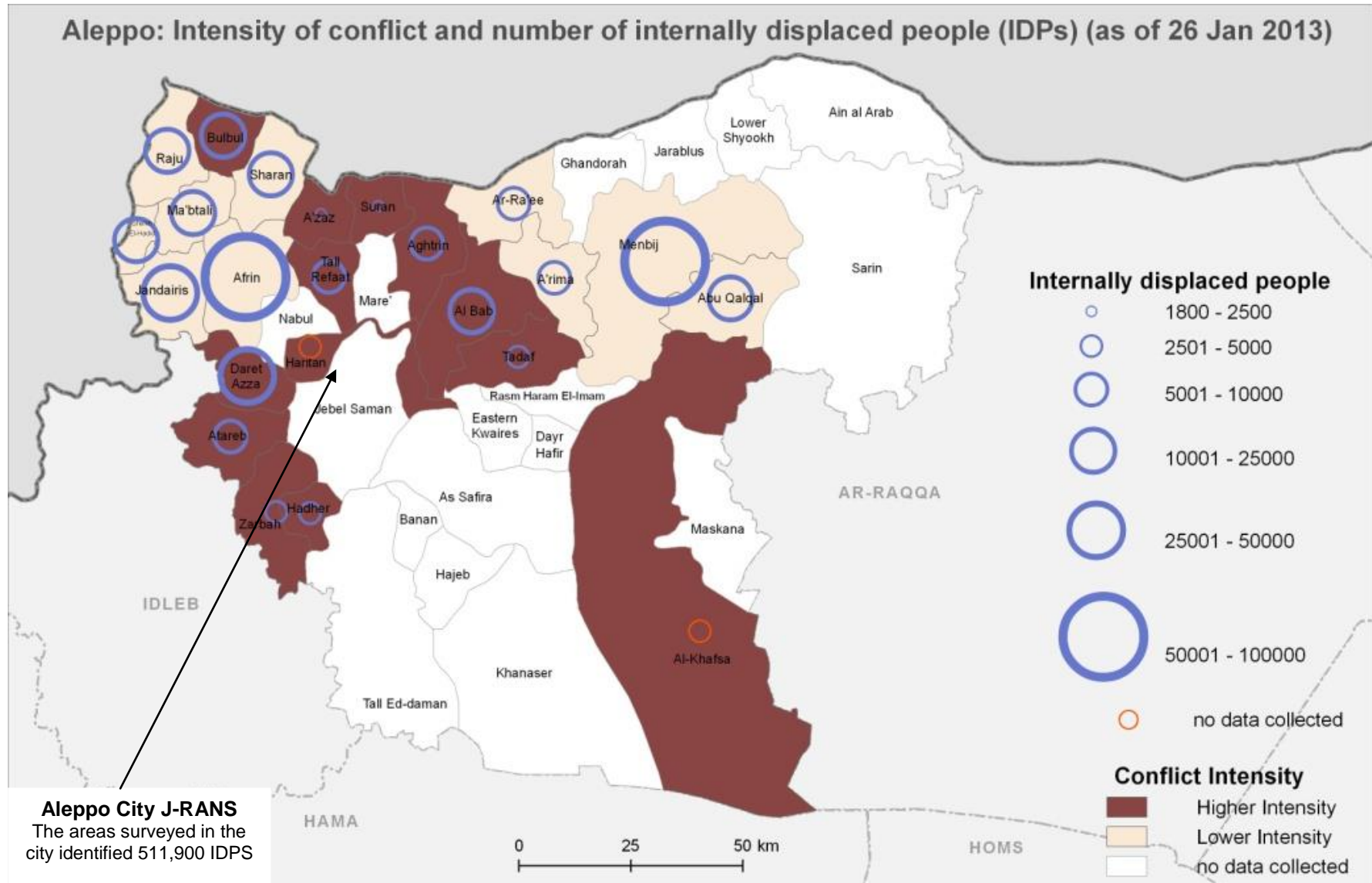
- In January, SARC and OCHA estimated that 400,000 IDPs were residing in Aleppo governorate. Meanwhile, the Government reported 859,000 IDPs to be registered as of February although this figure is considered low, as the J-RANS found that no official registration had been undertaken in 27% of assessed neighbourhoods in Aleppo city. Furthermore, the two J-RANS assessments found 374,000 IDPs residing in 23 of the 40 sub-districts in Aleppo and an additional 510,000 displaced within Aleppo city, indicating at least 884,000 IDPs. ([WFP 2013/02/18](#), [J-RANS 2013/02/17](#) [MOLA 2013/02/04](#))
- Although there is no official border crossing to Turkey, the IDP camp 'Bah el Salam' has been established in A'zaz district for those who cannot (yet) enter Turkey. By 1st of February, WFP estimated 25,000 people to be living in the camp. ([J-RANS 2013/02/17](#))
- 30% of the 859,000 registered IDPs in Syria originate from Aleppo governorate and of those, 76% are displaced within Aleppo governorate. 24% of registered IDPs reside in Aleppo governorate. ([MOLA 2013/02/04](#))
- As expected, the majority of IDPs reside in low conflict intensity areas (see map on the next page). Of the IDPs living in high conflict intensity areas, 55% were women, against 62% in low conflict intensity areas. ([J-RANS 2013/02/17](#)) A possible explanation for this discrepancy is that men stay behind to fight or prefer to remain close to their property, even in high conflict intensity areas, while the

female members of the household flee to the safer low conflict intensity areas. In addition, it is often more difficult for men to pass through security checkpoints, which restricts their movement.

- As law and order is often absent in areas controlled by anti-Government forces, IDPs increasingly flee to areas held by the anti-Government group Al-Nusra Front, as they reportedly are able to provide safety and security to the residents in the areas under their control. ([INGO 2013/03/15](#))
- Within Aleppo city, 56% of the IDPs reside with host families; 33% in vacant buildings and 11% in collective shelters. In the remainder of the governorate, however, the majority of IDPs reside with host families (around 80%) and a much smaller proportion in collective shelters and vacant buildings (7% and 20%). Over 160 schools are hosting IDPs.

	MARCH Aleppo city	JANUARY A'zaz	Afrin	Al Bab	Jebel Saman	Menbij
Pre-conflict population (2011)	3,083,500	139,000	510,000	322,000	264,000	370,000
No who have fled governorate	1,060,200	55,000	75,000	16,000	144,000	120
No of IDPs residing in district	511,900	14,872	196,000	47,500	14,000	102,000
No of sub districts /neighbourhoods covered/total	52/125	4/6	7/7	4/7	5/7	3/4

- During the J-RANS, key informants on sub-district level were asked to describe the relationship between the displaced and the host community. In 85% of the assessed sub-districts, "host communities are willing to assist, but only for a limited time". Due to the relatively lower number of IDPs in HCI areas, the conflict potential between IDPs and host communities is higher in LCI areas.
- **Aleppo city:** 511,900 IDPs currently reside in the 52 assessed neighbourhoods in Aleppo. About one million people have left the city because of the conflict. If the FSA launches an attack to take over Government held areas in Aleppo city, as was recently announced, large scale displacement in a short period of time will take place. ([UNHCR 2013/03/15](#), [INGO 2013/03/15](#))
- **Palestinian refugee camps:** There are two Palestinian refugee camps in Aleppo governorate: Neirab camp with over 20,500 registered refugees, and an unofficial camp Ein-el Tal with 6,000 registered refugees. Increasing numbers of refugees are fleeing from Neirab Camp, Aleppo, due to on-going conflict around the neighbouring international airport. ([UNRWA 2012/12/16](#), [UNRWA n.d.](#), [OCHA 2013/03/18](#))



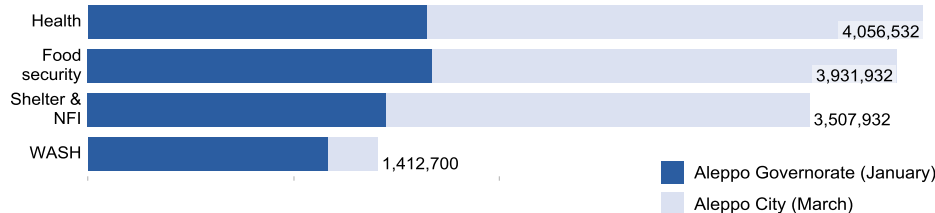
Please note that the estimated number of IDPs per sub-district is an absolute figure. Therefore smaller sub-districts may actually have a higher IDP concentration even though they have a smaller absolute number than larger sub-districts and consequently the impact of the IDP influx does not necessarily correspond directly to the number of IDPs.

Governorate profile (current)

Affected population

During the J-RANS, over 4 million people were identified as in need of humanitarian assistance in Aleppo governorate, which significantly exceeds January working figures of 800,000 people in need. This number includes an estimated 900,000 displaced. ([J-RANS 2013/02/17, J-RANS 2013/03/28](#))

Number of people in need per sector – J-RANS

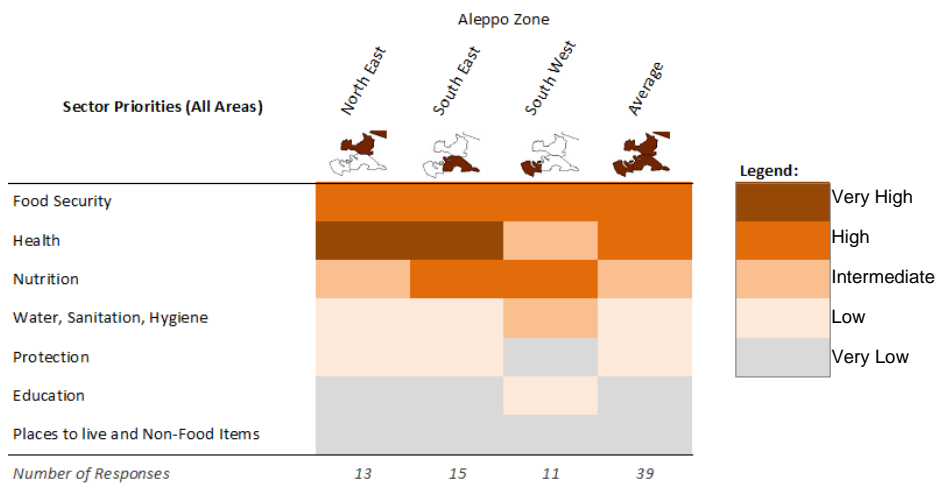


Please note that above figures on Aleppo Governorate only reflect the needs in the 23 sub-districts assessed (out of 40 sub-districts) and the figures on Aleppo City describe the situation in 52 of the 125 neighbourhoods in the city. The assessment did not provide numbers of those in need of education and protection.

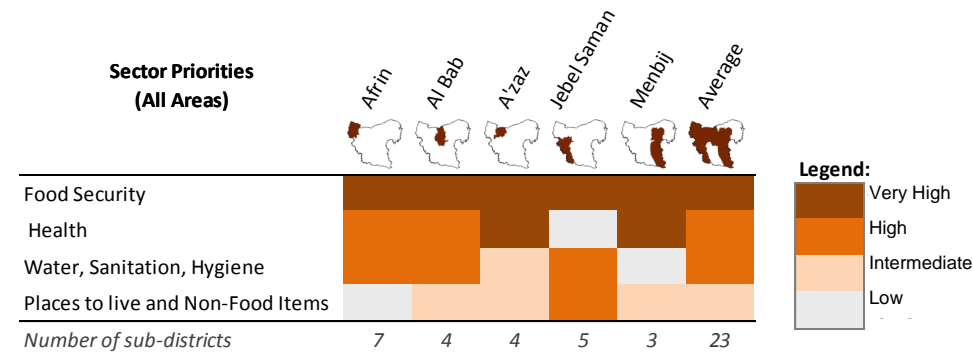
Priorities

The two J-RANS exercises identified the following sectors in descending order of priority:

March 2013 – parts of Aleppo city



January 2013 – parts of Aleppo governorate



Vulnerable groups

Vulnerability among the population is higher for households with lower income prior to the conflict. In January, it was found that some local relief committees established vulnerability criteria around the following parameters:

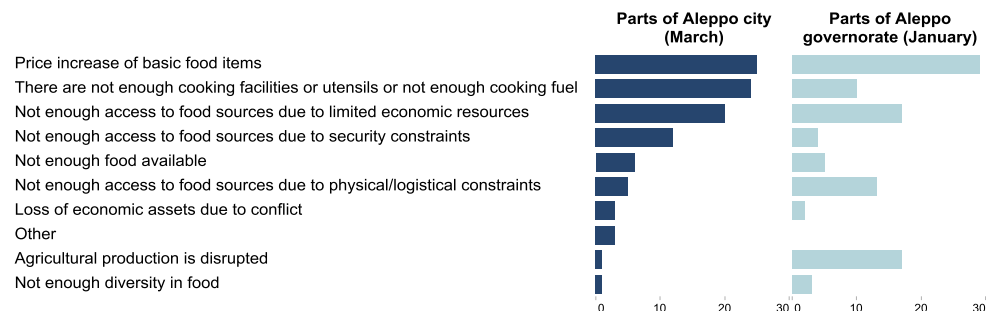
- IDPs living in collective accommodation (and in improvised shelters)
 - IDPs living in host families
 - Resident households facing financial insecurity, often unable to leave contested areas due to lack of resources. Resident population affected by the conflict, resources depletion and low purchase power
 - Families hosting IDPs stretching their resources
- In Aleppo city IDPs in collective shelter appeared to be less vulnerable as they are smaller in numbers, and generally better supported, when compared to other groups.
 - In addition, returnee migrants have been identified as a specific vulnerable group. As a result of the decrease in industrial production, a large part of those previously employed in Aleppo factories is forced to return to rural areas. These returnee migrants often have no employment, income-generating opportunity or property in their places of origin. ([SI 2012/12](#))
 - Among these groups orphans, children, pregnant and lactating women, elderly, adults and children with disabilities and chronic diseases, single-mother headed households were found particularly vulnerable.
 - The elderly tend to be unwilling or unable to leave their place of origin due to poverty, immobility or emotional attachment. The elderly and handicapped also report having specific unattended needs such as incontinence diapers, crutches and wheelchairs.

Protection

- **Main concerns:** Although only limited information is available on the protection situation within Aleppo, the primary protection concern is violence against civilians, including indiscriminate attacks on densely populated areas.
- An increasing number of human rights violations by Government and anti-Government forces are reported. Mistreatment of detainees and individuals arrested by all parties to the conflict is a pressing protection concern, including summary executions and torture. Mass killings and the use of torture has been reported in two infamous state security facilities in Aleppo city, the Air Force intelligence and Military Security. ([Guardian 2013/03/10](#), [Guardian 2013/03/10](#), [HRW 2013/02/26](#), [J-RANS 2013/03/28](#))
- Government-held districts are reportedly safer compared to those areas controlled by anti-Government groups. Law and order is of concern in the latter areas, with over 300 militant factions fighting over control of specific neighbourhoods and increasing accounts of looting, SGBV and criminality. The establishment of a multitude of local courts that do not recognise each other's jurisdiction increases the current security vacuum. The Al-Nusra Front is reportedly able to, for a large part, maintain security in areas under their control. ([AFP 2013/03/23](#), [INGO 2013/03/15](#), [INGO 2013/02/20](#))
- Because of the stigmatisation relating to sexual violence, there is only very limited publicly available information on the subject. However, it can be assumed that SGBV is of concern in Aleppo, as refugees in Syria report an increase in gender based violence throughout the country. In Aleppo it was reported that, as a copying mechanism, families are marrying off their daughters in order to protect them from rape. ([INGO 2013/01](#), [RI 2012/11/16](#), [OCHA 2012/11/07](#))
- Child protection is of serious concern. The J-RANS assessments found that of the over 70,000 people injured or killed in visited areas, 5,500 were children under 5 years of age (around 8%). Eyewitness accounts describe boys as young as 11 or 12 with armed actors and sometimes observed holding weapons. Child labour is reportedly common in Aleppo, with many children selling items on the streets. ([J-RANS 2013/02/17](#), [J-RANS 2013/03/28](#))
- Some people crossing into Turkey from anti-Government controlled areas receive a stamp in their passports from the Turkish authorities. As those originating from rebel held areas are targeted by the Syrian Government, this stamp limits their return to Government controlled areas in Syria. It is unclear if these stamps are a part of Turkish policy or are single events. ([INGO 2013/03/15](#))
- **Access to information:** While in the assessed neighbourhoods in Aleppo city, people are generally well informed about humanitarian assistance, outside the city only around half of the respondents indicated to be well informed about humanitarian assistance. ([J-RANS 2013/02/17](#), [J-RANS 2013/03/27](#))

Livelihoods and food security

**Main food security problems mentioned during J-RANS
(in % of total responses)**



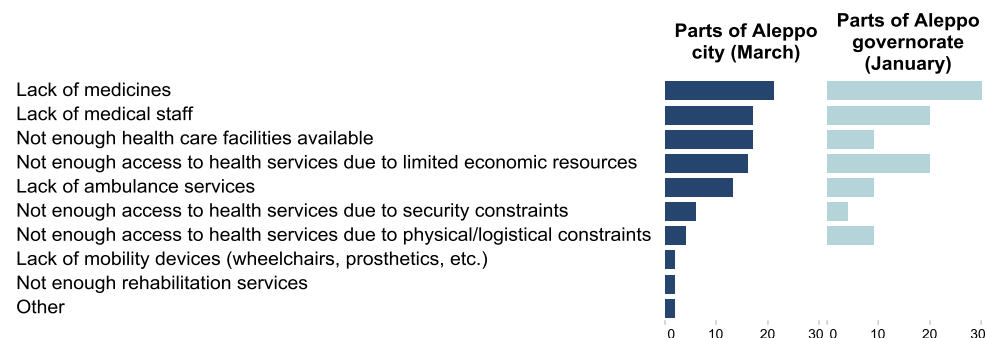
- **Main concerns:** In several assessments, including the J-RANS, food is consistently mentioned as the most urgent need. Although the situation appears not immediately life threatening for the majority of the affected population, most of the assessed neighbourhoods and districts were considered borderline food insecure. Although food is largely available, price increases of basic food items are hampering access to food, while livelihood opportunities have been disrupted. Large scale displacement, destruction of infrastructure and the lack of cooking fuel is limiting food production and cooking. ([J-RANS 2013/02/17](#), [J-RANS 2013/03/28](#))
- **Prices:** Bread prices in Aleppo are the highest in the country, at SYP75-225 a loaf (unsubsidised) up from SYP15 (subsidised) and SYP45 (unsubsidised) prior to the onset of the conflict in March 2011. In some areas, the prices of milk, meat and chicken have risen up to 300%. With the deterioration of the exchange rate, imported goods from Turkey will become even more expensive. Lentils are the only food item for which the price has decreased, as they used to be exported and are currently only sold locally. ([Mercy Corps 2012/12/01](#), [Mercy Corps 2013/12/18](#), [WFP 2013/01](#), [AFP 2013/02/12](#))
- In Aleppo city, the prices of goods are higher in Government controlled areas compared to areas under control of insurgent groups, as Government controlled neighbourhoods are largely cut off from supply routes. In addition, the Government only allows the transport of goods via Damascus and confiscates commodities that are of Turkish origin. As anti-Government groups control the area from north Aleppo up to the Turkish border, the markets in these areas are supplied with Turkish goods. ([INGO 2013/02/20](#))
- **Food availability:** Although food commodities are generally available, in areas facing high levels of conflict, the availability of bread is extremely limited, owing

to the disruption of distribution networks and infrastructure. ([J-RANS 2013/02/17](#), [Mercy Corps 2012/12/12](#), [WFP 2013/01](#), [AFP 2013/02/12](#), [INGO 2013/01](#), [SI, 2012/12](#))

- **Livelihood opportunities:** Limited economic resources are an additional factor influencing food security. People living in the governorate of Aleppo are currently deprived of regular income sources because:
 - The conflict, coupled with increasingly frequent power outages, has brought virtually all factories to a standstill. Machinery is often plundered and sold as parts in Turkey. Industry is the most important income source for workers in the city of Aleppo. In 2009, industrial establishments in Aleppo formed 30% of all establishments in Syria, and the sector provided 30% of the country's total industrial production. ([Der Spiegel 2013/03/06](#), [SCBS 2009](#), [SCBS 2009](#))
 - The closure of the borders and the suspension of trade with Turkey have hampered trade and services.
 - Agricultural output has significantly declined, primarily affecting the rural areas
 - Government wage payment is irregular ([UN News 2013/01/08](#), [BBC 2012/01/17](#), [SI 2012/12](#))
- When there is not enough food in the household, it is the women who eat last. Children are prioritized for food before either male or female adults. ([Mercy Corps 2012/12/01](#))

Health and nutrition

Main health related problems mentioned during J-RANS
(in % of total responses)



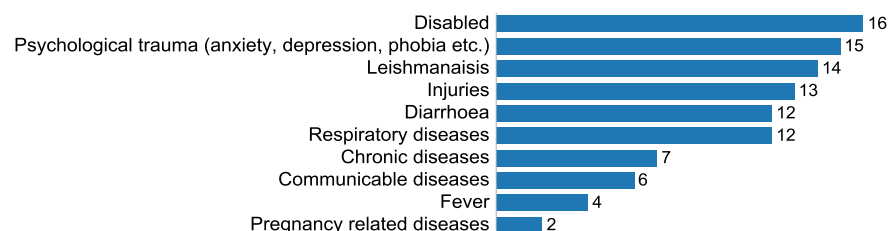
- **Main concerns:** As in the rest of the country, the lack of medicines is a pressing issue, as is the lack of health infrastructure, ambulances and staff members. The lack of livelihood opportunities and a significant increase in prices also impact access to health services, as medicines and transport have become increasingly unaffordable. The available health facilities are more difficult to access due to widespread security and a lack of transport. ([J-RANS 2013/02/17](#), [J-RANS 2013/03/28](#))
- **Medicines:** Aleppo is experiencing a critical shortage of medicines. This is particularly affecting those with chronic diseases - an estimated 9% of the governorate population in 2009. ([Family Health Survey 2009](#), [INGO 2013/02/21](#))
- **Health care infrastructure:** In 2010, there were 209 health centres and 115 hospitals in Aleppo governorate, (17 public and 98 private hospitals). In December 2012, 7 hospitals were no longer functioning and 16% of the health centres and units were non-functional. The largest hospital has been shelled, although the inner parts of hospital are functional. Airstrikes and shelling continue to hamper operations and cause people to avoid hospitals in favour of seeking medical care in clandestine structures. ([MoH 2012/12/31](#), [MSF 2013/01/14](#); [AFP 2013/01/10](#), [PIN 2012/11/17](#))
- At least 70% of the health providers live in rural areas and are therefore frequently unable to access their work place due to irregular public transportation and blocked and unsafe roads. According to one account, the number of professional medics practising in and around Aleppo City has fallen from 5,000 to just 36. ([INGO 2013/03](#), [WHO 2013/03/15](#), [WHO 2012/12/20](#))
- Electricity cuts and fuel shortages continue to affect health care delivery in Aleppo. It is reported that regular power cuts are afflicting all health facilities,

which are struggling to provide the needed services such as laboratory diagnostics, X-ray, ultrasound, cardiac monitoring etc. (WHO 2013/02/25)

- Health system financing in Syria has virtually collapsed in opposition held areas. Government salaries have not been paid for several months, forcing health providers to charge patients for their services or search for other income opportunities. (INGO 2013/01)
- Relief agencies report that better access to an increasing number of health service providers in anti-Government controlled areas at the Turkish border make Aleppo less vulnerable to health concerns, when compared to rural areas and cities under siege, especially in Deir-ez-Zor and Homs governorates. (J-RANS 2013/03/28)

Morbidity and mortality: In addition to the diseases mentioned in the graph, cases of Hepatitis A have been reported, with over 150 confirmed cases in February. (WHO 2013/03/15)

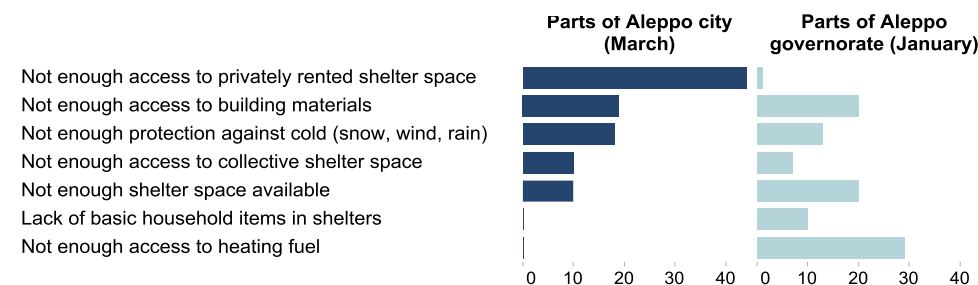
Main health problems mentioned by respondents during March J-RANS in parts of Aleppo city
(in % of total responses)



- Similar to the rest of the country, children’s psychosocial needs have been identified as a key concern in Aleppo governorate. (INGO 2013/01)
- **Nutrition:** In 2009, 12.7% of the children in Aleppo were underweight. There is no information available on the current nutrition situation. However, the risk factors are in place, such as poor feeding practices, displacement, and deteriorating access to health and water and sanitation facilities, and reports of significant number of children with diarrhoea. (INGO 2013/01, Family Health Survey 2009)
- A shortage of infant formula was reported in the governorate while traditionally, a large part of the mothers do not breastfeed. Anecdotal information suggests that breastfeeding has decreased. Before the crisis, the Government controlled the distribution of infant formula. This supply route has been disrupted and supplies from Turkey are unaffordable for most. There is a lack of clean water to prepare infant formula and sterilisation of bottles is an issue. (NGO 2013/01, J-RANS 2013/03/28)

Shelter & NFI

Main shelter related problems mentioned during J-RANS
(in % of total responses)

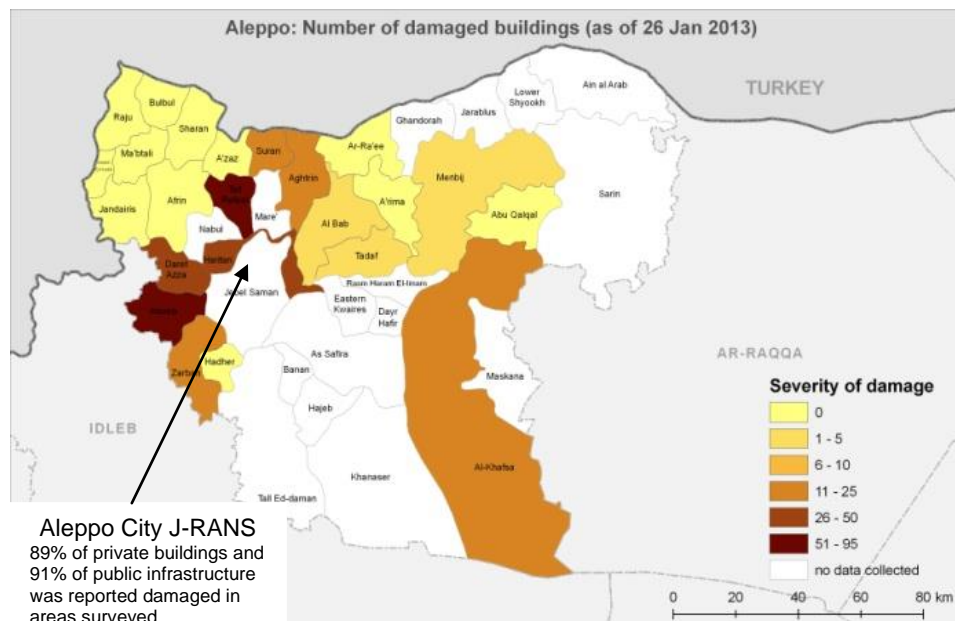


- **Main concerns:** in Aleppo city, the main issue related to shelter is the lack of access to privately rented shelter space. This shortage can be explained by the large number of IDPs residing in the city and the widespread destruction of infrastructure. Outside of Aleppo city, not enough shelter was identified as a main issue as well, although access to privately rented shelter was not. This discrepancy could be explained by the fact that those displaced outside of Aleppo move to safer areas where the infrastructure has been less affected by the conflict and because a large part of the IDPs are staying with host- families.
- With the current rise in temperatures, access to heating fuel has become less of an issue, although the lack protection against the cold, wind and rain is still of concern. On average in March, it rains 10 days a month.

Mean temperature and rainfall per month - WMO

Month	Minimum	Maximum	Mean Number of Rain Days	Mean Total Rainfall (mm)
Jan	2	10	13	60
Feb	2	13	14	52
Mar	5	17	10	46
Apr	9	23	7	34
May	14	29	4	18
Jun	18	34	1	2
Jul	21	36	0	0
Aug	21	36	0	0
Sep	17	33	1	2
Oct	12	27	4	19
Nov	6	17	7	35
Dec	3	12	11	60

- **Damage to infrastructure:** In 2010, there were around 850,000 dwellings in Aleppo governorate. Heavy fighting and air-strikes have caused widespread destruction of buildings – with around 30% of buildings assessed found to be damaged. As fighting has continued since then, this proportion is likely to have increased. During the Aleppo city assessment as much as half of all private buildings (including apartment buildings in urban areas) were found damaged or destroyed. ([SCBS 2011](#), [J-RANS 2013/02/17](#), [J-RANS 2013/03/28](#))

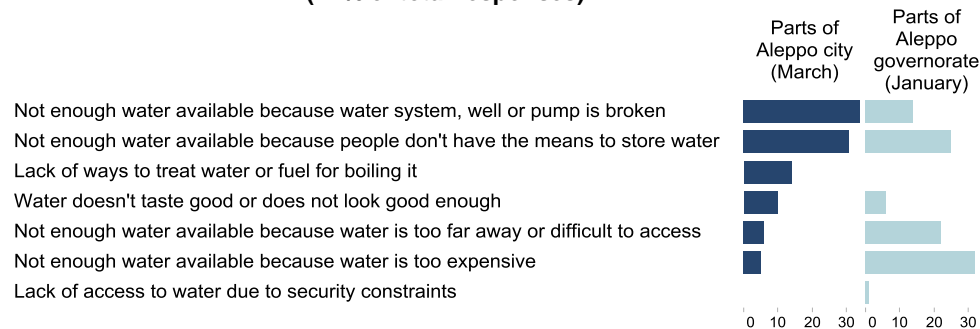


- **IDPs staying in host families and collective centres often live in overcrowded conditions (up to five families in one dwelling) resulting in limited privacy and potential protection issues. Overcrowding has also been reported as a concern in the two IDP camps. Male members of households hosting IDPs are frequently sleeping at mosques to improve the privacy of women in their dwellings.** ([INGO 2013/01](#), [SI 2012/12](#), [SI, 2012/12](#)).
- **Access to NFIs:** Lack of clothing, shoes and baby supplies are some of the main NFI related problems. With a part of the houses damaged or destroyed and large scale displacement, household items such as blankets, mattresses and cooking utensils are reportedly needed. In addition, there is a lack of female hygiene products. ([J-RANS 2013/03/28](#)).

- **Electricity and fuel** Before the crisis, most of the households (99.2%) depended on gas for cooking. There is a severe shortage of fuel, which limits food production and transport. As temperatures are rising, the demand for heating fuel is falling, resulting in a decrease in fuel prices although the current prices are still far above the pre-crisis average. ([MICS 2006](#), [J-RANS 2013/02/17](#))
- In 2011, almost all homes have electricity. Currently however, electricity supply is very low throughout the governorate and in some areas, such as, 38 assessed neighbourhoods of Aleppo city, electricity has been unavailable for months. Electricity shortages significantly hamper health care delivery and water supply as the water system in Aleppo city is dependent on electricity and. ([PIN 2012/11/17](#), [J-RANS 2013/02/17](#), [J-RANS 2013/03/28](#), [AFP 2013/01/04](#), [UNRWA 2013/01/11](#)).
- FSA is reportedly in a position to take over the main electricity plant east of the city, but refraining from doing so out of fear that the Government will use aerial bombardments to regain control. As this plant serves Aleppo city as well as the surrounding areas, destruction of the facility would result in major electricity blackouts. ([INGO 2013/02/20](#))

WASH

Main water related problems mentioned during J-RANS (in % of total responses)



- **Main concerns:** While access to potable water was almost universal before the crisis, UNICEF identified Aleppo as one of the six governorates in Syria where access to water and sanitation is 'extremely limited' in February. The lack of electricity needed to supply water, lack of maintenance and damage to water networks, including wells and pumps, are the main issue influencing water availability. Water trucking is used as an alternative source for water, however prices are high. In addition, there is limited storage space for water. ([UNICEF 2013/02/08](#))
- Difficulties have been reported in utilizing some of the chemicals to clean water, (sodium hypochlorite), delivered by UNICEF, due to lack of injection pumps and insufficient power supply to adequately chlorinate the water supply system. ([UNICEF 2013/03/07](#))
- Water in the Queiq river is contaminated, one reason being the human corpses which were recently found in the river.
- **Sanitation:** All schools and most houses are equipped with toilets connected to sewage systems. The main issue is the lack of water to flush and clean the toilets and access to water and soap. ([J-RANS 2013/03/27](#))
- **Hygiene:** High incidence of diarrhoea, skin diseases, lice, Hepatitis A and C are being reported and can be linked to inadequate hygiene practices in the governorate, mostly due to unavailability of hygiene products and water rather than from limited knowledge on hygiene practices. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find hygiene items such as diapers and sanitary towels and prices are becoming unaffordable for many. Hygiene practices are often disrupted by the lack of dedicated space for bathing. In rented houses, barns, schools etc., there are no bathrooms and people have to take turn to wash, or go outside in the yard ([WHO 2012/09/11](#), [UNHCR 2012/11/30](#), [OCHA 2012/12/24](#), [SI 2012/12](#)).
- In Aleppo city, there are increasing health risks due to inadequate waste management causing widespread build-up of garbage and cessation of basic

Education

- The education sector is severely affected, with 38% of public schools (out of over 3,000) damaged or used as shelters in the governorate. Attendance rates are the lowest of the country at 6%. According to the key informants in 52 assessed neighbourhoods in Aleppo City, education for children is currently largely provided in other, improvised facilities such as mosques (average 67%). ([UNICEF 2013/03/15](#), [J-RANS 2013/03/27](#))
- The main reason for children not attending school is that the school buildings are not functioning, followed by lack of safety/fear of schools being bombed or targeted, lack of school materials, lack or absence of teachers and the lack of water and sanitation facilities in school buildings. ([J-RANS 2013/03/27](#))

J-RANS Results January 2013 – Severity of needs per sector

