

# REGIONAL ANALYSIS SYRIA

27 February 2013

## Part I – Syria

*This Regional Analysis of the Syria Conflict (RAS) is an update of the **January RAS**. This Regional Analysis of the Syria Conflict (RAS) seeks to bring together information from all sources in the region and provide holistic analysis of the overall Syria crisis. While Part I focuses on the situation within Syria, Part II covers the impact of the crisis on the neighbouring countries. The Syria Needs Analysis Project welcomes all information that could complement this report. For additional information, comments or questions, please email [SNAP@ACAPS.org](mailto:SNAP@ACAPS.org).*

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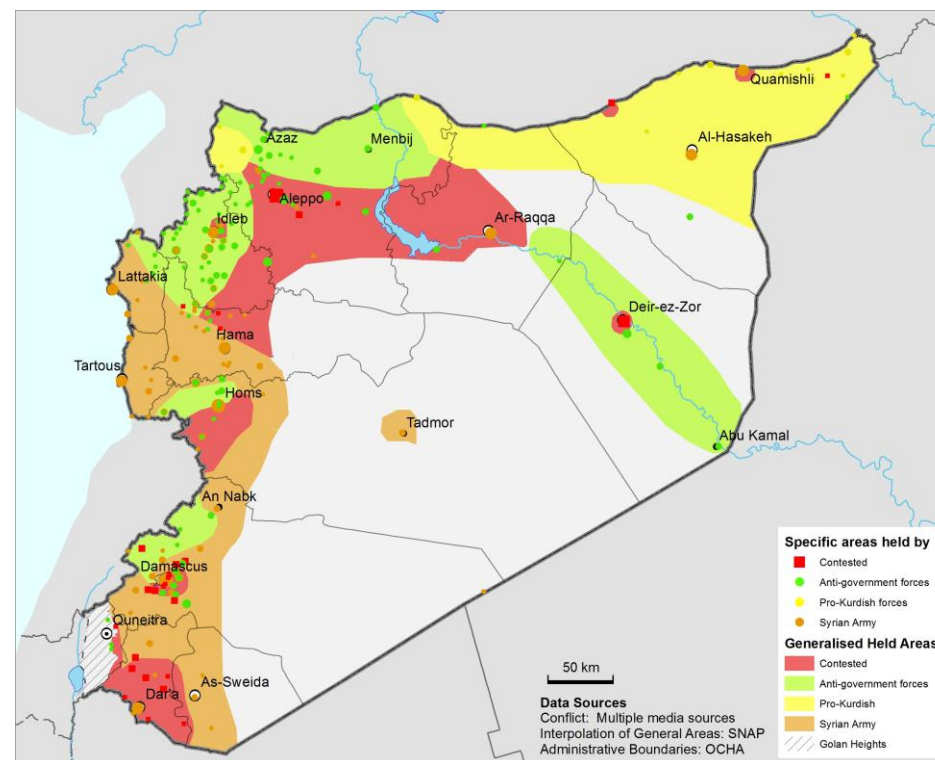
[Annex A: Definitions Humanitarian Profile](#)

 Red flags indicate new information

## Priority needs

- The priority needs below are based on known information. Little or no information is available for the, relatively calm, governorates of As-Sweida, Hama, Tartous, Quneitra. In addition, there is scarce information available on Rural Damascus governorate, although the humanitarian situation is reportedly dire.
- With intense fighting continuing in significant parts of the country, and hostilities escalating in and around Damascus, the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate. **PROTECTION** remains a key concern throughout the country, specifically:
  - direct threat to life from the conflict
  - human rights violations
  - gender based violence
  - child recruitment.
- As in January, **FOOD** continues to be a priority for all governorates, especially so in the north (specifically Aleppo) where bakeries have been targeted with airstrikes; fuel is scarce and access to food is severely limited in areas under siege. Poor harvest and increasing unemployment, pre-existing issues now compounded by the conflict, make the provision of food assistance and support to food production essential. The **HEALTH** situation on the ground is rapidly deteriorating, with services in Aleppo, Damascus, Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Hama, Homs and Deir-ez-Zor and in rural area of Dar'a overwhelmed and in need of medical personnel, facilities, and supplies (to treat trauma cases; disease and chronic illnesses such as diabetes). Waterborne diseases, including typhoid, are on the rise and access to **WASH** facilities is an increasing priority, particularly in areas facing extended electricity cuts, large scale structural damage and areas where Government services can no longer maintain water networks. With winter coming to an end, the need for winterisation decreases. However, continuing destruction of homes and large-scale displacement result in an increasing need for **SHELTER** and **NFI** for IDPs.

## Government and anti-Government held areas as at February 2013



## Overview

- Fierce fighting has continued in and around the key towns of Aleppo, Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Homs, Idlib and in rural Damascus while the conflict has intensified significantly in Damascus city. Although both the Government and opposition have indicated a willingness to engage in talks, an end to the conflict remains remote. Limited humanitarian activities continue through the SARC, LCCs and numerous local NGOs and CBOs although some areas are reportedly receiving very little assistance at all.
- **Displacement:** In February, 2.3 million IDPs have been identified across parts of 10 governorates, which challenges the original working assumption of 2 million people being internally displaced. Despite the availability of these estimates, there remains little clarity on the total numbers of IDPs in Syria. Ministries of the Government of Syria report 155,000 IDPs residing in over 690 collective centres and more in some 1,466 schools but no figures are available for the number residing in private accommodation (with or without host families). While the vast majority (around 80%) of displaced reside with host families, it is estimated that 4% (80,000 or so) sleep rough, in caves, parks or barns etc. Not all IDPs are in need of assistance (see the

Humanitarian Profile and Sectoral Analysis Sections for more details). (MoLA 2013/02, MoE/UNICEF 2012/12, OCHA 2013/01/28, Shelter cluster)

- **Humanitarian access continues to be highly restricted:** Access for the UN, CBOs and NGOs to those in need varies widely across the country and is affected by:
  - On-going conflict: many of the organisations in Syria are able to access the contested areas but on an ad hoc basis between fighting.
  - The GoS restricting access within areas under its control – although the UN has negotiated cross lines assistance during February.
  - Political constraints of humanitarian actors to work in rebel-held areas.
  - Logistical issues: few organisations work in the more remote areas such as Deir-ez-Zor, Al-Hasakeh, and Ar-Raqqa. Local humanitarian response by the Syrian population, and diaspora, remains significant, ranging from volunteers helping to provide medical services, to host families providing refuge to those displaced.

## Information gaps and data limitations

### Baseline data

No additional baseline data has become available in February, so the following baseline information for Syria is still lacking:

- The latest 2004 census is relatively old and therefore does not reflect the impact of recent significant events such as the influx of an estimated 1 - 1.5 million Iraqi refugees and four 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.
- Although the Central Bureau of Statistics collects market data such as CPI and unemployment figures, information on market flows is lacking.
- There is no recent information available on the ethnic composition in Syria. ([Izady, 2012](#))
- The location and number of some Palestinian refugees is unclear. The pre-crisis number of Palestinians in camps in Syria was around 338,000, while the total number of registered refugees stands at 496,000 according to UNRWA. It is unclear whether this discrepancy derives from a large number of Palestinians residing outside of camps or from Palestinians not deregistering when they leave Syria; most probably a combination of both.
- There is a lack of information on the number and location of migrants and unregistered refugees who were residing in Syria before the start of the crisis.
- Locations of critical infrastructure are only partly available (bakeries, places of worship, power stations, and health facilities).

### In crisis data

- With significant constraints for humanitarian actors to operate in the country, assessing the needs remains a major challenge. The first large scale multi-sectoral assessment providing information on needs, priorities and numbers of affected and displaced was undertaken in January 2013. The Joint Rapid Assessment in Northern Syria (J-RANS), a collaborative effort between a range of humanitarian actors, facilitated by the Assistance Coordinated Unit of the Syria National Council, covered 45% of six northern governorates, representing 34% of the total population.
- The Government tightly controls all assessments planned and undertaken in Government held areas. ([ECHO 12/12/02](#)) As a result, more information is currently available on the northern rebel controlled areas.
- There are few possibilities for international aid agencies to confirm numbers and needs of the vulnerable population. In areas not covered by the J-RANS, the understanding of their needs and the identification of the beneficiaries is for a large part done by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society (SARC), supported locally by charities and communities.
- Organisations are hesitant to share data regarding their operations in the north as visibility in this area could compromise their (possible future) access to Government controlled areas.
- Access, insecurity levels and international attention differs per governorate and these factors influence the amount of data available on needs per governorate.

### Information availability

None / very limited	As-Sweida, Damascus (rural), Hama, Tartous, Quneitra
Some	Damascus (city), Dar'a, Homs
Most	Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Idleb, Lattakia

**Information gaps:** Urgent information needs on a governorate level are:

- **Affected population in all areas not covered by the J-RANS:** information on priority needs, disaggregated by affected group (IDPs, host-communities).
- Number of IDPs in host families, collective accommodation and unoccupied houses.
- **Protection:** Precise information on which area is controlled by the Government, anti-Government actors or is contested.
- Number of people living in high intensity conflict areas.
- Location, number and needs of third country nationals and refugees residing in Syria. UNRWA recently started localising displaced Palestinian refugees in

Syria and successfully located around 12,000 Palestinians. However, this is only a small fraction of the total number of displaced refugees. ([UNRWA 2013/02/22](#))

- Cases and location of SGBV, unaccompanied children, number of cases of psychological trauma.
- **Livelihoods and food security:** number of food insecure in all areas not covered by the J-RANS.
- Market prices, availability of products per sub districts.
- **Shelter:** Number and status of destroyed and damaged occupied buildings.
- **WASH:** The status of the urban water networks per governorate (functional, partly functional, not functional).
- **Health:** Disease surveillance system data records at clinic and field hospital
- Information on the nutrition status of children <5 years of age and other vulnerable groups such as elderly.
- **Education:** Current information on functional/temporary schools in conflict affected areas.
- **Response:** Relief actors operational per sector and location.

### On-going and planned assessments

- A J-RANS assessment of Aleppo city is to be completed by end March. J-RANS Phase II is focussing on the areas of the six northern governorates that were not assessed under J-RANS Phase I, and Hama governorate. The results will be available by the beginning of April.
- Results of the MoA, FAO and WFP Joint Rapid Food Security Assessment conducted in December 2012 are due in February, but were not available at the time of publication of this report.
- OCHA, in consultation with sector lead agencies, is facilitating a coordinated assessment approach to encourage inter-agency actions to:
  - harmonise the collection of assessment data, including through identification of key emergency indicators;
  - standardise and scale-up inter-sector, cluster/sector and single-agency assessments within Syria; and
  - undertake structured periodic monitoring of the situation and needs within Syria through Refugee Place of Origin Perception Assessments and triangulated through secondary data analysis.

### Operational constraints

- The opposition stated that international aid provided is being distributed unequally between Government and opposition controlled areas, with the areas under Government control receiving nearly all international aid. Access

of the affected population to humanitarian assistance is restricted mostly due to blockades, curfews, lack of communication, active hostilities and conflict-related damage of the infrastructure. Both Government troops and rebel groups have cut off movement in and out of certain areas to control supply chains, thereby disabling population movement. In addition, the humanitarian focus has reportedly been on conflict affected 'hot spots', leaving out relatively calm areas with a high number of IDPs. ([MSF 2013/01/29](#), [ECHO 2013/01/14](#), [PI 2012/12/10](#), [AFP 2012/11/26](#))

- At the end of January, UN organisations and INGOs were allowed cross-line activities - aid deliveries that originate in Damascus and are taken to opposition-held areas. However, humanitarian assistance may not be sent to opposition areas directly from neighbouring countries and UN agencies are not allowed to work across borders without Syria's consent, unless the UN Security Council authorises such efforts. As a result, only a limited amount of actors operate in the rebel held areas of the country. The actors operating in these areas do so without Government permission and in a highly insecure environment. ([HRW 2013/02/11](#))
- The Syrian Government has recently authorised three additional INGOs (the Norwegian Refugee Council, Mercy Corps and Merlin) to provide assistance in Syria, in addition to the UN and eight INGOs (namely Action Contre La Faim, Première Urgence, Danish Refugee Council, International Medical Corps, Help, Institut Européen de Coopération et de Développement (IECD), Secours Islamique France, Terre des Hommes Italy) that were already allowed to operate in Government-held areas. ([OCHA 2013/02/18](#), [UN 2012/12/18](#), [ECHO 2013/01/14](#), [UN 2013/01/16](#))

### Insecurity

- Humanitarian operations are severely hampered by the deteriorating security situation, constantly shifting frontlines and multiplicity of armed actors. Security incidents targeting the on-going aid distribution have increased. Humanitarian aid convoys have increasingly come under attack, sometimes caught in crossfire, but sometimes specifically hijacked for their goods or the vehicles themselves. Mortars have landed and shoot-outs have taken place in the proximity of UN offices. ([HRW 2013/02/11](#), [UNHCR 2013/01/13](#), [IRIN 2012/12/03](#), [UNHCR 23/11/2012](#))
- SAF air strikes on medical facilities continue and there are increasing levels of violence against humanitarian workers. ([HRW 2013/02/11](#), [IRIN 2012/12/27](#))
- Palestinian refugee camps are becoming increasingly inaccessible to UNRWA, as armed groups control entry to a part of the camps and as fighting in and around the camps escalate, particularly in Damascus and Rural Damascus. ([UNRWA 2013/02/22](#), [UNRWA, 2013/02/19](#), [OCHA 2013/01/07](#))
- Fighting and worsening security conditions in Damascus continue to hamper humanitarian agencies access to some warehouses. ([UNHCR 2012/12/17](#), [WFP 2012/12/04](#), [OCHA 2013/02](#))

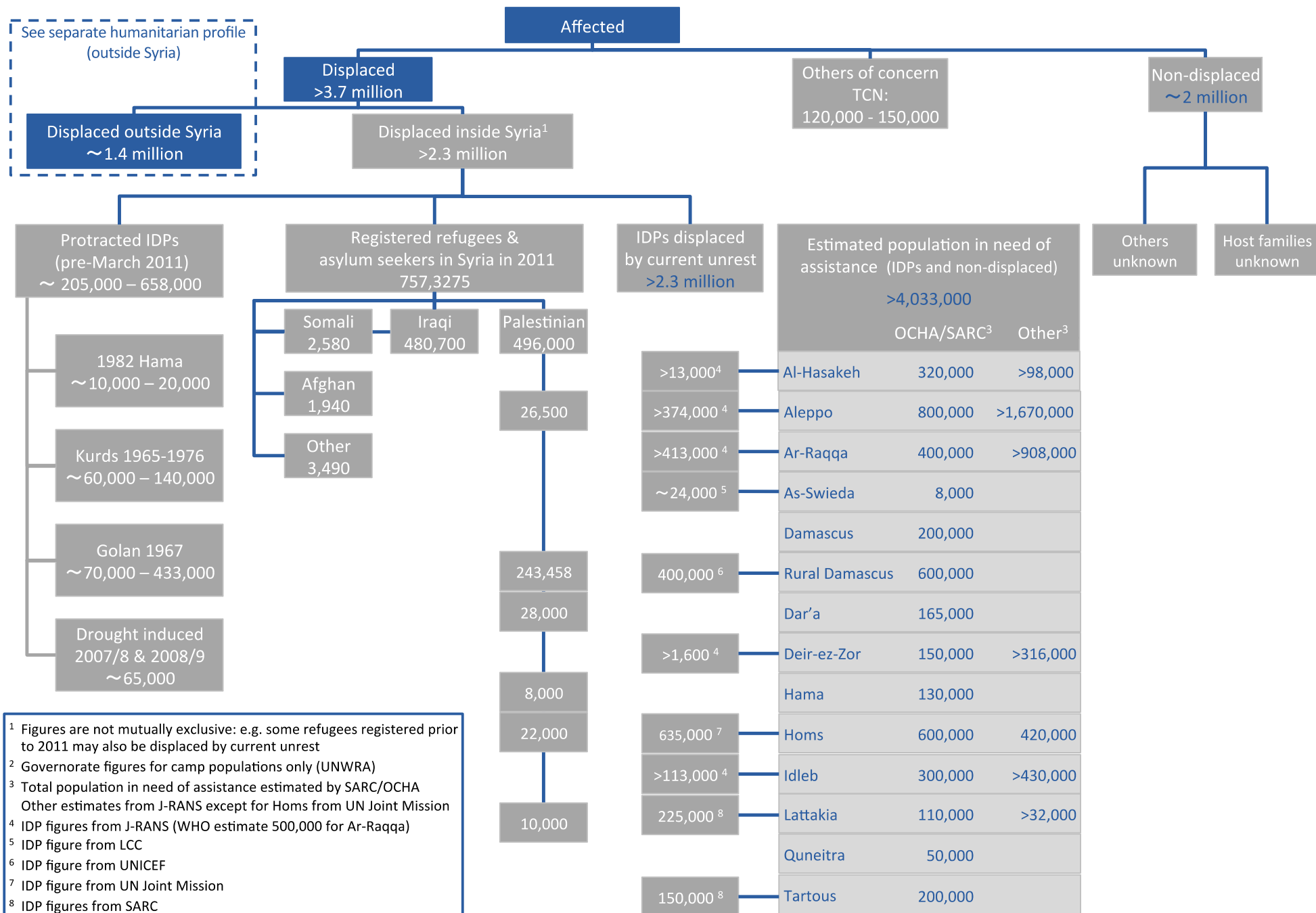
### **Logistics and lack of fuel**

- Significant fuel shortages have caused delays to aid convoys and aid distribution. ([OCHA 2012/12/12](#), [DRC 2012/11/27](#), [BBC 2012/12/18](#))
- Due to the closure of main routes in many of the main cities, and the inaccessibility of certain urban neighbourhoods, congestion hampers the mobility of humanitarian actors. ([INGO 2012/12/18](#))
- Securing trucks for distribution and aid operations has become more expensive and difficult. While Tartous and Lattakia ports remain operational, the lack of trucks and frequent diesel scarcity in Tartous governorate impede the supply chain. ([UN 2012/12/18](#), [WFP 2012/08/25](#))
- With regular interruptions in voice and data communication, unreliable telecommunications hamper humanitarian operations. ([WFP 2012/08/18](#))
- There is a lack of available commodities on local markets and agencies are increasingly forced to source relief items on the international markets. However, international sanctions are restricting the flow of cash to Syria and hamper international procurement. ([British Red Cross 2013/02/22](#), [IRIN 2013/01/25](#))

### **Diversion of aid**

- Diversion of aid, by both the Syrian Armed Forces and anti-Government elements, reportedly occurs frequently. ([INGO 2013/01/25](#))
- Although the FSA support assessments, they are unaware of the concept of humanitarian space and the distinction between aid for the civilian population and aid for the FSA. ([INGO 2012/11/06](#))
- There are reports of international aid sent to the SARC being confiscated by the regime and not reaching civilians in need. This was, however, denied by WFP and ICRC. SARC has come under increasing pressure in terms of their ability to maintain access to all parts of the country. ([AlertNet 12/12/14](#), [AFP 12/11/07](#))

## Humanitarian profile (see annex A for definitions)

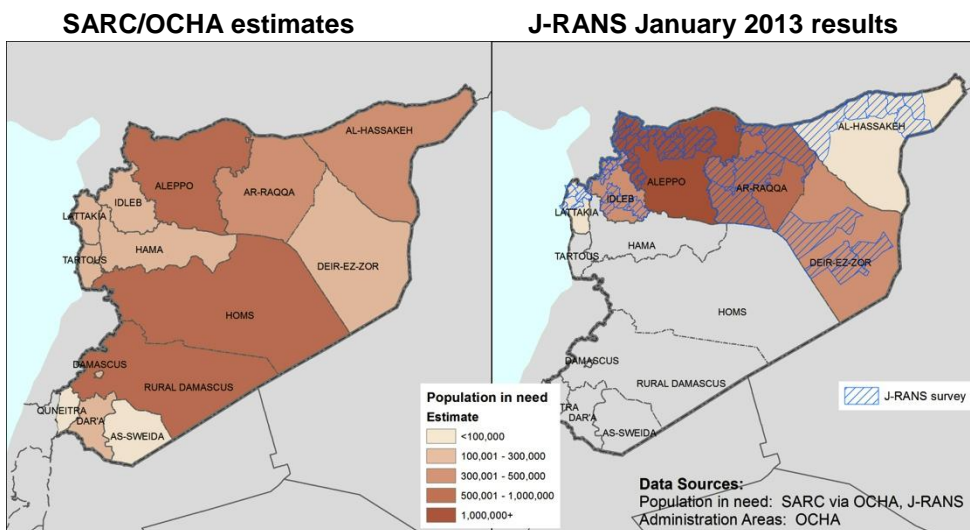


<sup>1</sup> Figures are not mutually exclusive: e.g. some refugees registered prior to 2011 may also be displaced by current unrest  
<sup>2</sup> Governorate figures for camp populations only (UNWRA)  
<sup>3</sup> Total population in need of assistance estimated by SARC/OCHA. Other estimates from J-RANS except for Homs from UN Joint Mission  
<sup>4</sup> IDP figures from J-RANS (WHO estimate 500,000 for Ar-Raqqa)  
<sup>5</sup> IDP figure from LCC  
<sup>6</sup> IDP figure from UNICEF  
<sup>7</sup> IDP figure from UN Joint Mission  
<sup>8</sup> IDP figures from SARC

## Country sectoral analysis

More detail on the specific needs of each governorate can be found on the governorate pages that follow the summary of country-wide sectoral issues.

### Number of people in need



- No definitive numbers exist for those in need or those displaced within Syria. The SARC has estimated the total number in need in each governorate and suggested that approximately half are displaced.
- A UN joint mission to Homs found significantly more IDPs although not all were deemed to be 'in need of assistance'.
- The first phase of the Joint Rapid Assessment of Northern Syria (J-RANS) covered only part (58 sub-districts, representing 45%) of the 6 northern governorates but found significantly higher numbers for those displaced and in need in many areas. The J-RANS figures cannot be extrapolated as access was constrained primarily by security issues – so many of the areas not accessed are likely to be of higher conflict intensity and possibly not hosting so many IDPs. However, those remaining may be in need. ([J-RANS 2013-02-17](#))
- As the J-RANS found 3.2 million people to be in need in only 45% of the northern governorates, and the UN joint mission found 400,000 to be in need in Homs alone, it is likely that the total number of people in need of assistance countrywide far exceeds the current 4 million estimate. ([J-RANS 2013-02-17](#))

## Livelihoods and food security

**Number of affected:** 3 million Syrians are at risk of food insecurity and 2.5 million people are in urgent need of food assistance. ([OCHA 2013/01/26](#))

**Most affected governorates:** Aleppo, Dar'a, and Homs.

### Availability:

- The sharp reduction in milling capacities (by about 75%) in Aleppo, is affecting the supply of wheat flour and bread, particularly in eastern governorates of Latakia, Idlib and Tartous. ([WFP 2013/01/31](#))
- Agricultural production, which officially accounts for 20% of Syria's gross domestic product, continues, but has suffered severely from the conflict. Wheat and barley production dropped to under 2 million MT in 2012 from 4 - 4.5 million MT in normal years. Preliminary results of a joint WFP, FAO and Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform assessment on food security levels, show that only 5% of farmers sampled have been able to fully harvest winter crops. Around 20% of farmers reported complete inability to harvest their crops. The remaining 75% reported varying degrees of harvesting. Insecurity, access constraints and poor yield were among the main reasons cited for the limited harvest. In addition, rain and snow make transport of commodities, including food, even more difficult. ([USIP 2013/01/09](#))
- Although decreased, cross-border trade is on-going and most basic food items are still available in the markets. It is estimated that Syria had approximately 2.9 million tons of wheat in reserve in silos around the country prior to the 2012 harvest. The remaining flour in these warehouses is able to fill a gap in areas that are no longer supplied by the north, where a large part of the flour is produced, or from neighbouring countries. In some areas, e.g. in Aleppo governorate, anti-Government armed groups have reportedly looted warehouses, resulting in a lack of the staple food. ([USA 2012/06/12](#), [INGO 2013/01/25](#))
- In areas of fighting, shortages of food commodities such as bread are common. Shortages of wheat flour have been reported in most parts of the country due to the damage to mills as well as a lack of fuel for delivery, road closures and difficult access. Fuel shortages are impacting transportation, food production and trade. ([AlertNet 12/12/06](#), [UN 2013/01/08](#))

### Access:

- WFP reported that the average monthly inflation in 2012 (January-September) was 32%, double the rate of 2008, when the global food price crisis occurred. During January-September 2012, average monthly food inflation is high in all governorates, with the highest rates recorded in Aleppo and Homs (+36%), Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor and Al-Hasakeh (+35%), due to the effects of the conflict, economic sanctions and trade restrictions from Turkey. ([WFP 2013/01/31](#))

- Food insecurity is growing not only due to inflation, but also due to insecurity hampering mobility and increasing prices. The availability of cheap food was a cornerstone of domestic policy, but due to the conflict, external sanctions, rise in fuel prices and border closures, this system has collapsed. Consequently, prices have increased dramatically. Conflict affected areas have seen prices up to 50% higher than in less affected areas. ([WFP 2012/11/15](#), [Alertnet 2012/12/14](#), [INGO 2012/12](#))

### Livelihoods:

- The erosion of the Syrian state and the emergence of areas under control of anti-Government forces, have brought a rapid spread of informal as well as illicit economic activity. Recent estimates suggest that 80% of the workforce is now engaged in informal activity, up from 30% a year ago. ([Clingendael 2012/11/01](#))
- The fragility of the banking system and the impossibility of transferring money via banks mean the Syrian economy has become almost entirely cash-based. ([Clingendael 2012/11/01](#))
- Unemployment rose from 9% in 2010 to 25% by September 2012 although a report by the Syrian Centre for Policy Research estimated an increase in unemployment rate to 34.9% by the end of 2012: a loss of 1.5 million job opportunities that is expected to impact 6 million Syrians. ([FAO 2012/10/19](#), [FAO 12/09/24](#), [SCPR 2013/01](#))
- Migration, both between governorates as well as to neighbouring countries is a common livelihood strategy. Migration is currently hampered and returnee migrant labourers to their places of origin are seriously threatened due to lack of employment opportunities and fast depletion of resources. Solidarités International reports that some returnees do not own property in their native village and are basically living as IDPs in their own community. ([WFP 2012/06/01](#), [SI 2012/12](#))
- Pastoralists are pushed to sell animals below market prices due to increased animal feed prices, limited availability of animal feed and difficulties in marketing livestock and livestock products were identified as the main factors pushing pastoralists to sell animals below market prices. ([OCHA 2013/01/07](#), [FAO 2013/01/23](#))

### Coping mechanisms

- As a result of food shortages, households have reduced the number of meals, consuming cheaper or lower quality food, reducing portion sizes, withdrawing children from school, selling livestock and other assets, and cutting back on medical and educational expenses. ([WFP 2013/02/04](#))

## Health

**Number of affected:** no information available

**Most affected governorates:** Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Homs and Idlib

### Health infrastructure and supplies:

- The shortage of medicines is becoming more critical, both in public sector hospitals and medical clinics and in private sector facilities. Increased prices in raw material, shortage of fuel and the development of hostilities in Aleppo, where most of the pharmaceutical companies are located, have limited the local production of drugs and affected the supply of medicines in most of the governorates. Hospitals are in severe need of anaesthesia, antibiotics, serums and other essential medicines. Local pharmacies are increasingly unable to provide basic medicines, such as pain killers, and health authorities in the governorates are not receiving sufficient supplies from central authorities. ([WHO 2013/02/01](#))

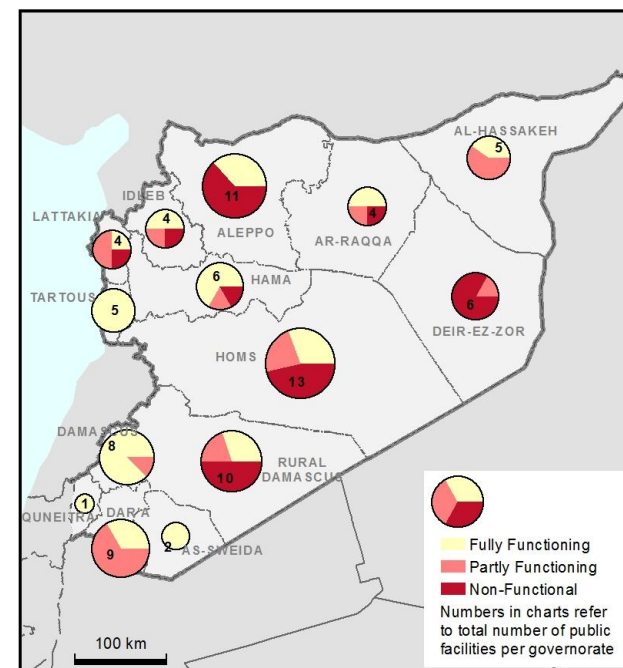
- Specific concerns remain for the chronically sick. In October 2012, it was estimated that more than half of those chronically ill have been forced to interrupt their treatment. Insulin is no longer available in some of the areas affected by the conflict.

There are more than 430,000 registered patients in Syria (of which 40,000 are children) with insulin dependent diabetes.

([AJM 2012/10/12](#), [WHO 2012/11/26](#), [WHO 2012/12/20](#), [GoS 2012/12/19](#))

- WHO announced on 5 February that the National Hospital had been destroyed. WHO reports that over 55% of public hospitals have been damaged and one third of all hospitals destroyed. As can be seen on the map, in the governorate of Deir-ez-Zor, all hospitals are either non-functional or only partially functional. There is no information

**Functioning of public hospitals as of 31/12/2012**  
MoH



available on the status of private health facilities. ([WHO 2013/02/05](#), [WHO 2013/01/18](#))

- ✦ In January, only 40% of UNRWA's health clinics were operational due to targeted violence against health workers and the destruction and looting of clinics and health centres.
- Functioning hospitals are overwhelmed and operations are hampered by shortages of medical supplies and electricity blackouts. Reports indicate that a large number of health personnel have left the country. Remaining health workers struggle to get to work due to road blocks and security issues. ([WHO 2012/12/20](#))
- ✦ In addition, there are a large number of reports of targeted attacks on hospitals, patients arrested inside hospitals and reprisals against doctors and nurses. In Aleppo, Dar'a, Damascus and Hama, wounded and sick persons were reportedly refused treatment on sectarian or political grounds, or avoided seeking treatment in Government administered hospitals owing to a well-founded fear of arrest and torture. Consistent accounts indicate that, in Dar'a and Homs, snipers positioned at checkpoints in front of hospitals impeded access to treatment. ([ICRC 2013/02/15](#), [UN Human Rights Council 2013/02/05](#), [USAID 2013/01/17](#), [OCHA 11/29/12](#))
- ✦ While 50% of ambulances were reportedly out of service at the end of 2012, this proportion currently stands at 2/3rds. New ambulances are being used for military purposes. Rural areas are particularly vulnerable due to the increased challenges involved in accessing health facilities as a result of high transportation costs, lack of communication and limited movement. ([UN 2013/02/05](#))

### **Morbidity and mortality:**

- ✦ An outbreak of Leishmaniasis has been reported, with 955 cases since 23 September, mostly from four governorates: Hama, al-Hasakeh, rural Damascus and Homs. As Cutaneous Leishmania is known to be endemic in Syria, particularly in Aleppo, population movement and the deterioration in sanitary conditions coupled with the lack of proper waste management, have provided an environment conducive to an increase in the number of reported cases in areas previously with lower incidence of the disease. As it is not yet sand-fly season, measures to control sand-flies (such as spraying) are not effective yet. All of the current human cases were likely to have been infected in September/October 2012 and the sores are appearing now after an incubation period of up to 3 months. ([WHO 2013/02/01](#), [WHO 2013/02/10](#))
- ✦ WHO reports that there has been a rise in suspected cases of Hepatitis A in Syria, particularly among internally displaced people (IDPs), in Aleppo and Idlib and some crowded IDP shelters in Damascus. Approximately 80% of cases are children <15 years of age. ([UNICEF 2013/02/22](#), [UN 2013/02/05](#))
- According to WHO, 93% of morbidity cases reported in the first week of 2013 were due to influenza-like illnesses. Lack of access to safe drinking water and appropriate sanitation has led to an increase in waterborne diseases.

Respiratory illnesses, cases of Hepatitis A and diarrhoeic infections are increasing. In addition, the on-going violence results in increasing mental health problems. ([WHO 2012/12/20](#), [AFP 2012/12/19](#), [OCHA 2013/01/21](#))

- The unrest has created challenges in implementing the routine national immunization programme and national vaccination coverage for the first quarter of 2012 dropped from 95% to 80%.
- ✦ **Maternal health:** The number of C-sections has rapidly increased in Syria, because many women choose to have a C-section prematurely, to avoid going into labour at a time when it is not possible to reach a hospital – at night or during heavy fighting. ([AFP 2013/02/15](#))
- **Nutrition:** In mid-2012, the results of a Government nutrition surveillance system of Syrian children <5 in 10 governorates (As-Sweida, Dar'a, Tartous and Lattakia were not covered), showed a low proportion of children severely wasted (0.51%) and a moderate prevalence of global wasting (3.85%). ([UNICEF/MoH 2012](#)) There is no updated information on the nutrition status in the country.
- An increasing number of women express the wish to breast-feed, as infant formula is no longer available or affordable. However, high levels of stress among women impede breastfeeding and adequate support is lacking as, traditionally, breastfeeding practices are low. ([WHO 2012/12/26](#))

### **Protection**

**Number of affected:** no information available

**Most affected governorates:** Aleppo, Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Homs, and Idlib

- **Human rights violations:** Both the Syrian Government and opposition groups have reportedly perpetrated gross human rights violations. Kidnapping, extrajudicial executions and ill treatment of detainees, including torture, is widespread. Both parties are launching attacks in populated areas and the Syrian Government has been accused of using explosive weapons such as cluster munitions and incendiary bombs in residential areas across Syria including Aleppo, Damascus, Dar'a, Homs and Idlib. ([UN Human Rights Council 2012/02/05](#), [HRW 201301/30](#), [R2P Monitor 2012/09/15](#), [HI 2013/01/17](#), [UNHRC 2012/09/17](#), [HRW 2012/10/23](#))
- ✦ Kidnapping is on the increase, illustrated by reports that more than 300 people were abducted in Idlib within 48 hours on 14 and 15 February. ([AFP 2013/02/05](#))
- ✦ There has been an increase in attacks in which no parties claim responsibility and which do not appear to have any military or strategic objective, beyond the primary purpose of spreading terror among the civilian population. More than ten incidents were documented in which improvised explosive devices, were set off in minority neighbourhoods or in the vicinity of religious sites. ([UN Human Rights Council 2012/02/05](#))



- ✦ Explosive Remnants of War, including rockets, cluster munitions and IEDS contaminate large parts of Syria. In addition, Syrian forces have reportedly placed landmines near the borders with Lebanon and Turkey, resulting in civilian casualties. ([HRW 2013/01/30](#), [UNMAS 2013/02/22](#))
- Gender Based Violence is widespread. Rape has been used as a form of torture to extract information during interrogations and to punish the population for supporting the opposite party. Sexual violence, including rape, was reportedly committed against women and girls during house searches and checkpoints by Government forces and affiliated militia. Refugees cite rape as one of the primary reasons for fleeing Syria. ([UN Human Rights Council 2012/02/05](#), [Al Akhbar 2012/12/11](#), [VoA 2013/01/21](#), [Refugee International 2012/11/16](#), [OCHA 2012/11/07](#))
- ✦ Child recruitment, targeting of schools, child marriage, child labour and exposure to unexploded ordnance and explosives make children particularly vulnerable. Syrian army and security officers have reportedly detained children under inhumane conditions and tortured them. Government forces have reportedly also shot at children in their homes and on the street. Both Government and opposition forces have used schools as detention centres or barracks turning them into military targets. ([HRW 2013/01/30](#), [UNHCR 2013/01/08](#))
- In rebel-held areas, civilian legal councils have replaced state judicial structures. Legal practices differ from region to region, with some councils relying exclusively on Sharia law, and others applying a mixture of Sharia and Syrian criminal law. However, descriptions of the trials by detainees and members of the judicial councils indicate that some trials do not meet international standards of due process, including the right to legal representation and the opportunity to prepare one's defence. ([HRW 2012/09/17](#))
- In addition, civilians from Russia and other countries believed to be supporting the Assad Government have faced direct threats by Syrian opposition forces. ([HRW 2012/12/21](#))
- **Minorities:** The recent rise in sectarian violence in Syria has particularly targeted Alawite, Druze, Shi'a Muslim and Christian minorities. The destruction of religious sites by both Government and opposition fighters is further raising tensions. Since mid-2012, religious minorities have increasingly fled to neighbouring countries. ([CoI 2012/12/20](#), [R2P Monitor 2012/09/15](#), [Amnesty 2013/01/10](#), [HRW 2013/01/23](#))
- **Palestinian refugees:** UNRWA now estimates that 400,000 out of 500,000 registered Palestinian refugees in-country are in need of assistance across the country. This number is currently rising daily due to the spread of violence including to the centre of Damascus. A rapid-needs assessment in December indicated 99% of all refugees are in need of heating fuel and 90% are in need of food assistance. In addition, the presence of armed factors in the Palestinian refugee camps has been identified as a concern by UNRWA as well as general insecurity and fighting around the camps. With external

flight options restricted, Palestine refugees remain a particularly vulnerable group. ([UNRWA 2013/02/22](#), [OCHA 2013/01/07](#), [UNRWA 2012/12/16](#), [ECHO 2013/01/14](#), [UNRWA 2013/01/11](#))

- ✦ **Iraqi and other refugees:** There is almost no information available on the status of non-Palestinian refugees, but it is likely that they are specifically vulnerable because of their lack of support networks. For instance, around 50 South Sudanese families are trapped amid heavy fighting in Damascus. ([VoA 2013/02/08](#))
- ✦ **Migrants:** IOM estimates that there are as many as 120,000 migrant workers still in Syria, of which 60,000 may be in priority need of assistance for evacuation, transit or border reception, repatriation, health services and psychosocial support. Many have no means to leave the areas where they are working and risk becoming trapped. Others have no documents and therefore don't have the same level of legal protection accorded to citizens. ([IOM 2013/02/01](#), [CARITAS 2013/01/11](#))
- ✦ **Elderly:** Older people are particularly at risk during air raids and fighting, because they are not physically able to flee quickly. Hence, elderly are often forced to stay behind while other family members move away, leaving them without support. ([INGO 2013/02/05](#))
- ✦ **Disabled:** Disabled, particularly those in wheelchairs, have limited options to flee conflict and are therefore specifically vulnerable. ([INGO 2013/02/05](#))

## Shelter

**Number of affected:** no information available

**Most affected governorates:** Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Homs, and Idleb

- ✦ The harsh winter conditions in December and January exacerbated the humanitarian crisis, particularly for those in inadequate shelters. However, winter is currently coming to an end and average temperature conditions are increasing at 20 degrees Celsius during the day in Damascus. ([Climate Change Portal, USAID 2013/01/17](#))
- Fighting, including the use of heavy weaponry, has caused widespread damages to infrastructure and houses. The Syrian Network for Human Rights reported that over 2.9 million buildings have been damaged, of which 20% have completely destroyed. However, these numbers could not be confirmed. Shortages of fuel and disruption to the electricity supply throughout the country have resulted in a lack of heating and means of cooking. ([OCHA 2012/12/10](#), [GoS 2012/12/19](#), [SNHR 2012/12/20](#))
- The vast majority (generally estimated to be around 80%) of IDPs are living with host families with the remainder staying in unfinished or vacant buildings; renting accommodation; staying in collective centres and a small, but significant number thought to be sleeping rough in parks, barns, caves etc. As of mid January, more than 2,100 schools and 626 other public buildings were hosting IDPs as community shelters. Many IDP shelters are

overcrowded, lack adequate heating, sanitation and offer little or no privacy. Return to areas where fighting is hampered as former homes have been damaged or destroyed. (INGO 2012/12/30, OCHA 12/12/03, OCHA 2012/11/26, UNHCR 2013/01/26)

## WASH

**Number of affected:** no information available

**Most affected governorates:** Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Damascus (rural), Deir-ez-Zor, Homs, Idlib

- ✦ **Water:** Access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene continues to deteriorate, threatening the health of much of the population. UNICEF identified six governorates (Idlib, Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Homs and Rural Damascus) where access to water and sanitation is severely limited. In conflict affected areas of Deir-ez-Zor, water is being pumped at just 10% of pre-crisis levels. (UNICEF 2013/02/08)
- ✦ In conflict-affected areas, the availability of water per person has decreased to one third of pre-crisis levels, from 75 to 25 litres per person per day. Urban water supply networks are vulnerable to attacks and system failures as they are usually distant from city centres.
- ✦ National production of water treatment chemicals almost ceased because of conflict and import of chlorine gas for water treatment has been banned over fears it could be misused as a chemical weapon. This increases the risk that tap water is contaminated. (Al Jazeera 2013-02-05, UNICEF 2013/02/08, UNICEF 2013/02/08)
- ✦ As a result of the breakdown of water facilities, families increasingly turn to alternative water sources such as buying water, of unknown quality, supplied by mobile tankers to communities. However, prices are high - a 3,000-litre tank, sufficient for a family of seven for 15 days, costs USD 15. Those who cannot afford the high costs related to water tankers increasingly rely on unsafe water sources such as water from the Euphrates River. The increase in Typhoid and Hepatitis A cases is linked to the lack of clean water and sanitation. (WHO 2013/02/05, UNICEF 2013/02/08)
- ✦ **Hygiene:** Knowledge of good hygiene practice is generally good although a lack availability of hygiene products in many areas inhibits good practice. Many families report difficulties in buying soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper, baby nappies and sanitary pads. (UNICEF 2013/02/08, INGO 2012/12, OCHA 2012/11/27)
- ✦ The WASH situation is of most concern for displaced people living in collective shelters, especially in 1,500 schools. Living conditions are often unsanitary due to the lack of toilets, showers, hygiene items such as soap, and rationed access to water – often less than 10 litres per person per day. In collective centres in Damascus there is often only one latrine for every 50-70 people. (UNICEF 2013/02/08, Alertnet 2013/02/019)

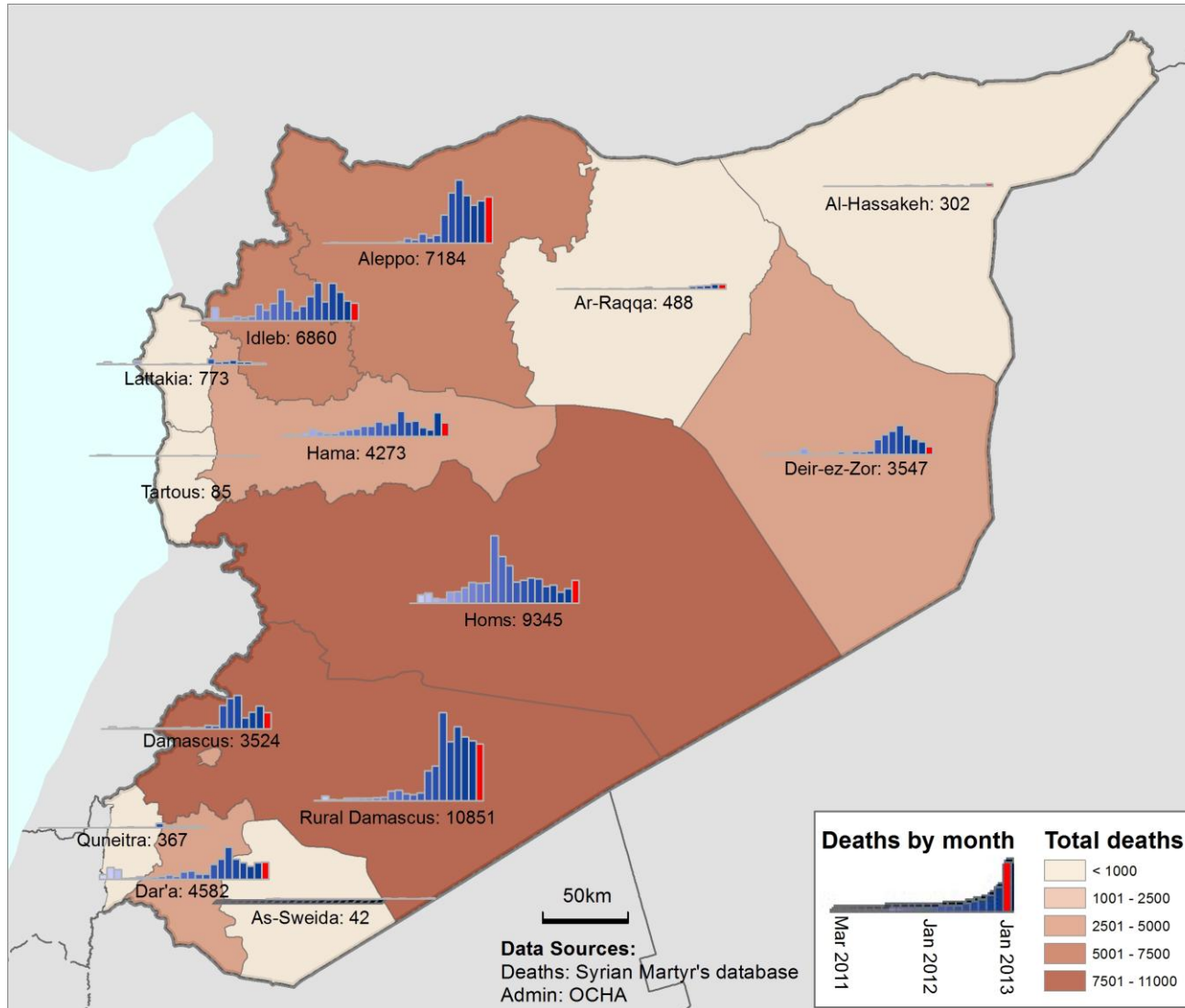
## Education

**Number of affected:** no information available

**Most affected governorates:** Aleppo, Idlib

- ✦ A significant part of the education infrastructure in the country has been affected by the conflict. UNICEF reports that one in every four schools in Syria has been damaged, destroyed or are being utilised as shelters. 56 UNRWA schools (out of 118) are currently not operational due to conflict. The numbers of schools damaged or occupied by people who have left their homes continues to increase. In addition, there is a shortage of teaching materials and qualified teachers. School furniture and books are routinely used as firewood. (UN Human Rights Council 2012/02/05, UNICEF 2013/01/29, OCHA 2013/01/30, OCHA 2013/01/18, AFP 2013/02/13)
- ✦ School attendance rates range from 38 to 100% across Government controlled areas and appears severely limited in opposition controlled areas and is cited as one of the reasons refugees leave the country. (UN Human Rights Council 2012/02/05)
- ✦ Displaced children within Syria have difficulties enrolling in school, either because schools are already overcrowded, they have missed the registration period, or because they need to support their family. (UNICEF 2013/02/05)

## Estimated deaths by governorate – March 2011 to January 2013



### Use of Syrian Martyr's database as a source:

There are a variety of sources for data on the number of deaths from the conflict in Syria. A report by OHCHR details seven key databases with documented killings from the conflict. The Syrian Shuhada (SS) database (Syrian Martyr's database) has been used for the purposes of mapping the number of death data by settlement and / or Governorate for the following reasons:

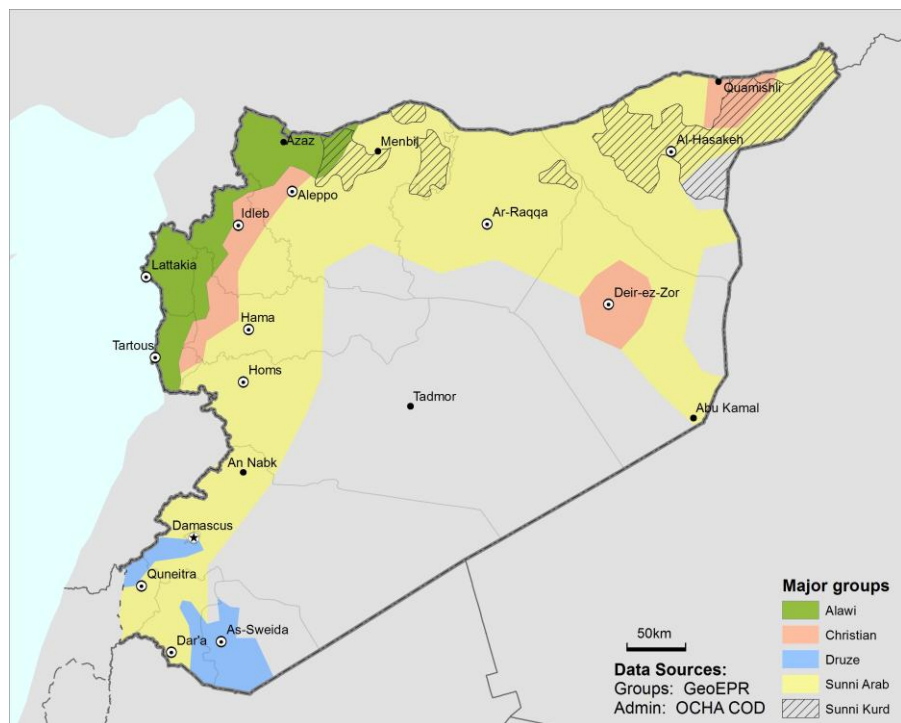
- Willingness of SS to share raw data files for city / province and death count (useful for verification and mapping against P-codes as issued by OCHA)
- Ability to report killings by Governorate, City, Date
- Extent of documented killings (in excess of 50,000)
- Evidence such as pictures / videos to verify the killing
- Trend is in line with results of other databases

OHCHR was able to verify 71% of the SS database. The remaining 29% of reported deaths were not able to be verified due to insufficient data, although this is to be expected from documenting during a conflict.

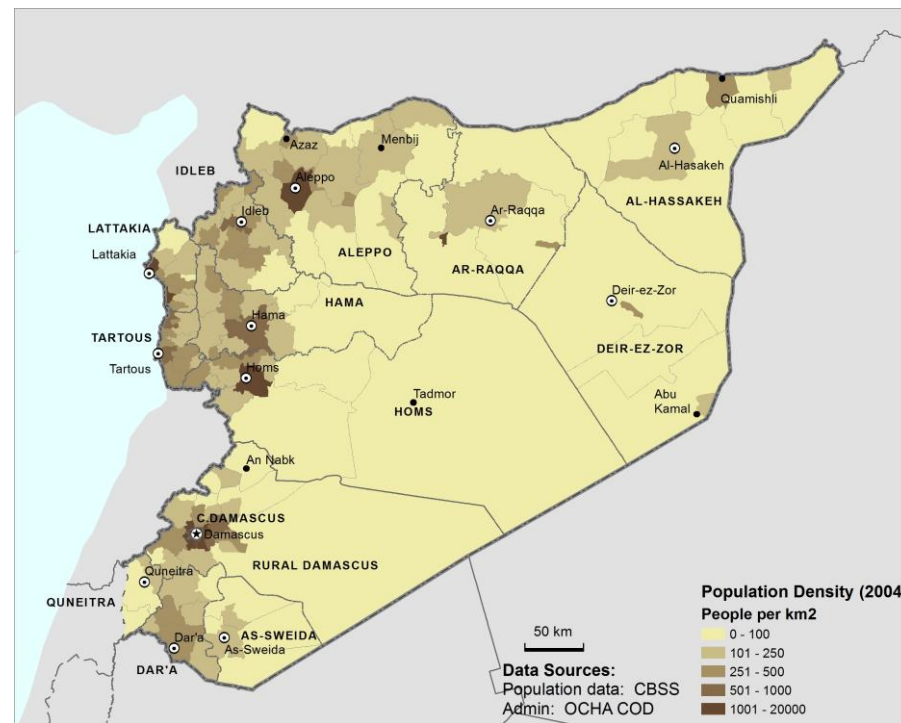
(Benetech 2013/01/02, SS n.d.)

Of the 55,211 killings documented by the Syrian Shuhada database, 13% (7,004) were classified as armed rebels or military defectors. SAF deaths are not included in the database, which is one reason why the total number of deaths documented is lower than the UN estimate of 70,000. (SS n.d. 2013-02-21)

## Religious and ethnic composition



## Population Density (2004 Census)

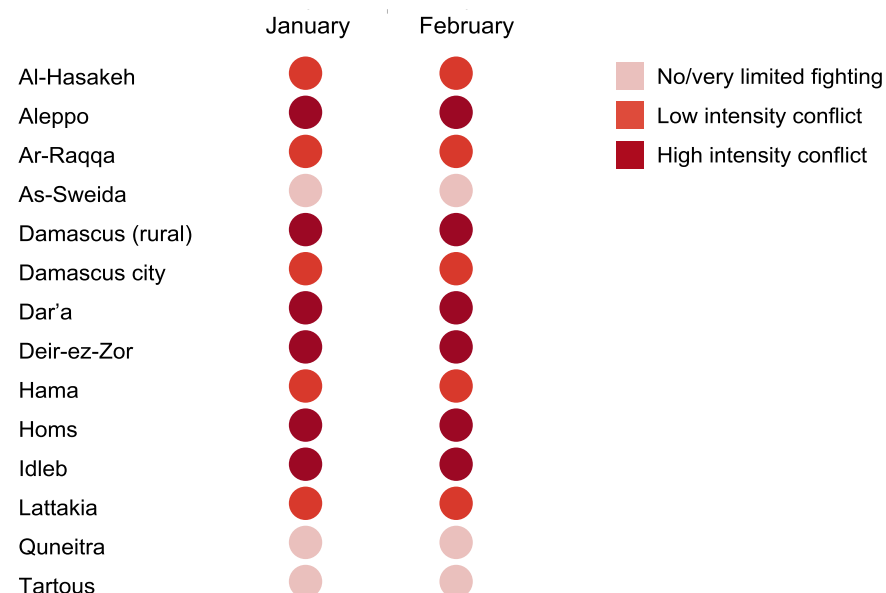


## Governorate profiles

The following pages provide a profile of each of the 14 governorates (in alphabetical order). Within these governorates, the following topics are covered: the conflict dynamics, displacement occurring in the governorate and specific needs reported. In addition, an info graphic describes the level of information available per sector for the specific governorate. The legend of the maps and symbols are explained on page 31.

### Trend January – February RAS

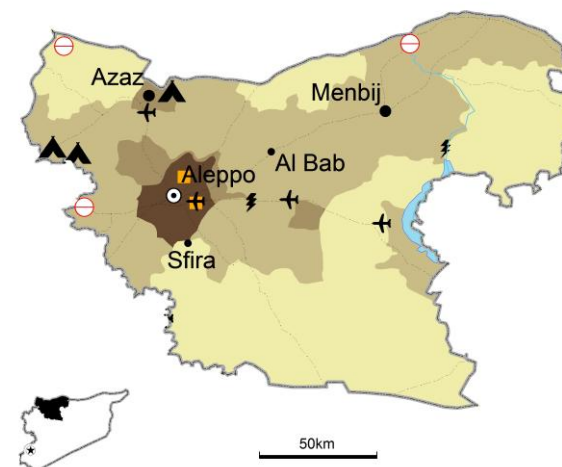
#### Fighting intensity



#### Information available on needs (compared to January RAS)

Significant increase	Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Idleb, Lattakia
Limited increase	Damascus (city), Dar'a, Homs, Tartous,
No updated information	As-Sweida, Hama, Quneitra, Damascus (rural)

## Aleppo (also known as Halab)



#### Population figures Aleppo

2011 projection	5,927,000
2004 census	4,045,166
Palestinian refugees	>26,500
Other refugees	Unknown
Migrants	Unknown

#### Number of affected (estimates)

In need	>1,672,532
IDPs	>374,372

**Sources :** [CBSS 2011](#), [CBSS 2004](#), [UNRWA n.d.](#), [J-RANS 2013/02/17](#), [INGO 2013/01/22](#), [SI 2012/12](#), [PIN 2012/11/17](#), [Mercy Corps 2012/12/12](#)

#### Conflict

- Aleppo governorate is one of the most conflict-affected and the situation continues to deteriorate: anti-Government groups have heightened their offensive in February and captured the military airport; a military base and a main road linking Aleppo to Ar-Raqqa. Aleppo's insurgents reportedly shifted their focus from targets in the provincial capital Aleppo to military bases, launching the 'Battle of the airports' on February 12, with the apparent aim of obtaining ammunition and weaponry, and putting the warplanes out of action - to stop the bombing of rebel controlled areas. Heavy fighting continues around Aleppo international airport and Kwiyyes military airbase. Nevertheless, regime warplanes carried out several air raids on rebel areas in Aleppo province, particularly around Al Bab and Sfeira towns and the Aleppo city districts of Ansari, Bustan al Qasr, Achrafiyeh and Assyrian. Missile strikes on the Tariq al-Bab district are inflicting severe damage to the neighbourhood.
- 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 eastern areas under anti-Government groups while the north of the city contains several Kurdish controlled neighbourhoods. The FSA has now full control of the areas north of Aleppo up to the border with Turkey.
- Since July, clashes have periodically erupted in Kurdish neighbourhoods in Aleppo and other Kurdish towns between the YPG and the Free Syrian Army because of the latter's intrusions into Kurdish territories.
- Amidst electricity cuts, insecurity, food shortages and reports of FSA fighters looting flour, support to the FSA is reportedly declining in Aleppo. ([J-RANS 2013/02/17](#), [MSF 2013/01/14](#), [OCHA 2013/01/07](#), [PIN 2012/11/17](#), [AFP 2013/01/29](#), [UNRWA 2013/02/01](#), [AFP 2013/02/05](#), [AFP 2013/02/12](#), [AFP 2013/02/16](#), [UN Human Rights Council 2012/02/05](#), [INGO 2013/02/20](#))

## Humanitarian access

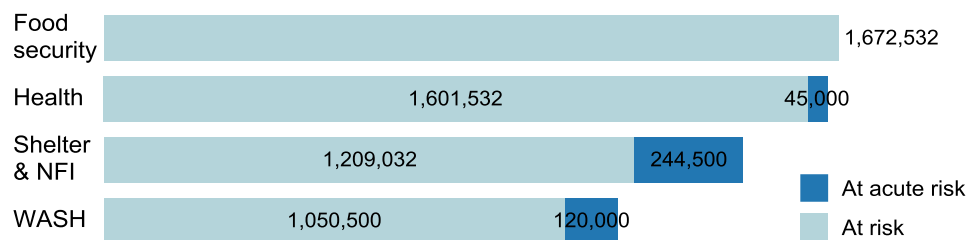
- Some parts of north Aleppo close to the Turkish border remain unreachable due to heavy fighting and road insecurity. Access to the Palestinian refugee camps Ein el Tal and Neirab is limited, as armed opposition elements control access to the camp and are restricting humanitarian aid, including the delivery of food to Ein el Tal camp since 17 February. ([UNRWA 2013/02/22](#), [UNRWA 2013/02/08](#), [WFP 2013/02/05](#))
- Situation in Palestinian refugee camps:** There are two Palestinian refugee camps in Aleppo governorate: Neirab camp with over 20,500 registered refugees making it the largest official camp in Syria, and the unofficial camp Eon el Tal with 6,000 registered refugees. It is estimated that approximately 30% of Palestine refugees have fled Eon el Tal camp. ([UNRWA 2012/12/16](#), [UNRWA nod](#))

## Displacement

- Over 370,000 IDPs are present in 23 (of the total 40) sub-districts in Aleppo according to the J-RANS. The exact location of the IDPs is unavailable. However, some information available on the number of IDPs residing in specific locations shows an increasing number of IDPs staying in the opposition held Aziz area, near the Turkish border: by 1 February, WFP estimated 25,000 people to be living in makeshift camps in this region. A further 9,000 IDPs are residing in Bab al Salami and 15,000-20,000 in Al-Babs. ([WFP 2013/02/18](#), [J-RANS 2013/02/17](#), [2012/12](#), [PIN 2012/11/17](#))
- 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. 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. ([INGO 2013/02/20](#))
- According to the J-RANS, at least 290,120 people have fled the governorate to other parts of the country. ([J-RANS 2013/02/17](#))

## Needs

### Number of people in need per sector in January 2013 – J-RANS



Please note that above figures only reflect the needs in the 23 sub-districts assessed (out of a total of 40 sub-districts in Aleppo) and does not include the situation in Aleppo city. The sectors Education and Protection were not included in the J-RANS.

- In January, OCHA/SARC figures indicated 800,000 people to be in need in Aleppo governorate although the J-RANS indicated 1,600,000 to be in need in only the 23 sub-districts surveyed, implying an even higher total number, especially as the city of Aleppo was not covered by the J-RANS.

## Specific needs according to J-RANS and INGOs

- Food security (in-kind and cash assistance): fuel support to subsidised bakeries; cash for work/unconditional cash grant assistance to most vulnerable groups for increased food diversity; delivery of wheat flour. In Aleppo city, the prices of goods are reportedly highest in Government controlled areas.
- Health: medicine, particularly for chronic diseases, specialised medical staff, nutritional support for children and pregnant/lactating women; ambulances, medical equipment; repair of health infrastructure.
- Shelter: blankets, mattresses; shelter kits to improve the insulation of the dwellings, especially for IDPs in unfinished buildings /inadequate accommodation.
- WASH: water network repairs in priority areas in urban settings affected by intense conflict (pumps, pipes sections and connections), subsidised water trucking to ensure adequate access to water for affected population, hygiene kits, especially NFIs for children's (diapers); water containers and jerry cans. ([J-RANS 2013-02-17](#))

Information gaps



## Sector information

### Livelihoods and Food Security:

- Food availability in Aleppo governorate is becoming increasingly problematic, both for items normally imported from neighbouring countries and items imported from other governorates. In several assessments, food is consistently mentioned as the most urgent need. Although food items are available on the markets, prices are high. Bread prices in Aleppo are the highest in the country, at SYP120-225 a loaf 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%. The availability of bread is extremely limited at the moment in the districts with higher conflict intensity, 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](#))
- 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](#))
- It is widely believed in Aleppo that the bread shortage was caused by the FSA stealing flour to sell elsewhere. ([SI 2012/12](#), [INGO 2013/01/25](#))
- People living in the governorate of Aleppo are currently deprived of regular income sources, due to: (i) the closure of Aleppo's factories, which used to employ a large proportion of the population in the region, (ii) the closure of the borders and the suspension of trade with Turkey, (iii) the decline in agriculture, (iv) and irregular Government wage payment. ([UN News 2013/01/08](#), [BBC 2012/01/17](#), [SI 2012/12](#))
- Next to IDPs and host families, migrants returning to rural areas have been identified as a specific vulnerable group during an assessment in Aleppo. Previously employed in Aleppo factories, they and their families were forced to return after factories stopped or decreased production. These returnee migrants often have no employment, income-generating opportunity or property in their places of origin. ([SI 2012/12](#))

## Health:

- In one sub-district assessed by the J-RANS, respondents identified health as an immediate lifesaving priority.
- An increase in number of Leishmaniasis cases has been reported in Aleppo, one of the regions where the disease is endemic. ([INGO 2013/02/21](#), [WHO 2013/02/01](#))
- An outbreak of Hepatitis A has been reported in Aleppo. ([Al Jazeera 2013/02/05](#))
- As in the rest of the country, Aleppo is experiencing a critical shortage of medicines, particularly for chronic and life-threatening diseases that require extensive treatment such as cancer. ([INGO 2013/02/21](#))
- According to a Syrian doctor who fled the area to Turkey, only 36 doctors are practising in and around the city of Aleppo compared to 5,000 before the crisis started. In December 2012, 7 of Aleppo's 11 hospitals were no longer functioning and 16% of the health centres and units were non-functional. The healthcare system in Al-Bab district is reportedly almost fully dysfunctional. Airstrikes and shelling continue to hamper operations and cause people to avoid hospitals in favour of seeking medical care in clandestine structures. ([AlertNet 2013/01/30](#), [MoH 2012/12/31](#), [MSF 2013/01/14](#); [AFP 2013/01/10](#), [PIN 2012/11/17](#))

## Shelter & NFI:

- Heavy fighting and air-strikes have caused widespread destruction of buildings. According to the J-RANS, the majority of IDPs are residing with host families, with others staying in vacated private and public buildings. The most precarious living conditions are those of IDP families staying in unfinished buildings, barns and basements. IDPs residing with host families, in schools or rented buildings are often living in overcrowded conditions. ([J-RANS 2013/02/17](#))
- 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. There is an urgent need to supply fuel to bakeries as flour is available but bread production limited by fuel. Electricity shortages continue to affect much of the city of Aleppo and officials estimate only 40% of the city's electricity needs are being met. Electricity supply to the rest of the governorate is also reported to be regularly disrupted – some rural areas have been without electricity for months. There is a severe shortage of gas for cooking and heating fuel. Families resorted to using trees as a fuel source ([INGO 2013/02/20](#), [J-RANS 2013/02/17](#), [AFP 2013/01/04](#), [UNRWA 2013/01/11](#), [UNRWA 2012/12/16](#), [Mercy Corps 2012/12/12](#), [OCHA 2013/01/21](#), [SI 2012/12](#), [INGO 2013/01/25](#), [AFP 2013/02/14](#))
- 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:

- In the J-RANS, respondents in several sub-districts indicated that access to drinking water is an urgent priority. ([J-RANS 2013/02/17](#))
- The situation varies between rural and urban areas: in villages, some households have domestic boreholes, and water shortages were not reported during an assessment among four northern districts, although people might soon lack fuel for the water pumps. Lack of water in urban areas is a pressing need due to the partial destruction of water networks and water supply shortages due to power cuts. Water rationing is

now extending up to 20 hours per day in some neighbourhoods of Aleppo. Water trucking is used as an alternative source for water, however prices are high. ([INGOs 2012/12](#))

- Inadequate waste management is also an issue in most towns and cities assessed. In some areas volunteers, through the Local Councils, have taken over rubbish collection. ([INGOs 2012/12](#))
- The provision of hygiene supplies is a priority need. Incidences of diarrhoea, Hepatitis A and poor hygiene practices are caused by a lack of access to hygiene products and water rather than from poor knowledge on hygiene practices. ([WHO 2012/09/11](#), [UNHCR 2012/11/30](#), [OCHA 2012/12/24](#), [SI 2012/12](#))

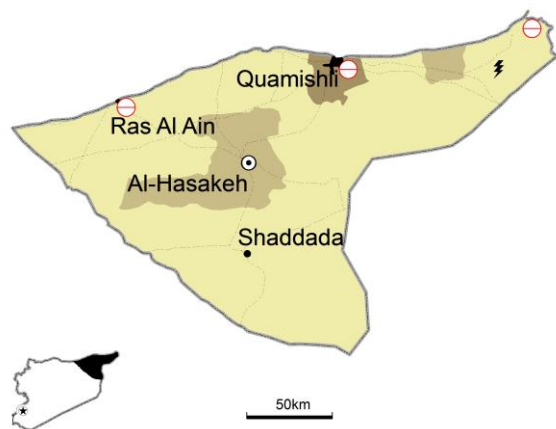
## Protection:

- Law and order is reportedly of concern in anti-Government controlled areas, with the establishment of a multitude of local courts that do not recognise each other's jurisdiction. ([INGO 2013/02/20](#))
- The primary protection concern in the governorate is indiscriminate attacks, resulting in large numbers of civilian casualties. An increasing number of accusations against anti-Government forces in areas under their control are reported, including stealing; kidnapping for ransom and arresting of alleged regime supporters. ([INGO 2013/02/20](#), [Alertnet 2013/01/09](#), [BBC 2013/01/17](#), [Guardian 2013/01/18](#))

## Education:

- The Department of Education reports that out of 1.2 million school-aged children in Aleppo, only 140,000 are still going to school. ([UNICEF 2013/02/22](#))
- For security reasons, education is usually provided outside school and mainly in mosques. However, many parents refuse to send their children to these improvised schools out of fear of bombardments. ([J-RANS 2013/02/17](#))
- In Al-Bab district, 10 of the 24 schools were destroyed or damaged by bombings. All official schools are closed. ([J-RANS 2013/02/17](#))

## Al-Hasakeh



### Population figures Al-Hasakeh

2011 Gov. records	1,604,000
2004 census	1,275,118
Palestinian refugees	None registered
Other refugees	Unknown
Migrants	Unknown

### Number of affected (estimates)

In need (SARC/OCHA)	320,000
In need (J-RANS)	98,000
IDPs	Unknown

**Sources:** [CBSS 2011](#), [CBSS 2004](#), [UNRWA n.d.](#), [OCHA/SARC 2013](#), [WHO 2013/01/24](#)

## Conflict

- In February, opposition fighters led by the al-Nusra Front seized control of oil fields and captured the strategic towns of Ghabsa and Shaddadah, near the Jbeysa oil field. In mid-February, the FSA and the Kurdish Popular Protection Units signed a peace deal, after earlier peace deals proved unsuccessful. It is unclear whether the Al-Nusra Front will respect this agreement.
- In the current power vacuum, some Kurdish groups are trying to assert control over parts of Syria through violent clashes with rebels as well as Government forces. A large part of Al-Hasakeh is already under Kurdish control. However, Al-Hasakeh is Syria's main oil-producing and grain-growing region and anti-Government armed groups, supposedly led by the al-Nusra Front, have staged attacks on key infrastructure. In November, the town of Ras al-Ain was captured by anti-Government groups and witnessed Government arial bombing. ([Al-Jazeera 2013/02/14](#), [UN 2013/02/05](#), [AlertNet 2013/02/20](#))

## Humanitarian access

- WFP reported that Al-Hasakeh governorate is difficult to access due to increased hostilities. Trucks carrying food headed to Al-Hasakeh were for instance redirected to the Ar-Raqqa governorate due to inaccessibility. ([WFP 201302/11](#))

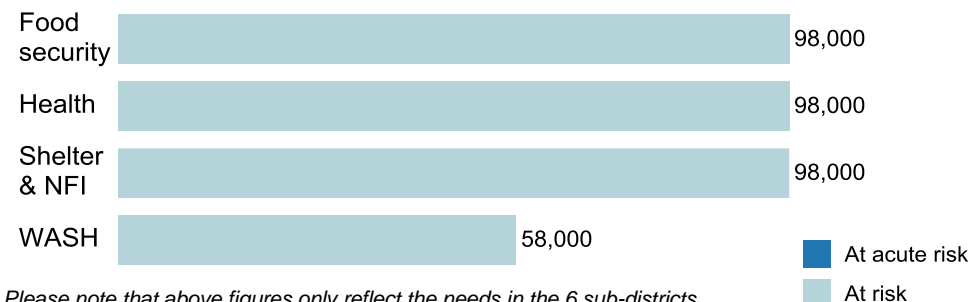
## Displacement

- It is estimated that the number of IDPs in Al-Hasakeh is between 75,000-100,000 persons. Information on specific IDP locations is sporadic. WFP estimates that around 40,000 people have fled Shaddadeh to Hasakeh city. Over 25,000 Christians have reportedly sought refuge in Al-Hasakeh city, many from the surrounding areas, fearing kidnappings, executions and looting by Islamist groups, terrorists and criminals. 90% of Christians are reported to have fled the city. (J-RANS 2013/02/17, [WFP 2013/02/15](#), [Agenzia fides 2013/01/17](#), [INGO 2013/01/25](#))

- According to the J-RANS, at least 56,000 have fled the governorate to other parts of the country. (J-RANS 2013/02/17)

## Needs

### Number in need per sector in January 2013 – J-RANS



Please note that above figures only reflect the needs in the 6 sub-districts assessed (out of a total of 16 sub-districts in al-Hasakeh). The sectors Education and Protection were not included in the J-RANS.

### Specific needs as identified during the J-RANS

- Food security: flour, milk for children, food baskets
- Health: medicine, medical staff and equipment
- Shelter & NFI: shelter material, blankets and mattresses
- WASH: water tanks and containers, generators, water and hygiene items

## Sector information

### Livelihoods and Food Security:

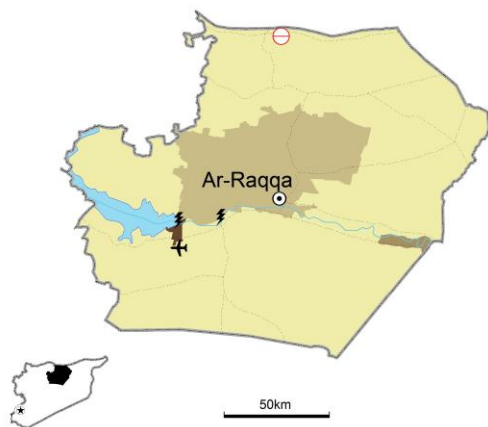
Refugees from Al-Hasakeh governorate indicate that one of their main reasons to flee the governorate is the lack of food, and economic hardship caused by general violence. ([UNHCR 2013/01/22](#))



- Health:** Out of eight hospitals in the governorate, five are fully functioning while three are partially functioning. 85 health centres out of 92 are still operational. ([MoH 2-12/12/31](#))
- Protection:** Child abduction and abduction for ransom perpetrated by unidentified armed groups has been reported. Kidnapping has been stated as a reason for flight from Al-Hasakeh governorate by several refugees. ([UNHCR 2013/01/08](#))
- There is no evidence of targeting of Christians rather the wealthy are prime targets for kidnapping. ([Agenzia fides 2013/01/17](#))
- Shelter:** In the district of Ras al Ain, 70% of all private buildings and all public buildings are reportedly damaged to various degrees. (J-RANS 2013/02/17)



## Ar-Raqqa



### Population figures Ar-Raqqa

2011 Gov. records	1,008,000
2004 census	793,514
Palestinian refugees	None
Other refugees	registered
Migrants	Unknown

### Number of affected (estimates)

In need (SARC/OCHA)	400,000
In need (J-RANS)	908,000
IDPs (WHO)	500,000
IDPs (J-RANS)	413,650

**Sources:** [CBSS 2011](#), [CBSS 2004](#), [UNRWA n.d.](#), [OCHA/SARC 2013](#), [WHO 2013/01/24](#), [J-RANS 2013/02/17](#)

### Conflict

There is only limited information available on the fighting in Ar-Raqqa governorate although use of heavy aerial weaponry and heavy machinery has been reported. Air strikes on Ath-Thwarah, were reported at the end of February and, as there have been around 90 people killed in the governorate in February, it can be assumed that localised fighting is taking place. ([SRMD 2013/02/23](#), [MEO 2013/01/18](#), [Al-Arabia 2013/01/18](#), [AFP 2013/01/19](#))

### Humanitarian access

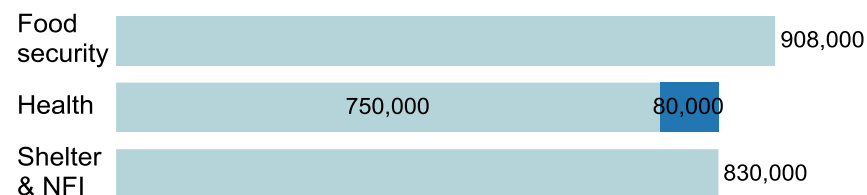
No governorate specific information available

### Displacement

- According to WHO, Ar-Raqqa hosts 500,000 IDPs, mainly originating from Aleppo and Deir-ez-Zor governorates, representing a 50% increase in the population. This number is supported by the J-RANS (covering only 7 out of the 10 sub-districts), which identified 413,650 IDPs. ([WHO 2013/01/24](#), [J-RANS 2013/02/17](#))
- According to the J-RANS, at least 61,000 have fled the governorate to other parts of the country. ([J-RANS 2013/02/17](#))

## Needs

### Number in need per sector in January 2013 – J-RANS



Please note that above figures only reflect the needs in the 7 sub-districts assessed (out of a total of 10 sub-districts in ar-Raqqa). The sectors Education and Protection were not included in the J-RANS.

At acute risk  
At risk

### Specific needs as identified during the J-RANS

- Food: flour, milk for babies
- Health: medicines
- WASH: water tanks and containers

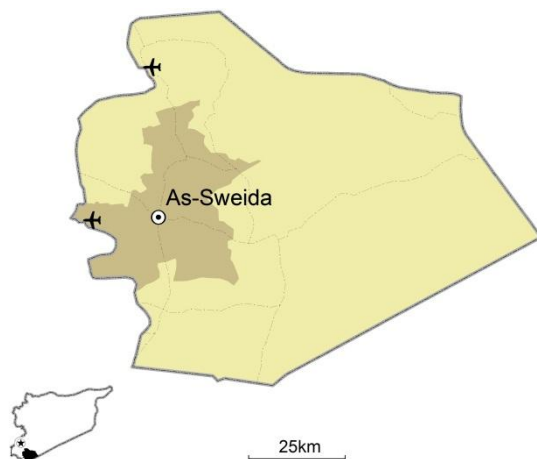
### Sector information

Information gaps

#### Health:

- According to key informants in the J-RANS process, the lack of access to health services is already costing lives and urgent intervention is required in the sub-district of Ath-Thawrah in Ar-Raqqa district. ([J-RANS 2013/02/17](#))
- Out of four Government hospitals in the governorate, two are fully functioning and one is not functioning at all. 66 out of the 71 health centres are still operational. ([MoH 2-12/12/31](#))
- With the influx of IDPs, the caseload of diabetic patients has increased from 10,000 patients to 21,000. ([WHO 2013/01/24](#))

## As-Sweida



### Population figures as-Sweida

2011 Gov. records	486,000
2004 census	313,231
Palestinian refugees	None registered
Other refugees	Unknown
Migrants	Unknown

### Number of affected (estimates)

In need	8,000
IDPs	24,000

**Sources:** [CBSS 2011](#), [CBSS 2004](#), [UNRWA n.d.](#), [OCHA/SARC 2013](#), [Daily Star](#)

### Conflict

As-Sweida, mainly inhabited by Druze, appears to be one of the least affected governorates in Syria. However, the governorate is tense with the population appearing equally split between pro and anti-regime sentiment. A series of demonstrations took place in December 2012. The FSA announced in mid-December that a Revolutionary Military Council had been formed for the governorate of As-Sweida. More recently there have been reports of clashes between the FSA and Regime Forces in Zahr Al-Jabal District. ([Daily Star 2013/01/08](#), [LCCs 2013/01/11](#))

### Humanitarian access

No governorate specific information available.

### Displacement

An estimated 15,000 IDPs are registered with local activists and roughly half are from the region of Hawran. In addition, the governorate hosts 9,000 IDPs from Dar'a. ([Daily Star 2013/01/08](#), [AFP 2013/0125](#))

### Needs

No information is available

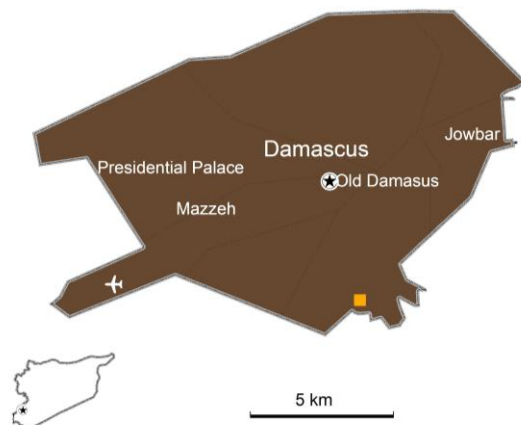
### Sector information

No information available

#### Information gaps



## Damascus (city)



### Population figures Damascus

2011 Gov. records	1,780,000
2004 census	1,552,161
Palestinian refugees	None registered
Other refugees	Unknown
Migrants	Unknown

### Number of affected (estimates)

In need	200,000
IDPs	Unknown

Sources: [CBSS 2011](#), [CBSS 2004](#), [UNRWA n.d.](#), [OCHA/SARC 2013](#)

### Conflict

- Hostilities escalated in the centre of Damascus, including shelling allegedly targeting the Ministry of Defense, the Abu Rummaneh district of central Damascus and clashes in the Barzeh neighbourhood. After months of relative calm, Syria's army launched a fierce assault at the start of February in eastern and southern suburbs of Damascus, where insurgents have secured enclaves. Rebels entered Jobar in February after breaching the army's defence lines and overrunning several army and pro-Assad militia positions in the district. Heavy fighting and aerial bombardments in the district followed. Violence in Damascus has previously been focused on southern districts, but northern areas have increasingly witnessed fighting over the last months. Suicide attacks have been on the increase, the most recent on 21 February when a suicide bomber detonated his car near the entrance of the Baath party's main offices in Mazraa district.
- Major clashes between the Syrian Government Army and rebels were reported for the first time in the city of Damascus around March 2012. Analysts say the regime has focussed a large part of its resources to secure an area of control in a radius of about eight kilometres around Damascus city. ([AFP 2013/02/22](#), [AFP 2013/02/23](#), [UNRWA 2013/02/22](#), [AFP 2013/02/21](#), [AlertNet 2013/01/21](#), [AFP 2013/01/17](#), [AFP 2013/01/13](#), [AFP 2012/12/05](#), [AlertNet 2012/12/04](#), [UNRWA 2013/01/11](#), [Al Jazeera 2013/02/07](#), [AlertNet 2013/02/06](#), [AlertNet 2013/02/13](#))
- Situation in Palestinian refugee camps:** The largest camp, Yarmouk, has been the scene of heavy clashes between Palestinians from the pro-Assad Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) and Syrian rebels supported by other Palestinian fighters since mid-December. Fighting erupted when opposition fighters moved into the camp during an attempt to storm the capital. An estimated 70% of the 150,000 Palestine refugees who lived in the camp were displaced outside of the camp by mid-February. Access to Yarmouk remains restricted as Government security forces control entry to the camp and there is continued shelling and violence around the northern entrance. ([UNRWA 2013/02/22](#), [UNRWA, 2013/02/19](#))

### Humanitarian access

- While the fighting around the city intensifies, an increasing number of roadblocks have been established, hampering movement in and out of the centre. ([Al Jazeera 2013/02/07](#))

### Displacement

- The fighting in the outskirts of Damascus has led to large scale displacement within the city. Next to this, the city hosts a number of people who have fled conflict in other areas of the country. Damascus city started receiving IDPs from Homs during 2011, and in 2012 an increasing number of IDPs from the northern governorates and Rural Damascus governorate fled to the city. Currently, the newly arriving IDPs are mainly coming from Homs. 6,500 IDP families are staying in Mazzeh district in Damascus. ([WFP 2013/02/11](#), [INGO 2013/02/12](#), [INGO 2013/01/25](#)) There is no further information available on the number or location of the IDPs.

### Needs

No information available

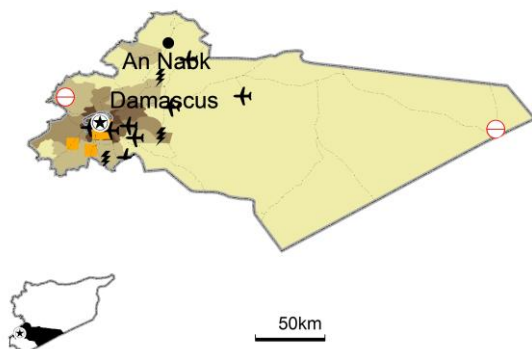
#### Information gaps

### Sector information



- Shelter and NFI:** Damascus faces six-hour power cuts daily. In addition to hampering transport of commodities, cooking and heating, the nationwide fuel crisis has severely affected public and private transportation in Damascus. More than one and a half million people visit the capital daily, requiring various types of transportation which mostly run on diesel. ([Al-Akhbar 2012/10/12](#), [OCHA 2013/01/17](#))
- Protection:** Arbitrary arrests and summary executions are an issue. Upon retaking parts of the capital Damascus, the Syrian Government began a campaign of collective punishment against the civilian residents of Sunni suburbs that had supported FSA presence in their neighbourhoods. ([Reuters 2012/09/03](#))
- Health:** Only one out of eight hospitals in Damascus governorate is partly functioning, the remainder are reportedly fully functioning. 22 out of 136 health centres (16%) are not or only partially functioning. Damascus Hospital reported shortages in medicines and supplies from both the international and the local markets due to economic sanctions and currency fluctuations. ([USAID 2013/01/03](#), [WHO 2013/01/02](#), [UN 2012/12/18](#), [MoH 2012/12/31](#))
- Livelihoods and Food Security:** The price per litre of heating oil in the city has increased from SYP20 to more than SYP100, caused by limited supplies. A lack of bread has been reported and long queues at bakeries are common throughout to city, due to flour shortages, and population movements into the city increasing demand. ([WFP 2013/02/04](#), [WFP 2013/02/11](#), [OCHA 2013/02/04](#))
- WASH:** Water pumping in Damascus has fallen by 20%. ([UNICEF 2013/02/08](#))
- In collective IDP shelters it is common that between 50 and 70 people have to share one bathroom. ([AlertNet 2013/02/19](#))

## Damascus (rural)



### Population figures Damascus (rural)

2011 Gov. records	1,877,000
2004 census	2,273,074
Palestinian refugees	>243,458
Other refugees	Unknown
Migrants	Unknown

### Number of affected (estimates)

In need	600,000
IDPs in collective shelters	400,000

**Sources:** [CBSS 2011](#), [CBSS 2004](#), [UNRWA n.d](#), [OCHA/SARC 2013/01](#), [UNRWA 2012/12/16](#), [UNICEF 2012/12/07](#)

## Conflict

Some of the heaviest fighting in the country is currently being witnessed in Rural Damascus with the whole governorate reportedly affected. The Free Syrian Army has taken control of Darayya, Douma, Harasta and Arbin. Part of the objective for the battle in Damascus province is about securing the airport road, which runs southeast of the capital. In February, regime troops shelled Douma, Deir al-Asafeer, Moadamiyet al-Sham and Sabineh. The army recently sent reinforcements to rebel controlled town Darayya, southwest of Damascus, pressing an offensive to reclaim the area considered strategic because of its proximity to the capital and to the Mazzeh military airport. Darayya has been under continuous army bombardment for months and is witnessing fierce clashes. Aerial bombardments and clashes have been reported as well in Qadam and Al-Hajar al-Aswad neighbourhoods south of Damascus city. Husseiniyeh, an area inhabited by Palestinian refugees and IDPs from the Golan Heights region, has also been subject to fighting and air raids. ([UNRWA, 2013/02/19](#), [AlertNet 2013/02/13](#), [AFP 2013/02/05](#), [UNICEF 2012/12/07](#), [IRIN 2012/12/27](#))

**Situation in Palestinian refugee camps:** In February, on-going hostilities were reported inside all Palestinian camps in the governorate. Although difficult to verify due to restricted access, it is estimated that more than 60% of residents are fleeing camps such as Husseiniyeh. Those remaining in the camps experience acute shortages of food, water, electricity, health care, and other essential supplies. ([UNRWA 2013/02/22](#), [UNRWA, 2013/02/19](#), [UNRWA 2013/02/18](#), [UNRWA 2013/02/15](#))

## Humanitarian access

Access to areas facing heavy fighting, such as Darayya, is extremely limited. Communication networks to the Palestinian camps are intermittently disrupted and humanitarian access is limited. Commercial vehicles are not permitted to enter the camps. ([UNRWA, 2013/02/19](#))

## Displacement

UNICEF estimates that an estimated 400,000 IDPs are residing in collective shelters in the governorate. The actual number of IDPs in the Rural Damascus governorate is likely to be much higher, particularly as in other areas of the country, such as Aleppo and Deir-ez-Zor, the majority of IDPs are residing with host-families. Jeremana is reportedly home to 16,000 IDP families. An estimated 180,000 Palestinian refugees were compelled to leave the refugee camps in Rif Damascus. As of 12 February, around 8,000 IDPs were residing in UNRWA facilities. ([OCHA 2013/02/18](#), [WFP 2013/02/11](#), [UNRWA 2013/02/15](#), [UNICEF 2012/12/07](#))

## Needs:

The ICRC has described the situation for the population in rural Damascus as 'catastrophic'. ([ICRC 2013/02/15](#)) There is, however, no information available on the specific needs.

## Sector information

**Protection:** Palestine refugees who remain in Khan Eshieh Camp, Husseiniyeh, Qabr Essit Camp, and Sbeineh Camp, live under direct threat of harm from the conflict while external flight options remain limited. Many are not able to seek safety due to the physical risks associated with movement. ([UNRWA 2013/02/08](#))

As the whole governorate is affected by violence, refuge has become increasingly scarce and secondary and tertiary displacement is therefore common. Human rights violations are widespread within the governorate and summary executions have taken place on a large scale, notably the killing of an estimated 400 people in the town of Darayya in August 2012. ([Guardian 2012/08/28](#), [IRIN 2012/12/27](#))

### Information gaps



## Dar'a



### Population figures Dar'a

2011 Gov. records	1,126,000
2004 census	843,478
Palestinian refugees	>28,000

Other refugees	Unknown
Migrants	Unknown

### Number of affected (estimates)

In need	165,000
IDPs	Unknown

**Sources:** CBSS 2011, CBSS 2004, UNRWA n.d., OCHA/SARC 2013

## Conflict

- Fighting has been severe throughout the province, with the FSA capturing several districts of Dar'a City as well as towns in the south of the governorate. Areas captured by insurgents have seen heavy shelling and aerial bombardment by the Government. In February, the centre and southern part of Dar'a town continued to witness regular clashes and shelling, and warplanes bombed the old quarter of the city for the first time since March 2011. The SAF attempt to regain control of all border crossings precipitating a marked increase in the refugee exodus to Jordan, almost all of whom originate within the Dar'a governorate.
- The city of Dar'a witnessed the first uprising against the Government in 2011, with heavy fighting in the governorate erupting in November 2011. As a region bordering the contested Golan Heights and in the proximity of Israel, Dar'a is traditionally one of Syria's most heavily militarised regions. Rebel activity is currently however minimal west of Dar'a, where most of the Government military bases are stationed. ([AlertNet 2013/02/21](#), [UNRWA 2013/02/15](#), [BBC 2012/11/11](#), [CNN 2012/11/10](#))
- Palestinian refugee camps:** In February, clashes continued in the vicinity of Dera'a refugee camp and shells landed within the camp. It is estimated that only 30% of the original residents are currently remaining in the camp. Before the start of the crisis, around 5,500 were living in Dera'a camp. Hence, an estimated 3,850 Palestinians fled the camp and are displaced. ([UNRWA 2013/02/01](#), [UNRWA n.d.](#))

## Humanitarian access

- WFP reported that access to Dar'a is challenging because of heightened hostilities. Vehicles are reportedly prevented from entering the town centre of Dar'a. ([WFP 2013/02/11](#), [UNRWA 2013/02/15](#))

## Displacement

- There is no information on the number of displaced within the governorate. However, as the large majority of refugees entering Jordan originate from Dar'a, it can be assumed that large scale displacement is taking place in the governorate.

## Needs

Reports from refugees crossing into Jordan report needs as:

- Health: access to medical treatment and medicines
- Food: high prices and low availability of food
- NFIs: fuel for heating & cooking

## Sector information

- Protection:** Protection of civilians from threat to life is reportedly the most acute need in Dar'a especially for IDPs and would be refugees in transit towards the Jordanian border. Conflict is on-going, especially in the border area around Dar'a city. With Government and rebel forces engaged in heavy fighting to control access to Jordan, civilians face a high risk of being caught up in the fighting.
- Almost all of the population of Dar'a is Sunni Muslim although there are some small minority communities who may be threatened should the Government forces withdraw from all or parts of the governorate.
- Health:** The MoH reported in December that all 9 hospitals are functioning (although 6 only partially) as are all 101 health centres (although 31% partially). However, there are serious difficulties in delivering medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to hospitals and health facilities; referral services have broken down and only one ambulance operates in the governorate. Some villages in the governorate cannot be accessed by health authorities: mobile health services delivered by NGOs need to be strengthened. ([WHO 2013/01/18](#))
- Livelihoods and Food Security:** Vegetable, fruit and olive production declined significantly in Dar'a governorate, including a 40% drop in olive oil production. ([FAO 2013/01/23](#))
- Most Palestinian refugees are employed as farm workers on Syrian-owned lands; wage labourers or Government workers. ([UNWRA n.d.](#)) It is expected that most of these sources of income will have dramatically reduced or ceased.
- Shelter:** Severe damage or destruction of many family homes and important infrastructure has been reported in Dar'a city. ([UNICEF 2013/01/09](#))
- WASH:** The Der'a Palestinian refugee camp (more than 10,000 registered refugees, with a further 17,000 in surrounding villages) had a poor sewage system and suffered a shortage of drinking water in summer even before the recent conflict. If insecurity persists, WASH needs in the camp could become a priority concern. ([UNRWA n.d.](#); [UNRWA 2012/12/16](#))

### Information gaps



## Deir-ez-Zor



### Population figures Deir-ez-Zor

2011 Gov. records	1,692,000
2004 census	1,004,747
Palestinian refugees	None
Other refugees	registered
Migrants	Unknown

### Number of affected (estimates)

Affected (OCHA/SARC)	150,000
In need (J-RANS) IDPs	316,000

**Sources :** [CBSS 2011](#), [CBSS 2004](#), [UNRWA n.d.](#), [OCHA/SARC 2013/01](#), [J-RANS 2013/02/17](#)

## Conflict

- Anti-Government armed groups captured the vital Siyasiyeh Bridge across the Euphrates River in February, cutting off the main regime supply route to the adjoining province of al-Hassakeh. Rebels control a large part of Deir-ez-Zor governorate, stretching from the provincial capital city Deir-ez-Zor to the Iraqi border, making it the largest area in Syria outside of Government control. Regime forces still control three neighbourhoods in western Deir-ez-Zor, where the military airport and key intelligence and security bases are stationed. ([AFP 2013/02/19](#), [AFP 2013/02/10](#), [UNICEF 2012/12/07](#), [AFP 2012/11/25](#), [AFP 2012/11/20](#), [AFP 2012/12/03](#))

## Humanitarian access

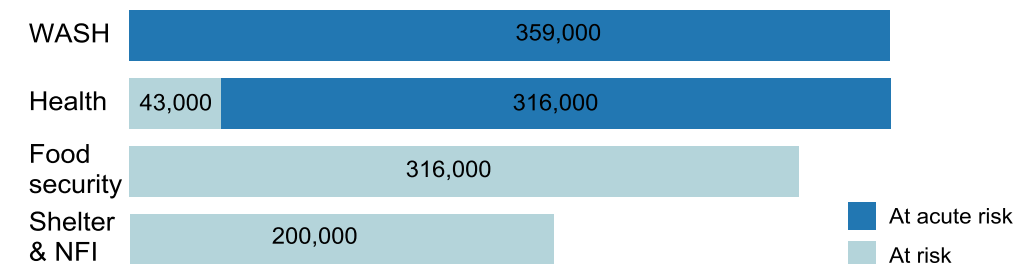
No governorate specific information available

## Displacement

- The fighting has caused large scale displacement. An estimated 550,000 fled the city of Deir-ez-Zor city to the two neighbouring governorates, Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh. As the situation stabilised in rebel control areas outside of the Deir-ez-Zor city, it is likely that IDPs have returned to some areas, although the city itself remains contested. ([UNICEF 2012/12/07](#), [AFP 2012/11/25](#), [AFP 2012/11/20](#), [AFP 2012/12/03](#), [AFP 2013/02/19](#))
- As many as 350,000 people have fled the governorate to other parts of the country. (J-RANS 2013/02/17)

## Needs:

### Number of people in need per sector in January 2013 – J-RANS



Please note that above figures only reflect the needs in the 4 sub-districts assessed (out of a total of 14 sub-districts in Deir-ez-Zor). The sectors Education and Protection were not included in the J-RANS.

### Specific needs as identified during the J-RANS

- WASH: water treatment, water tanks and containers
- Health: medicine and vaccines
- Food: flour and milk for children
- Shelter & NFI: shelter material

### Information gaps



## Sector information

### WASH:

- Destruction of infrastructure and electricity cuts have severely damaged water supply. In some localities of Deir-ez-Zor mains water provision has decreased by 90%. Respondents to the J-RANS survey indicated that “many will die soon” if access to drinking water does not improve. ([UNICEF 2013/02/08](#), [J-RANS 2013/02/17](#))
- In rural areas, rubbish is piling up and sewage is running into the streams. In addition, during the J-RANS assessment, it was observed that ground water in the governorate is polluted with oil from damaged pipelines. This situation is exacerbating existing health problems. ([IRIN 2013/02/21](#), [J-RANS 2013/02/17](#))

### Health:

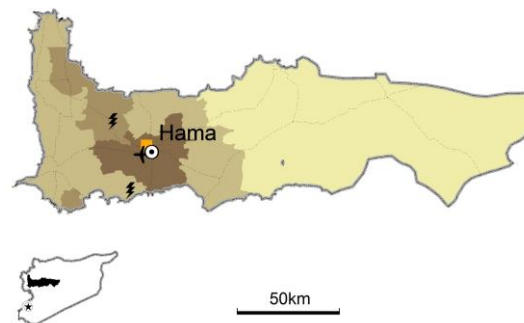
- Data suggest that health problems are most severe in Deir-ez-Zor governorate compared to the rest of the country. A Typhoid outbreak was reported in the governorate, with 2,500 confirmed cases. A lack of access to drinking water is forcing the population to use the Euphrates River as a water source, which is likely to be contaminated. Typhoid is a bacterial disease spread by food or drink contaminated with the faeces or urine of infected people. The WHO has no confirmed reports of deaths but indicates that the mortality rate from typhoid can be extremely high if not addressed. ([IRIN 2013/02/21](#), [AFP 2013/02/19](#), [IRIN 2013/02/21](#))
- An increase in number of Leishmaniasis cases has also been reported. ([WHO 2013/02/01](#))
- There are only limited resources available to address and prevent these diseases. As Deir-ez-Zor is in rebel hands, Syrian Government health authorities and supplies cannot access the area. Out of 6 government hospitals in the governorate, 5 are reportedly not functioning and 1 is only partly functioning. 19 out of 118 health facilities

are not operational. Key informants in two sub-districts assessed during the J-RANS highlighted a critical need for interventions to support health services. ([J-RANS 2013/02/17](#), [AlertNet 2013/02/19](#), [MoH 2012/12/13](#))

### Shelter and NFI:

- In areas facing Government shelling in the western part of the governorate, large-scale water and electricity disruptions have occurred in February. ([AFP 2013/02/10](#))
- Widespread and severe damage to infrastructure and houses has been reported in the city of Deir-ez-Zor, with as many as half of all buildings heavily damaged or destroyed. ([J-RANS 2013/02/17](#), [AFP 2013/02/19](#))
- **Protection:** Mid-December, MSF reported that tens of thousands of people, many of them wounded, are trapped in the city of Deir-ez-Zor due to intense fighting and aerial bombardments. Those who remain are predominantly the poor and the elderly who were unable or unwilling to leave and are now extremely vulnerable. ([MSF 2012/12/12](#))

## Hama



### Population figures Hama

2011 Gov. records	2,113,000
2004 census	1,384,953
Palestinian refugees	8,000
Other refugees	Unknown
Migrants	Unknown

### Number of affected (estimates)

In need	130,000
IDPs	unknown

**Sources :** [CBSS 2011](#), [CBSS 2004](#), [UNRWA n.d.](#), [OCHA/SARC 2013/01](#), [UNRWA 2012/12/16](#)

### Conflict

- In February 2013, attacks on a cement factory and a bus carrying workers of a military factory were reported. Apart from this, the situation in Hama city appeared to be calm.
- Major disturbances in Hama city began on 3 June 2011 and an armed blockade by the Syrian Army was imposed on the city a month later, cutting off water and electricity supplies. With the governorate largely controlled by the SAF, Syrian armed opposition groups launched a military operation in December 2012, intending to take control of the governorate. The offensive ended, following a SAF counter-offensive, with the rebels claiming control of the rural western part of Hama province and all areas north of Hama city (Halfaya, Kafr Nabudah, Hayalin, Hasraya, Lataminah, Taybat al-Imam and Kafr Zita). ([AlertNet 2012/12/16](#), [AFP 2012/12/23](#), [AlertNet 2013/01/19](#), [Al Arabiya 2012/07/07](#))
- **Palestinian refugees:** Hama camp, with more than 8,000 registered Palestinian refugees, has seen an influx of an estimated 1,000 Palestinian refugees from Ein el Tal camp in Aleppo who fled the latter after intense fighting in December 2012. ([UNRWA 2012/12/16](#), [UNRWA n.d.](#))

### Humanitarian access

- Although there is no information available on access in the governorate, it can be assumed that the governorate is for the most part accessible as fighting is limited to small pockets.

### Displacement

No information available

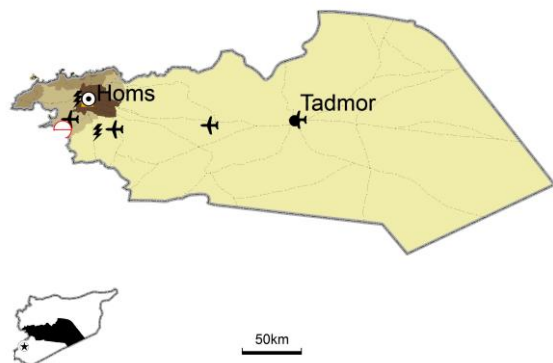
Information gaps



### Sector information

**Protection:** Minority groups are at risk in the governorate, with Islamist rebels warning specific towns they will be attacked if they do not evict regime forces. Evidence indicates that Syrian forces used cluster munitions in Latamneh, in January 2013. ([HRW 2013/01/14](#), [APF 2012/12/22](#))

# Homs



## Population figures Homs

2011 Gov. records	2,147,000
2004 census	1,529,402
Palestinian refugees	>22,000
Other refugees	Unknown
Migrants	Unknown

## Number of affected (estimates)

Affected	700,000
In need (SARC/OCHA)	600,000
In need (UN)	420,000
IDPs	635,000

**Sources :** [CBSS 2011](#), [CBSS 2004](#), [UNRWA n.d](#), [OCHA/SARC 2013/01](#), [UNICEF 2013/02/01](#), [UNRWA 2012/12/16](#)

## Conflict

- In February, heavy fighting and shelling has been reported in and around the districts of Bab Amr, Jobar, Kafraya and the old city of Homs. At the start of February, the army took control of rebel-held district Kafraya. On the eastern and western edges of the central city of Homs, rebels clashed with troops on two main highways. The opposition held old city of Homs has been under tight Government siege for over nine months. Other opposition-controlled areas in the governorate, including Talbisseh, Ghanto and Houla, have been sealed off and face continued shelling. ([AFP 2013/02/05](#), [AFP 2013/02/15](#), [UNRWA 2013/02/15](#))
- Lebanese Hezbollah troops, in support of the Syrian Government, moved into Syria last year with the objective to cut off the supply lines to Homs. Fighting in February began as Hezbollah fighters, in control of eight Syrian border villages, tried to move into three adjacent villages held by the FSA. Syrian helicopters fired rockets at rebel positions to support the advancing Hezbollah unit. Hezbollah has repeatedly denied sending fighters into Syria, though its leader Hassan Nasrallah acknowledged party members had fought Syrian rebels but said they were acting as individuals and not under the group's direction. ([AlertNet 2013/02/17](#))
- The Syrian Army and rebels have been battling to gain control of Homs since May 2011. In February 2012, the Syrian Army launched an offensive against the district of Baba Amr, shelling the entire district and blocking all supply routes, forcing civilians and FSA to evacuate by early March. Unconfirmed reports state that by early October 2012, around 75% of the city (14 districts) was under the control of the Syrian Army. However, by mid-December, the military had regained control of almost all of Homs, except the Old City and Khalidiya district. Anti-Government groups are currently fighting to keep control of Qusayr and nearby Rastan after being largely driven from their position in Homs city. ([AFP 2013/01/31](#), [Al Jazeera 2013/02/08](#), [AFP 2013/01/17](#), [BBC 2012/05/09](#), [EWV 2012/10](#), [AFP 2013/01/12](#), [AFP 2013/01/15](#), [UNRWA 2013/11/13](#), [AFP 2013/01/27](#))

**Palestinian refugee camp** Shelling occurred in the vicinity of Homs camp. The camp has been experiencing major electricity cuts with electricity available for only 20 minutes daily. ([UNRWA 2013/02/08](#), [UNRWA 2012/12/16](#), [UNRWA 2013/01/25](#))

## Humanitarian access

The old city in Homs remains unreachable due to heavy fighting and insecure roads. There are reports of opposition-controlled areas, which have been sealed off by the Government, such as the region of Houla. ([WFP 2013/02/05](#), [ICRC 2013/02/06](#))

## Displacement

Around 635,000 people are displaced in the governorate. ([UNICEF 2013/02/01](#), [WHO 2013/01/23](#))

## Needs

A UN joint mission to Homs in January found that 700,000 people across the governorate were severely affected, 635,000 of them are displaced. 420,000 people, half of them children, need immediate humanitarian assistance. The latter figure is below the SARC estimates of people in need, which stand at 600,000. ([UNICEF 2013/02/01](#), [OCHA/SARC 2013/01](#))

## Sector information

### Shelter:

The heavy fighting and air-raids, which occurred in the city of Homs and several towns in the governorate, have damaged and destroyed a large part of the infrastructure. In the heavily contested Baba Amr neighbourhood, UNICEF estimated that as many as two thirds of the buildings have been damaged, while others have collapsed completely. Authorities estimate the damages at \$33 million. ([UNICEF 2013/01/15](#), [AFP 2013/02/18](#))

- Many IDPs are staying in unheated communal shelters. Electricity shortages are severe, with as little as 2 hours a day reported in some areas. Shortages of basic supplies such as winter clothes and children's shoes have been reported. ([UNRWA 2012/12/26](#), [UNRWA 2012/12/16](#), [AFP 2013/01/17](#), [UNICEF 2013/01/15](#), [AFP 2013/01/15](#), [UNHCR 2012/11/30](#))

- Protection:** Indiscriminate bombing on populated areas and sectarian violence are priority concerns. In addition, arbitrary arrests and summary executions, including the recent killing of more than 100 civilians in the district of Basatin al-Hasawiya, have been reported. The opposition stated that shabiha militia loyal to President Bashar al-Assad killed some 200 Sunni Muslim civilians in Homs in massacres in January and accuses the Government of 'ethnic cleansing of Sunni districts in the way of Alawite supply lines'. This has, however, not been confirmed by other sources. ([AlertNet 2013/01/19](#), [AlertNet 2013/01/26](#))

- Health:** 6 out of 13 public hospitals in Homs are out of service. 25 out of 220 health centres (11%) in Homs are out of service. This is double the amount of out-of-service centres on a national level. Due to the non-functional health centres, the local population is facing great difficulty in obtaining essential health care assistance. Due to increasing number of patients, the resources of health facilities still functioning are

### Information gaps

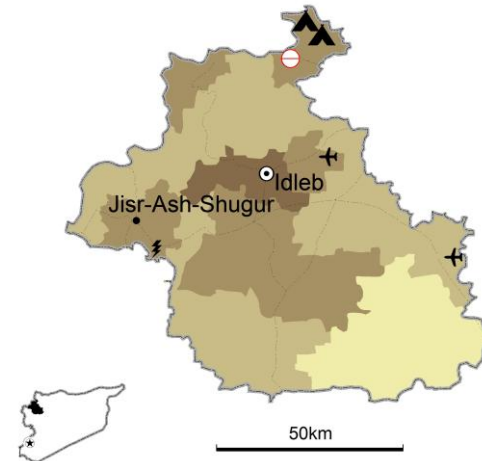




rapidly being depleted and serious shortages of medicine and medical equipment has been reported. Around 50% of Homs doctors have left, along with other medical personnel. Communities in the conflict affected areas of Bab Amer and Asheria are facing difficulties in accessing health care because of security constraints and the non-functional public health centres. ([WHO 2012/09/11](#), [UNFPA 2012/10/16](#), [UNHCR 2012/11/30](#), [WHO 2013/01/18](#), [WHO 2013/01/23](#))

- **WASH:** Access to safe water and sanitation has been disrupted and water rationing is now extending up to 20 hours per day in some neighbourhoods of Homs. ([UNHCR 2012/11/30](#))
- **Livelihoods and food security:** Vegetable, fruit and olive production declined significantly in Homs, including a 60% drop in vegetable production. The production of poultry has also been severely hit with major farms destroyed. ([FAO 2013/10/23](#))
- **Education:** A significant part of the education infrastructure in Homs has been severely affected by the conflict. Out of 1,500 schools in Homs an estimated 200 have been damaged as a result of the fighting – and another 65 are sheltering children and families. These figures are supported by the Ministry of Education who estimated in December that about 20% of schools, 300, were damaged or being used as shelters. Those schools that are still functioning are accommodating 100 or more children per classroom. ([UNICEF 2013/02/22](#), [UNICEF 2013/02/11](#), [UNICEF 2013/02/01](#), [MoE 2012/12/12](#))

## Idleb



### Population figures Idleb

2011 Gov. records	2,072,000
2004 census	1,258,427
Palestinian refugees	None
Other refugees	registered
Migrants	Unknown

### Number of affected (estimates)

In need (SARC/OCHA)	300,000
In need (J-RANS)	430,092
IDPs (J-RANS)	113,351
IDPs in camps (WFP)	25,000

**Sources :** [CBSS 2011](#), [CBSS 2004](#), [UNRWA n.d.](#), [OCHA/SARC 2013/01](#), [UNRWA 2012/12/16](#), [MSF 2012/12](#), [Latitude 2013/01](#)

## Conflict

- Rebel forces control much of the countryside around Idlib, while Government forces hold the city of Idlib and Jisr-ash-Shughur. Rebels have captured different towns around Jisr al-Shughur and continued to move towards the city in February. However, they have refrained from staging attacks on the city. The insurgent assault on Wadi Deif military base, a major regime holdout, continues.
- Extensive fighting started in March 2012, when the Syrian armed forces started shelling parts of Idlib and nearby towns in an attempt to clear the area of FSA fighters. After six months of fierce fighting, anti-Government armed groups have currently captured a string of army checkpoints, military bases and loyalist strongholds. The Government retaliates by shelling and bombing anti-Government held areas. However, the level of bombing has reportedly decreased in the governorate after rebels seized two military bases, including Taftanaz airbase. ([BBC 2013/01/16](#), [FARS 2013/01/14](#) [AFP 2013/01/08](#), [MSF 2013/01/10](#) [HRW 2013/01/14](#), [Al Jazeera 2013/01/14](#), [AFP 2013/02/05](#))

## Humanitarian access

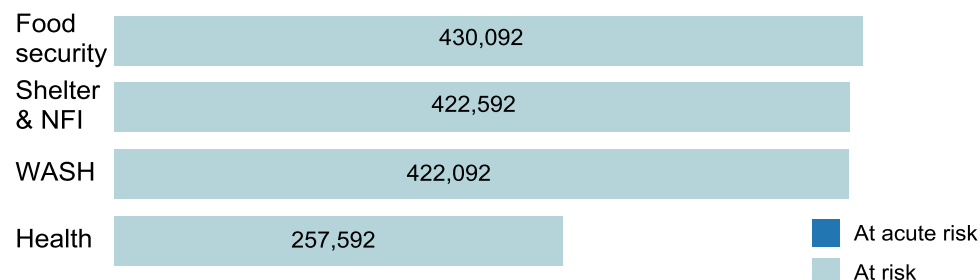
No governorate specific information available

## Displacement

- An estimated 45,000 IDPs are residing in 3 camps at the border with Turkey (Athmeh Olive Groove (13,000 to 13,500 IDPs), Qah (at least 4,500) and Qarahme (at least 4,500), waiting for admission to one of the refugee camps in Turkey. ([WFP 2013/02/08](#), [WFP 2013/02/18](#), [INGO 2013/01](#), [UNICEF 2013/02/22](#))

## Needs

### Number of people in need per sector in January 2013 – J-RANS

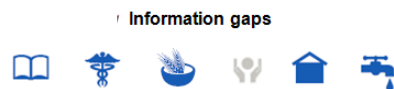


Please note that above figures only reflect the needs in the 13 sub-districts assessed (out of a total of 26 sub-districts in Idleb). The sectors Education and Protection were not included in the J-RANS.

### Specific needs as identified during the J-RANS

- Food: flour, powdered milk for children and food baskets
- Shelter and NFIs: shelter material, fuel and heating materials and blankets and materials.
- WASH: fuel and electricity, generators, water tanks and containers, pumps and water supply equipment.
- Health: medication

### Sector information



#### Health:

- The rural area near the Turkish border has seen a growing number of Typhoid infections, caused by the lack of potable water sources. (IRIN 2013/02/21)
- INGOs report large numbers of people suffering from war related wounds (by shelling and gunfire) in Idleb. Detailed information is missing to date. Field hospitals are often improvised and moved from one house to another by fear of shelling. They generally provide first aid services and refer severe cases to Turkey or larger Syrian medical facilities. (PIN 2012/11/17, J-RANS 2013/02/17)
- INGOs operating in Idleb report frequent cases of diarrhoea and some cases of Hepatitis A, which can be attributed to deterioration in sanitation and hygiene. Children in particular are suffering from upper respiratory tract infections and skin rashes have increased in both children and adults. (J-RANS 2013/02/17)
- The MoH reports that, of the 4 Government hospitals in Idleb, 2 are fully and 1 partially functioning. However, NGOs report that 6 hospitals (including private and field hospitals) are functioning in the governorate, although many have been damaged by aerial bombing. Many towns have scarce or no health facilities and where they do exist, staff members still working are not receiving salaries and are overworked. Hospital staff reports a lack of water and electricity; damaged equipment and a lack of medicine for chronic diseases, especially for children. Trauma patients are being

discharged too early in order to free space and there is no access to emergency rehabilitation. Lack of mobility, due to checkpoints, insecurity and high transport costs, is making access to healthcare difficult. There are unconfirmed reports of IDPs carrying communicable diseases to rural areas. (WHO 2013/01/23, MSF 2013/01/14, INGO 2012/12, IrishRC 2012/01/08)

#### Shelter:

- Large-scale electricity cuts are on-going and some rural areas have been without electricity for months. (J-RANS 2013/02/17)
- Fighting around Idleb city and air raids on surrounding towns and villages have damaged or destroyed many buildings. IDPs are staying with host families and in camps close to the Turkish border. These IDP camps lack electricity and heating fuel. (INGO 2012/12)

#### WASH:

- There is no running water, so people drink from the wells or the rivers. The alternative, buying water from tankers, is too costly for most people. (IRIN 2013/02/21)
- An increasing number of people, including children, are reported to use open defecation since flushing toilets are often not working due to lack of water and damages to the sewage system. Toilets in houses hosting IDPs are often overcrowded, but generally still functional. When public toilets are used (schools, hospitals, mosques, etc.), there are generally no separate toilets available for women and no lighting at night. (J-RANS 2013/02/17)
- Hygiene and water quality issues have been reported at the IDP camps at Atmeh and Qah. (Media 2012/01/03, INGO 2013/01/22)
- Protection:** Indiscriminate bombing on populated areas and sectarian violence are pressing priority concerns. Security at the IDP camps is a concern; they are currently protected by FSA troops. The opposition controlled areas face regular air raids.
- Education:** Many children in Idleb, at least 70% according to informal assessments, have been denied their right to education, some for nearly two years due to conflict and displacement. (J-RANS 2013/02/17)

## Lattakia



### Population figures Lattakia

2011 Gov. records	1,229,000
2004 census	879,551
Palestinian refugees	>10,000
Other refugees	Unknown
Migrants	Unknown

### Number of affected (estimates)

In need (SARC/OCHA)	110,000
In need (J-RANS)	32,400
IDPs (SARC)	225,000
IDPs (J-RANS)	144,150

**Sources** : [CBSS 2011](#), [CBSS 2004](#), [UNRWA n.d.](#), [OCHA/SARC 2013/01](#), [J-RANS 2013/02/17](#)

### Conflict

Although pockets of heavy clashes have occurred in the governorate, general levels of violence have been relatively low compared to other governorates. However, the mountainous region of Jabal Al-Akrad, east of the city of Lattakia, has been under near daily bombings for months. The governorate is the ancestral home of President Assad's family and his minority Alawite sect, and is a political stronghold as well as the main port of Syria. As a result, the majority of the governorate is under Government control. ([MSF 2013/01/17](#), [Daily Telegraph 2013/01/08](#))

### Humanitarian access

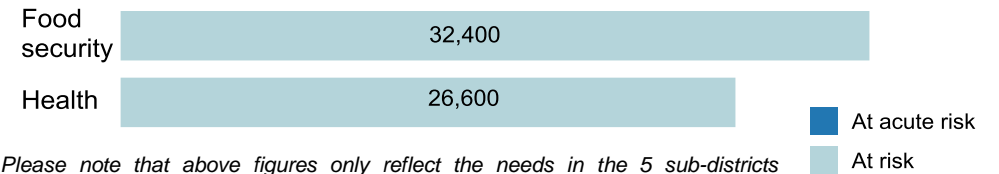
- ✦ The main road to Hama is inaccessible, but a side road (via Salamiyye) remains open. Roads to Damascus and Lattakia are open only through Homs. ([UNRWA 2013/02/01](#))

### Displacement

- ✦ The J-RANS survey show over 144,000 IDPs in 5 out of 22 sub-districts. SARC officially registered 45,000 IDP families (~255,000 people) in Lattakia governorate. Of these, 615 families occupy a single collective centre in Lattakia. The remainder are hosted by the local community. Most residents have reportedly left the area of Jabal Al-Akrad. ([J-RANS 2013/02/17](#), [MSF 2013/01/17](#), [UNICEF 2013/02/08](#))

## Needs

### Number of people in need per sector in January 2013 – J-RANS



Please note that above figures only reflect the needs in the 5 sub-districts assessed (out of a total of 22 sub-districts in Idlib). The sectors Education and Protection were not included in the J-RANS.

### Specific needs as identified during the J-RANS

- ✦ Food: milk for children, flour, food basket and cooking fuel
- ✦ WASH: water tanks and containers, pumps and water supply equipment, hygiene items, water treatment.
- ✦ Health: Medicine, medical staff, ambulances, medical equipment, medicine for chronic diseases,
- ✦ Shelter & NFI: Fuel and heating materials, blankets and mattresses

### Sector information

**Health:** The health system in Jabal Al-Akrad's mountainous region, the worst affected area, reportedly collapsed around two years ago so there is a severe lack of access to health services for the remaining population. ([MSF 2013/01/17](#))

#### Information gaps

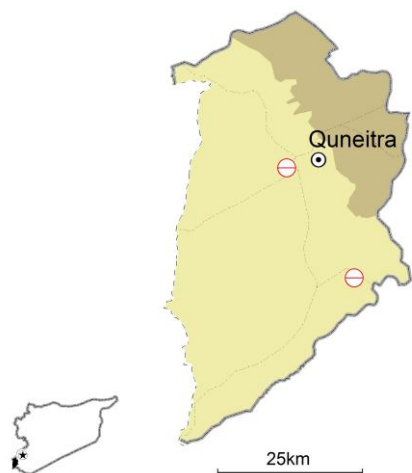


**Protection:** Many smaller towns and villages have seen fierce fighting between Sunni and Alawite residents. Attacks against religious minority sites after areas fell under the control of armed opposition groups have been reported in Lattakia. ([MSF 2013/01/17](#), [HRW 2013/01/23](#))

**Shelter:** Electricity has been unavailable for months in some areas of the governorate, such as Qastal Maaf and Rabee'a sub-districts in the district of Lattakia. ([J-RANS 2013/02/17](#))

**Livelihoods and food security:** The governorate is only moderately affected by the conflict and is reported to be regularly supplied with food products. ([J-RANS 2013/02/17](#))

## Quneitra



### Population figures Quneitra

2011 Gov. records	489,000 <sup>1</sup>
2004 census	66,627
Palestinian refugees	None reported
Other refugees	Unknown
Migrants	Unknown

### Number of affected (estimates)

In need	50,000
IDPs	Unknown

**Sources :** [GeoHives 2010](#), [CBSS 2004](#), [UNRWA n.d.](#), [OCHA/SARC 2013/01](#).

## Conflict

Quneitra contains part of the contested Golan Heights, of which a large part is controlled by Israel, and is sparsely populated. Clashes began in early November 2012, when the Syrian Army clashed with insurgents in several towns and villages in the governorate. Israel became involved on 11 November 2012 when mortar shells from Syria landed near an Israeli military outpost in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, responding by firing 'warning shots' into Syria. Anti-Government groups have seized control of the area north of Quneitra and the area to its east. The armistice agreed in 1974 prohibits the Syrian Government from engaging in military activity within the buffer zone that runs along the length of the Israeli border, limiting their options for response. ([Guardian 2013/01/06](#), [Associated Press 2012/11](#))

## Humanitarian access

No governorate specific information available

## Displacement

No information available

### Information gaps



## Needs

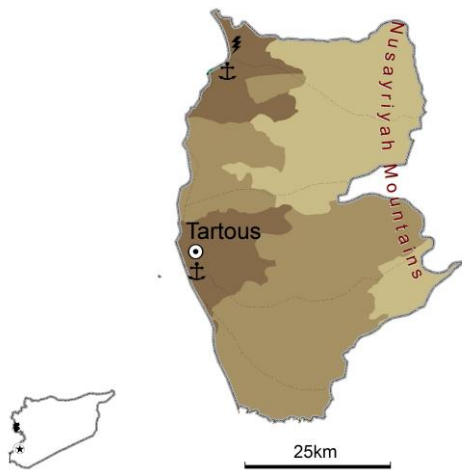
Despite the fact that more than 50% of the population is estimated to be affected by the conflict, there is no public information available on the needs or location of those affected.

## Sector information

No information available

<sup>1</sup> Please note that a different source for pre-crisis population figures has been used in the February RAS compared to the January RAS (2011 Government records instead of 2010 projections). In the case of Quneitra, this causes a significant change in the population figures – from 87,000 to 489,000.

## Tartous



### Population figures Tartous

2010 Gov. records	785,000
2004 census	701,395
Palestinian refugees	None registered
Other refugees	Unknown
Migrants	Unknown

### Number of affected (estimates)

In need	200,000
IDPs	150,000

**Sources :** [GeoHives 2010](#), [CBSS 2004](#), [UNRWA n.d](#), [OCHA/SARC 2013/01](#), [UNICEF 2013/01/25](#)

### Conflict

Apart from an influx of IDPs, the Government stronghold Tartous has remained relatively unaffected by the conflict. The major port of Syria, in Tartous, is still fully operational. The city Tartous experienced a few small anti-Government demonstrations after the uprising first started in March 2011, but none since. The governorate is separated from the rest of the country by a mountain range and the Orontes River and security forces are continuously tightening a ring of more than 40 checkpoints around the area. The governorate has become an important refuge for IDPs from Alwite Shii, Christian and other minority backgrounds. ([Foreign Affairs 2012/07/18](#), [NYT 2012/12/22](#))

### Humanitarian access

- As the area is completely Government controlled, access is dependent upon Government approval.

### Displacement

- SARC reports that an estimated 150,000 IDPs - 25,000 families - are residing in Tartous, after having fled the violence from other parts of the country, mainly from Aleppo and Homs. ([UNICEF 2013/02/08](#))

### Needs

Unlike much of Syria, the town of Tartous reportedly still has bread, diesel fuel and electricity, with minimal power cuts. Prices are high, as they were before the conflict, which proportionally affects those displaced more than the host population. ([NYT 2012/12/22](#))

## Sector information

### Information gaps



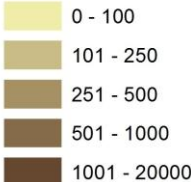









- WASH:** Many IDPs who settled in the mountainous areas do not have access to adequate sanitation facilities. ([UNICEF 2013/01/25](#))
- Education:** Some IDP children have not been able to enrol in schools, because schools are already overcrowded, they have to support their family or they have missed the registration period. ([UNICEF 2013/01/25](#))
- Shelter:** Of the 25,000 IDP families registered by SARC, 800 families are hosted in 14 collective centres while the remainder are hosted by the local community. Some families have taken shelter in caves and ancient ruins due to the lack of available shelter. ([UNICEF 2013/01/25](#), [USAID 2013/02/19](#))

## Legend:

### Information gaps

	Information available	Limited to no information available
Protection		
Livelihoods and food security		
Health		
Shelter		
WASH		
Education		

### Map symbols

	IDP camps		Ports	<b>Population Density (2004)</b> <b>People per km2</b> 
	Border crossings		Airports	
	National capital		Power plants	
	Governorate capital		Palestinian refugee camp	
	Populated place		Roads	
			Governorate boundary	

\*Note that the map scale changes between maps

## Previous SNAP reports

• <a href="#">RAS (Part I and Part II)</a>	28 January 2013
• <a href="#">Baseline data Syria</a>	28 January 2013
• <a href="#">Stakeholder profile Syria</a>	28 January 2013
• <a href="#">Scenarios</a>	18 February 2013

## Forthcoming SNAP reports

• RAS (Part I and Part II)	End March 2013
<i>The complete RAS report will be updated on a monthly basis</i>	
• Thematic report: Topic to be decided	March 2013

**Methodology** – This desk study presents estimations of scale, severity and likely impact of a disaster. It aims to inform decision making for preparedness and emergency response and intends to complement and integrate assessment-related data from other agencies. Feedback to improve the RAS is welcome (snap@acaps.org).

**Disclaimer** – Information provided is provisional as it has not been possible to independently verify field reports. As this report covers highly dynamic subject, utility of the information may decrease with time.

**References** – ACAPS and MapAction would like to thank all organisations who have provided input to this report. Please note that all sources which are available online are hyperlinked (underlined, in brackets). Information sourced as PI refers to personal interviews with experts.



## Annex A - Definitions Humanitarian Profile

### Affected

The number of affected refers to people affected by the violence in Syria. The number of affected can be divided in two groups: those non-displaced and those displaced.

### Non-Displaced

The **non-displaced** include all those within Syria that have been, directly or indirectly, affected by the conflict, including those who have been injured, have lost access to essential services, and those whose vulnerability has increased due to the impact of the unrest on livelihoods and access to essential services (OCHA 2012/06/05). In addition, this group includes the **host community**, the people who are part of a community or family receiving affected people. Due to the stress placed on the host families and communities, they are considered part of the humanitarian caseload. As there is currently no information available on the needs of the host community, this group is currently excluded from this humanitarian profile.

### Displaced

**Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)** are those persons or groups of persons who are residing in Syria but who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict (OCHA 2004).

**Refugees and Asylum Seekers** are those who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside Syria, and is unable to, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country. (UN 1951). For the purpose of this document, the category 'refugees' includes those registered, awaiting registration as well as those unregistered – despite the fact that unregistered Syrians are technically not refugees as their refugee status has not been established. Within this group, the Iraqi and Palestinian refugees are in a specifically vulnerable position, both within Syria as outside.

**Others of Concern** - Persons who have been displaced by the emergency and form part of the humanitarian caseload, but do not fall into either of the above categories (e.g. migrants, returnees).