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REGIONAL ANALYSIS SYRIA

26 September 2013

Part I – Syria

This Regional Analysis of the Syria conflict (RAS) is an update of the [August RAS](#) and 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. More information on how to use this document can be found on page 2. Please note that place names which are underlined are hyperlinked to their location on Google Maps. The Syria Needs Analysis Project welcomes all information that could complement this report. For more information, comments or questions please email SNAP@ACAPS.org.

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🚩 Red flags indicate new information

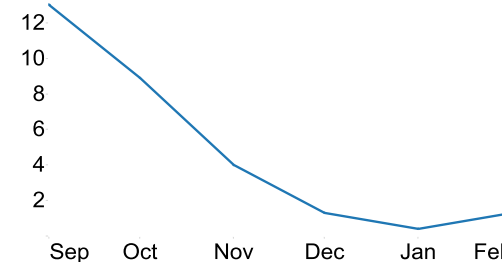
Overview

- 🚩 **Conflict and political developments:** Direct international military intervention in Syria was averted, at least temporarily, at the start of September when Russia and the US agreed upon a treaty whereby the Government of Syria (GoS) would disclose information on its arsenal of chemical weaponry and then permit its removal and destruction. President Bashar Al-Assad agreed to the treaty and complied with the first deadline by providing the requested initial documents. Furthermore, both the GoS and some opposition groups have made statements regarding their willingness to participate in the long-delayed Geneva II peace conference.
- 🚩 Meanwhile, with the media spotlight on the diplomacy, the conflict situation on the ground in Syria has continued to deteriorate, with heavy clashes between the Free Syria Army (FSA) and GoS forces and more frequent clashes between the FSA and extremist groups, though a ceasefire was reached in one area, suggesting that battalions under the main umbrella groups do not always follow the same ideologies or military tactics. Fighting also raged between Kurdish armed groups and Al-Qaeda linked groups in the bid for the strategic and oil-rich north.
- 🚩 **Humanitarian concerns:** An increasing number of reports highlight the GoS barring any medical assistance from reaching opposition held areas: halting aid convoys carrying medical provisions and preventing healthcare practitioners working. A severe lack of medicines and medical equipment further restricts healthcare provision. Prior to the crisis, pharmaceutical

manufacturers in Syria catered for 90% of the country's needs. Now, given the difficulty of importing raw materials, they are only able to meet 20-30% of the actual needs.

- 🚩 At the same time, paediatricians from several clinics report a noticeable increase in the rates of moderate and severe acute malnutrition, while the first reported death from malnutrition was reported in Madamiyat Elsham, one of the long-besieged towns of Rural Damascus. Communities living under siege in various areas across the country have critical unmet needs having managed to barely cope thus far, surviving the exceedingly harsh conditions through smuggling and, in some places, kitchen gardening or finding supplies left behind by those who have fled.
- 🚩 Amidst food shortages and continuing price increases, food security was further impacted by the threat of foreign intervention, as prices soared and the currency depreciated dramatically. Although this appears to have been a temporary drop, it highlights the susceptibility of the economy to outside forces.
- 🚩 The situation will deteriorate even further during the upcoming winter months (November – February), when low night-time temperatures and rain will increase the demand for scarcely available fuel. Those living in poorly isolated housing such as collective shelters, unfinished buildings and tented settlements are particularly vulnerable.

Syria: average minimum temperature in the coming months (°C)



- 🚩 **Humanitarian assistance:** Despite significant operational constraints, humanitarian organisations continue to provide assistance to a significant number of people in need. WFP, for instance, reported that in September, family food rations sufficient for over 1.4 million people have been dispatched across Syria. However, monitoring of relief distributions is difficult and it is not always clear how many of the items dispatched actually reached people in need. To address this issue, advocacy for increased humanitarian access is on-going. As opposition groups are highly fragmented and UN has limited presence in opposition-controlled areas, it is difficult to discuss humanitarian access on a general level. As a result, organisations are forced to negotiate access to opposition-controlled areas on a case-by-case basis.
- 🚩 **Information gaps:** Severe difficulties in obtaining and sharing information continue to hamper the assessments of needs in the country. As a result large information gaps remain, including the location and number of people displaced, the main priorities of those in need and specific protection concerns.

How to use the RAS?

This report is divided into three sections:

- The regional overview summarises the whole report into one page, highlighting the key issues and developments of the last month.
- Part I focuses on the situation in Syria, firstly by outlining the issues on a country level and afterwards, in more depth, on a governorate level.
- Part II deals with the host countries Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq, and discusses the main humanitarian issues related to the crisis.

The different parts and components can be read separately, according to information needs. While those working in a host country or a specific governorate might only be interested in small parts of the report, individuals working on a regional level can benefit from reading all sections.

The information in blue contains explanatory notes on the structure of this report while the information in red boxes outlines SNAP's analysis.

How to quote this document?

The Syria Needs Analysis Project is established to support the humanitarian response by providing an independent analysis of the humanitarian situation of those affected by the Syrian crisis. We support the communication of humanitarian needs and agree to them being used by other organisations to this end. Please note that most information is derived from secondary data and the original source should be quoted when this information is used. The original source can be found at the end of a paragraph and if possible, the hyperlink to this source has been made available. All information which is not sourced is based on SNAP's own analysis and should be quoted as such.

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Possible developments

- **Increased fighting between opposition groups:** Tensions between extremist factions on the one hand and Kurdish groups or the FSA (Free Syrian Army) on the other result more often in violent clashes over control of specific areas. This not only leads to more areas being affected by conflict, it also weakens the opposition groups in their battle against the GoS. The humanitarian implications include the following: further displacement and secondary displacement in northern governorates, a decrease in humanitarian access and an increase in protection concerns including looting, kidnapping and a lack of law and order.
- **Decrease in availability of basic goods:** While local production of medical supplies and wheat further decreases due to a lack of inputs, insecurity and damage to infrastructure, the GoS faces significant difficulties in obtaining goods on the international market. Trust of international traders in the GoS's capacity to access the required funds as well as the lack of insurance to import commodities leads to an increasing number of tenders for food and medicine not acted upon. In addition, private traders are increasingly unable to source required commodities due to currency depreciation and a crackdown on smuggling. As a result, the current shortages of food, medicines and basic items will further expand, particularly during the upcoming winter months when demand for fuel, food items and clothing increases.
- **Further decrease in livelihood opportunities:** The winter months will further decrease income opportunities as the need for casual labour in the construction and agricultural sector recedes. At the same time, the shortages in fuel will further trigger illicit economic activities such as smuggling and felling of trees.
- **High number of cases of malnutrition:** In the absence of a countrywide malnutrition survey, the full extent of the problem will remain largely underreported. However, malnutrition will become of increasing concern, with limited access to health facilities, increasing displacement and the lack of infant-food on the market. As malnutrition was relatively rare in Syria before the start of the crisis, there is a lack of knowledge and equipment to address the issue, further compounding the issue.

Latest developments

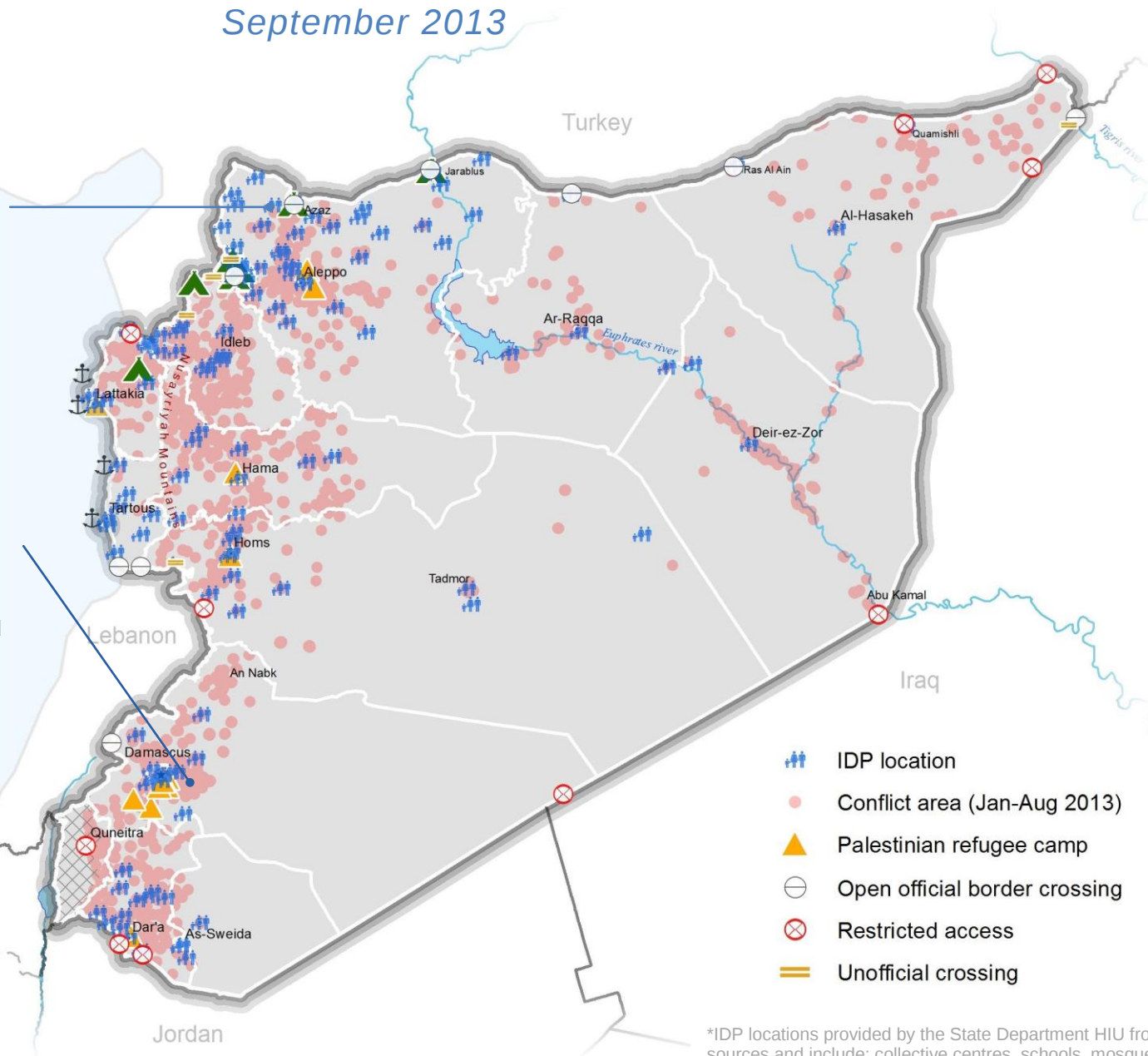
September 2013

Humanitarian access for international organisations is increasingly problematic due to insecurity, proliferation of checkpoints and difficulties in obtaining GoS approval to reach distribution sites. In addition, a number of UN international staff have been evacuated, further limiting capacity to support humanitarian operations in September. Insecurity in the northern areas, due to kidnapping of aid staff and tensions between opposition groups, is further decreasing the geographical areas aid agencies can cover.

Protection: A UN investigation on the use of chemical weapons in Syria confirmed the use of sarin gas in Rural Damascus on 21 August. The safety of civilians continues to be the most pressing concern in Syria, with gross violations of human rights reported on a daily basis. Attacks on densely populated areas are on-going, with heavy bombardments on areas of Aleppo, Homs, Idleb and Rural Damascus in September. A Child Protection assessment highlighted significant child protection concerns.

Health: Amid widespread shortages of medicines, equipment and medical staff and the breakdown of infrastructure, deliberate targeting by armed groups of hospitals, medical personnel and vehicles continues. While the breakdown of the healthcare system affects everyone, those with chronic diseases are particularly vulnerable.

Food: Food shortages are reported from different areas of the country, while inflation continues to impact purchasing power. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, the annual inflation in March 2013 was 300% compared to 145% in March 2011.



*IDP locations provided by the State Department HIU from open sources and include: collective centres, schools, mosques, sports facilities and host families. List is not exhaustive.

Information gaps and data limitations

Available data September

- Several reports on the humanitarian needs in Syria have become available in September.
 - IFRC launched an emergency appeal, documenting health needs and responses in Syria.
 - The ACU (Syrian National Coalition's Assistance Coordination Unit) published a report on education.
 - The Human Rights Council published a report on assaults against medical personnel and facilities across Syria.
 - The Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) published a report on child protection concerns in Syria. ([CPWG 2013/09](#))
- Early Warning And Reporting System (EWARS) reports continue to be published, albeit with a significant delay as the data has to be approved by the Ministry of Health. As information gathering relies on channels between public hospitals and the Syrian Ministry of Health, which can be interrupted for any number of reasons, they do not offer a complete picture of health issues. The ACU is planning to set up a system similar to the EWARS in opposition-controlled areas.
- UNRWA continues to publish bi-weekly reports on the crisis situation as it affects Palestinians living in Syria.
- In many sectors and areas of Syria, no new information has become available since the publication of the August RAS. Where the situation has not changed, or in cases where no more current information is available; the data has not been repeated in this month's report.

Information gaps - baseline data

- OCHA is currently undertaking a study to estimate pre-crisis population figures for all governorates in Syria, using the 2004 census data and population growth trends. Otherwise, no additional baseline data is available and the following information for Syria is still needed:
- Updated statistical data on poverty levels per governorate: the most recent poverty survey is from 2007.
- Information on market flows. The Central Bureau of Statistics has published pre-crisis market data such as CPI (Consumer Price Index) and unemployment figures but not flows.
- Recent information on religious and ethnic composition of the population in Syria.

- The number and location of migrants and unregistered refugees in Syria prior to the crisis.
- The number of Iraqi refugees resident in Syria prior to the crisis.
- Locations of critical infrastructure (bakeries, places of worship, power stations, and health facilities), which are only partly available.

Information gaps - in-crisis data:

Availability of information on humanitarian needs	
None / very limited	Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, As-Sweida, Dar'a, Damascus, Rural Damascus, Deir-ez-Zor, Idleb, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Quneitra
Some	Tartous
Most	

Urgent information needs on a governorate level are:

- Affected population figures: updated sex and age disaggregated data including older age groups (60-79 and 80+). The most recent countrywide figures are from April 2013.
- Information on priority needs, disaggregated by affected group (IDPs, host-communities). Number of IDPs in host families, collective accommodation and unoccupied houses.
- Mapping of IDP concentrations: apart from the 16 IDP camps at the Turkish border which are monitored by ACU, there is no information on the location of formal and informal collective IDP shelters and camps.
- Numbers of displaced trapped close to the borders with neighbouring countries.
- **Returnees:** An unknown number of people have returned to their place of origin. There is no information available on their priority needs or location.
- **Protection:** Regularly updated information on which areas are controlled by the GoS or by opposition actors.
- Information on the enforcement of law and order in all governorates; functioning of the police, fire services, etc.
- Cases and locations of SGBV, unaccompanied extremely vulnerable individuals (children, older people, disabled), number of cases of psychological trauma, and older people.
- Location, number and needs of third country nationals and refugees remaining in Syria.

- ✦ **Health:** Data records at clinic and field hospital level. A more comprehensive but flexible disease surveillance system is required, especially since health needs are reported as the top priority for the population.
- ✦ **Healthcare:** Updated information on the number and condition of healthcare facilities still functioning.
- ✦ Availability of medicines in different governorates.
- ✦ **Nutrition:** Status of children under 5 and other vulnerable groups such as older people in all areas. The existing nutrition risk factors, such as displacement and a lack of access to health care, are becoming of a increased concern, specifically for children. A nutrition surveillance system needs to be established.
- ✦ **Market information:** More comprehensive information is required on availability of products per sub-districts.
- ✦ **WASH:** The status of water networks per governorate.
- ✦ Analysis of impact of hot summer weather on access to water and hygiene situation.
- ✦ **Education:** Disaggregation of data on child enrolment between primary and secondary schools.
- ✦ **Response:** Who, What, Where of all relief agencies, in order to increase interagency, inter-sector and sub-sector coordination for relief activities; this is especially needed for coordination and partnership-forming between health providers to increase comprehensiveness of service provision (continuation of care, referral of patients for rehabilitation and provision of disability aids).
- ✦ **Key infrastructure:** Condition of infrastructure such as roads, bridges, ports and airstrips

✦ The ACU is planning several assessments:

- Survey of Police and Judicial System in Aleppo Governorate
- Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN)
- Dynamic Situation Monitoring on sub-district level (DYNAMO)
- Damage Assessment Aleppo
- Joint Rapid Assessment in southern Syria (J-RAS)
- 3W of Local Relief Actors in Syria

On-going and planned assessments

- OCHA is currently undertaking a Humanitarian Needs Overview, a desk study of the humanitarian needs, governorate profiles and awaiting GoS approval for the Joint Humanitarian Assessment in Syria.
- In addition, 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

Access of the affected population to humanitarian aid

- 🚩 **Assistance gaps:** An estimated 2.8 million Syrians inside the country face life-threatening circumstances because they have little access to assistance. ([HRW 2013/09/05](#))
- 🚩 **Siege:** Acute shortages of vital medical supplies, food and water were reported in a number of areas where the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) have not been given access. More than half a million people are reported to be trapped in Rural Damascus. The town of [Madamiyet Elsham](#), for example, near the capital, has been besieged for the last 10 months: despite repeated attempts, UN humanitarian agencies have been unable to deliver supplies. ([OCHA 2013/09/13](#))
- 🚩 WFP has been unable to access 39 locations in Damascus and Rural Damascus since mid-2012; locations where the population are believed to be in significant need, with basic items in scarce supply due to protracted sieges. ([OCHA 2013/09/09](#), [CNN 2013/09/02](#))

GoS impediments to humanitarian access

- 🚩 The bureaucratic procedures imposed by the Government of Syria (GoS) on movement of goods, especially medical items, remain a major challenge to operations. Access to areas with a high concentration of IDPs, such as communal shelters, has also been limited by these bureaucratic procedures as well as security constraints due to on-going armed conflict in many areas. ([UNFPA 2013/09/11](#), [UNFPA 2013/09/11](#))
- 🚩 There are 14 International Non-Governmental Organisations validated by the Syrian authorities to work inside Syria, 7 of which operate inside the country. The list of 110 local NGOs authorised by the GoS to support the work of international aid agencies has been reduced to 60 by the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA). ([ECHO 2013/09/04](#))
- The GoS has not given approval for the UN or other humanitarian organisations to deliver aid to opposition-held areas through neighbouring countries. The GoS has also imposed heavy bureaucratic hurdles on cross-line humanitarian assistance to opposition areas from GoS controlled regions. ([HRW 2013/09/05](#))

Lack of funding

- 🚩 In the revised Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP), compiled in consultation with the GoS and launched in June, the UN agencies, IOM and INGOs officially accredited in Syria, seek USD 1.4 billion to provide critical humanitarian response from January to December 2013. By 20 September 47% had been funded. Preparations for an update of the SHARP are on-going. ([OCHA 2013/09/20](#))

Active hostilities and violence against personnel, facilities and assets

- 🚩 Humanitarian staff continues to be subject to harassment, intimidation and kidnapping incidents while humanitarian supplies and convoys are frequently looted. Since the start of the conflict, 22 SARC volunteers and 11 UN members have been killed doing their humanitarian work, and ambulances and UN vehicles are still being attacked. ([Echo 2013/09/03](#), [OCHA 2013/09/9](#), [Reuters 2013/09/20](#))
- 🚩 At the start of the month when an international military intervention appeared imminent, some international staff members were evacuated. Security requirements for those remaining in country are increasing. This has resulted in disruption of staff movements and operations. ([UNFPA 2013/09/11](#))

Restriction of movement

- 🚩 Many areas in Syria have become largely inaccessible due to an upsurge in violence, proliferation of checkpoints around major cities, and road closures in Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Aleppo, Homs, Deir-Ez-Zor, Idleb, and Rural Damascus. ([UNICEF 2013/09/09](#), [OCHA 2013/09/09](#), [UNFPA 2013/09/11](#))
- 🚩 Many areas under siege are inaccessible to humanitarian organisations. Organisations were unable to assess the humanitarian situation following the chemical weapon use on 21 August in Rural Damascus. ([UNICEF 2013/09/09](#), [CNN 2013/09/02](#))
- 🚩 Relief actors are also constrained by the large number of armed groups – ranging from organised armed forces to loosely structured non-state groups – when delivering aid to Syrian civilians. The presence of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) along certain Syrian-Turkish border crossing points limits INGO operations to only critical activities such as water and health, and managed only by Syrian staff. ([PI 2013/09/13](#), [ICRC 2013/09/20](#), [Reuters 2013/09/20](#))

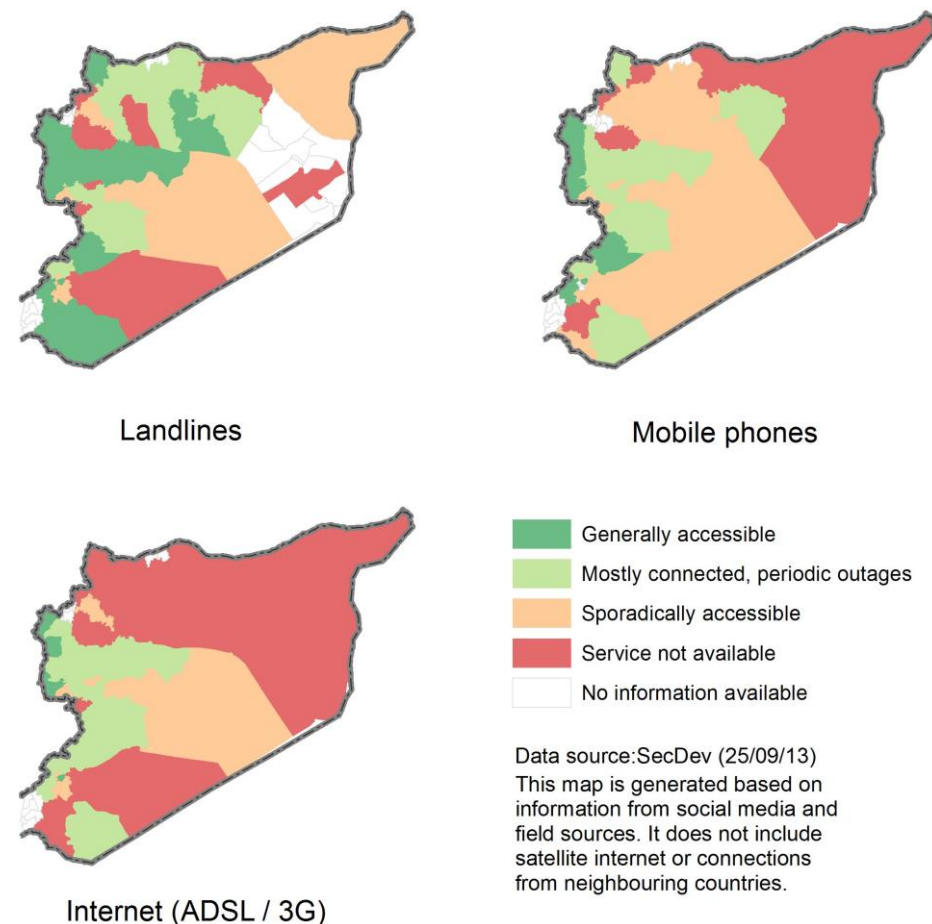
Diversion of aid

- 🚩 Diversion of aid, by both GoS forces and opposition elements, is reported to occur on a regular basis. WFP has recorded nearly 50 incidents of theft of supplies or confiscation of food trucks by armed groups since the beginning of 2013. ([Reuters 2013/09/20](#), [INGO 2013/01/25](#), [PI 2013/06/24](#), [UNRWA 2013/07/22](#))

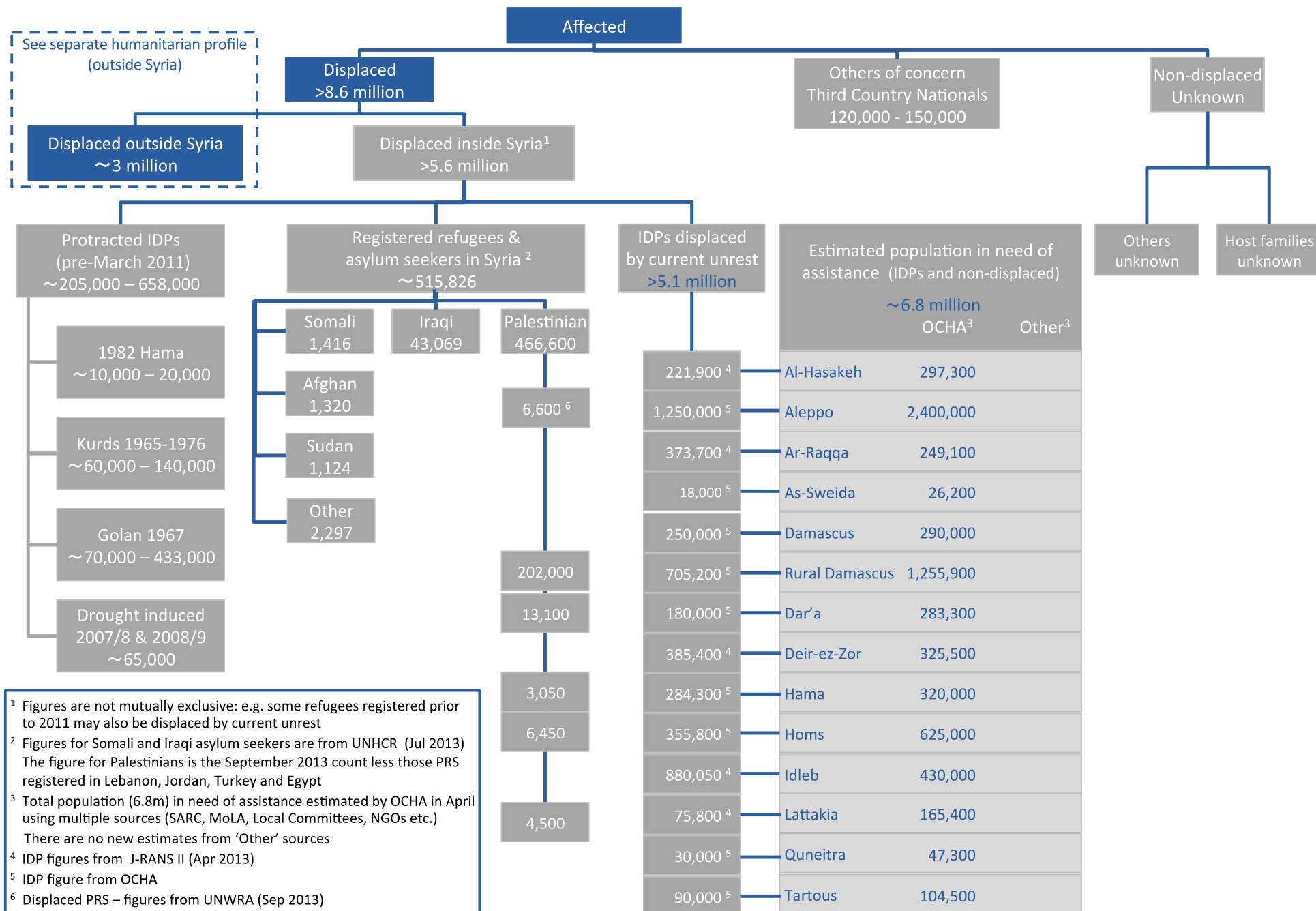
Logistics and telecommunications

- 🚩 **Telecommunications:** In Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa and parts of Idleb, telecommunications networks are rarely functional and standard Internet service has been sporadic the past six months. From the end of August and until 17 September, mobile and Internet networks were completely cut in the governorates of Aleppo and Idleb. ([OCHA 2013/09/09](#), [Tishreen 2013/09/06](#), [Al-akhbar 2013/09/18](#))
- 🚩 **Transport:** In addition to insecurity, lack of transport capacity has been identified as a major constraint for the delivery of relief items. In Dar'a for instance, the private transportation company's capacity serving Dar'a Governorate is overstretched ([UNHCR 2013/09/11](#))
- 🚩 **Fuel:** There is a countrywide shortage of fuel, and prices are continuously rising. Despite this shortage, the GoS insists that fuel is available. The price of a litre for diesel this winter is expected to reach SYP 160 on the black market. ([Eqtsiad 2013/08/27](#), [Al Akhbar 2013/07/04](#))
- 🚩 **Mines and IED:** Unexploded ordnances have been reported in the town of [Al-Qusair](#) and could represent an obstacle to relief operations as well as the returning community. ([Al Akhbar 2013/07/03](#))
- 🚩 **Procurement:** The market is often unable to supply all off the required items and organisations are increasingly forced to import commodities such as hygiene kits. ([PI 2013/09/25](#))
- 🚩 The decline of the Syrian pound against other currencies, especially the US dollar, coupled with restrictions implemented through the Syrian Central Bank on payments made in dollars, has made transactions with local vendors for procurement, transport of goods and services difficult. ([UNFPA 2013/09/11](#))

Connectivity per governorate - SecDev 2013/09/25



Humanitarian profile (see annex A for definitions)



¹ Figures are not mutually exclusive: e.g. some refugees registered prior to 2011 may also be displaced by current unrest

² Figures for Somali and Iraqi asylum seekers are from UNHCR (Jul 2013) The figure for Palestinians is the September 2013 count less those PRS registered in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Egypt

³ Total population (6.8m) in need of assistance estimated by OCHA in April using multiple sources (SARC, MoLA, Local Committees, NGOs etc.) There are no new estimates from 'Other' sources

⁴ IDP figures from J-RANS II (Apr 2013)

⁵ IDP figure from OCHA

⁶ Displaced PRS – figures from UNWRA (Sep 2013)

Conflict developments September

Key developments

- Clashes around the country momentarily subsided after the chemical attack on 21 August and subsequent threats of international military intervention. However, as a Russian-led proposal to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons and avert US intervention gained traction and the threat of a military strike seemed less imminent by early September, heavy fighting reignited, particularly in Rural Damascus, Homs, Al-Hasakeh and Dar'a. Intensified fighting was also witnessed in Damascus neighbourhoods and the surrounding countryside. The conflict frontlines in Aleppo city have been considerably calmer this month compared to previous periods, despite fierce clashes in the east and north. (Assafir 2013/09/02)
- Fighting between non-state actors, Al-Qaeda-affiliated groups, primarily the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS), and Kurdish factions, is on-going in Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh, with particularly heavy clashes in and around the border town of Ras Al 'Ain. Meanwhile, ISIS continues to target FSA leaders, with kidnappings and assassinations. The largest battle to date between factions within the opposition occurred in Azaz, with ISIS forces gaining control of the town on 18 September. ISIS and FSA agreed on a cease-fire after 2 days of fighting, which put an end to the fighting in Azaz. However, clashes between ISIS and FSA continued in other regions in Aleppo and Ar-Raqqa.
- Divisions between opposition factions are multiplying in the north as fighters from the ISIS are now fighting with Jabhat Al Nusra, another Al-Qaeda affiliated group in the north.

The north (Aleppo, Idlib, Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hasakeh)

- In September, fighting in Aleppo city has been less widespread than in previous months. Clashes and shelling have been concentrated in the east and southeast countryside (Kwaires, Dayr Hafir, Rasm El Abbod, Khan Al Assal) and in the north (Balleramoun, AlKindi Hospital, Byanoun, and around Aleppo Central Prison). ISIS gained control of Al Bab city after expelling the Free Syrian Army (FSA) fighters based there. On 8 September, 13 women standing in line in front of a bakery were shot in Al Akramieh neighbourhood. In an attempt to infiltrate Western Aleppo, the FSA shelled New Aleppo. Despite the Syrian Armed Forces (SAF) re-gaining control of Khanasir, which was taken by the opposition in August, the road for Western Aleppo is still inaccessible. Clashes between the Kurdish popular protection units (YPG) and the FSA in the Kurdish neighbourhoods of Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafiyye resumed in September, with the YPG making progress. (AlJazeera 2013/09/05, Al-akhbar 2013/09/13, AFP 2013/09/11, SANA 2013/09/15, SANA 2013/09/17, Assafir 2013/09/05, AlJazeera 2013/09/11, AlJazeera 2013/09/17, Al-akhbar 2013/09/18)

- On 18 September, after heavy clashes with the FSA, ISIS took control of Azaz city in northern Aleppo near the Turkish border in an attempt to control the Bab Al Salamah border crossing, a strategic route for humanitarian aid, weapons and fighters from Turkey. Clashes between ISIS and FSA battalions have expanded this month to Andan, a village in western Azaz, Tabqa village in Ar-Raqqa with the assassination of two new FSA leaders. Opposition infighting began on 22 September between ISIS and Jabhat Al Nusra along Syria's northern and eastern borders in Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hasakeh and western Aleppo. (Al-akhbar 2013/09/19, Daily Star 2013/09/20, Al-akhbar 2013/09/23, Daily Star 2013/09/23)
- The offensive by extremist groups against several Kurdish majority areas of northern and north-eastern Syria has continued, specifically in and around the city of Ras Al 'Ain (Sere Kaniye) in Al-Hasakeh. On 11 September, the YPG stated that it was in control of large parts of the area. Tal Halaf, to the west of Ras Al 'Ain, is the only town still in the hands of Al-Qaeda-linked groups. Clashes between Al-Qaeda-linked groups and YPG erupted also in southern Tell Abiad in Ar-Raqqa governorate. On 12 September, ISIS abducted Kurdish civilians in the city of Tell Abiad as a reaction to the recent clashes. ISIS now controls major border cities including Tell Abiad, Azaz and Jarablus in Aleppo. (ARA News 2013/09/02, ARA News 2013/09/14, Tishreen 2013/09/02, ARA News 2013/09/04, Al-akhbar 2013/09/13, Daily Star 2013/09/14, ARA News 2013/09/11, Guardian 2013/09/17, Al-akhbar 2013/09/09, Daily Star 2013/09/19, Al-akhbar 2013/09/23)
- Tensions also erupted between Kurdish armed groups. Arbitrary arrests were reported on 12 September of members of the Democratic Party in Syria (KDPS) in different villages and areas in Afrin (Aleppo) by forces of the YPG, the military wing of the Democratic Union Party in Syria (PYD). (ARA News 2013/09/12)
- Idlib remains largely in the hand of opposition forces, with small pockets held by the SAF. At the start of the month, Syrian forces retook control of the northern town of Ariha which has been in and out of opposition control. Ariha is a strategic town on the supply route between the coastal areas and the north of the country. Ariha was taken by extremist brigades on August 24. Shelling continues on the cities of Sarargib, Bennsh, Maar Tamsarin, Al Zawya Mountain. On 13 September, the Syrian Armed Forces (SAF) units tightened control over Al-Arba'een Mountain. (Daily Star 2013/09/04, AlJazeera 2013/09/05, AlJazeera 2013/09/13, SANA 2013/09/15, SANA 2013/09/14)

The east (Deir-Ez-Zor)

- Clashes have continued in Deir-ez-Zor (Al-Jubeileh, Hweika) with the SAF gaining control of some areas. On 13 September, a suicide bomber killed 35 SAF soldiers. Near the Iraqi border, fighting between FSA fighters and ISIS raged in the town of Bou Kamal after ISIS entered the town on 14 September. (Tishreen 2013/09/02, SANA 2013/09/12, Al-akhbar 2013/09/13, Daily Star 2013/09/14)

Central Syria (Damascus, Rural Damascus, Hama and Homs)

- Throughout September, some neighbourhoods of Damascus (Abbasid, Rukn Adine) were hit by heavy mortar fire while fighting in Jobar, Qaboun, Barzeh and Yarmouk continued in areas which have been heavily contested since the start of the year. The SAF is reportedly significantly progressing in Barzeh. ([Tishreen 2013/09/02](#), [SANA 2013/05/09](#), [AlJazeera 2013/09/05](#), [AlJazeera 2013/09/13](#), [AlJazeera 2013/09/17](#), [Daily Star 2013/09/10](#), [Al-akhbar 2013/09/23](#))
- After the threat of international military intervention subsided, fighting in Rural Damascus was reignited and the scope of battles enlarged as parties to the conflict sought to gain ground before the launch of any negotiations. The fighting spread to previously uncontested areas of Rural Damascus, including Qudsiya, Yabroud, An Nabk, Az-Zabadani in the north. On 9 September, the SAF allegedly gained control of Deir Salman, an important smuggling corridor for the FSA into eastern Ghouta, cutting access completely. Clashes raged in Chebaa in the south, a strategic focal point on the airport road linking eastern Ghouta to the southern neighbourhoods. Fighting between Palestinian and armed opposition fighters continues in Yarmouk camp, where the infrastructure has been severely damaged following 9 months of heavy fighting. ([Al-akhbar 2013/09/03](#), [AFP 2013/08/29](#), [AlJazeera 2013/09/05](#), [AlJazeera 2013/09/13](#), [Al-akhbar 2013/09/14](#), [AlJazeera 2013/09/17](#), [Al-akhbar 2013/09/11](#), [Al-akhbar 2013/09/18](#), [Al-akhbar 2013/09/19](#))
- On 4 September opposition fighters attacked the town of Malula, 60 km north of Damascus and home to between 2,000 to 5,000 residents. The town is of strategic importance for opposition groups, who are trying to tighten their grip on areas surrounding the capital. After several days, opposition forces opted to leave the town. ([Daily Star 2013/09/05](#), [Al-akhbar 2013/09/06](#), [Daily Star 2013/09/14](#))
- While GoS forces control most of central Homs, some areas are still contested. Clashes and shelling have been intense during this month in Homs countryside (Tal Kalakh, Ar Rastan, Ghanto) with clashes in several neighbourhoods (Al Warshah, Bab Houd, Al Qusour). Al-Qaeda-linked fighters attacked 3 predominantly Alawite villages in central Homs on 10 September killing a number of civilians. These villages were later taken by the SAF. The SAF is said to progress in Homs restoring stability in several villages (Msheirfeh, Masaadah) in the eastern countryside. Clashes and shelling continue in rural Hama (Kafr Nabutha, Kafr Zeita, As Salamiyeh countryside) and other towns in eastern Hama. On September 21, SAF attacked a village in north-west Hama (Sheikh Hadid) and allegedly captured 3 other villages in Hama governorate. ([Tishreen 2013/09/02](#), [AlJazeera 2013/09/16](#), [SANA 2012/09/15](#), [AlJazeera 2013/09/13](#), [SANA 2013/09/15](#), [AFP 2013/09/11](#), [Daily Star 2013/09/15](#), [SANA 2013/09/11](#), [Tishreen 2013/09/02](#), [SANA 2013/09/12](#), [AlJazeera 2013/09/16](#), [AlJazeera 2013/09/17](#), [AFP 2013/09/20](#), [Reuters 2013/09/21](#))

The south (Dar'a, As-Sweida, Quneitra)

- SAF controls most of the crossing points along the border with Jordan starting from western As-Sweida towards the northeast until Al Tanf Mountain, the intersection area between Syria, Jordan and Iraq. The contested border area extends from eastern Dar'a towards the west and routes are used by smugglers and combatants.
- SAF have gained control of the towns of Sa'sa', Harra and Bosra Esh Sham which form an axis securing a line of defence for Damascus. SAF has also advanced in Dar'a with continuous shelling on pockets of armed fighters in Nasib, Tafs, 'Atman, Nawa and other towns and villages with reinforcements on the outskirts of Inkhil city. ([AlJazeera 2013/09/05](#), [Al-akhbar 2013/09/11](#), [AlJazeera 2013/09/13](#), [SANA 2013/09/17](#))
- There are reports of an increased flow of weapons, including anti-tank missiles supplied by Saudi Arabia and light arms, munitions and non-lethal equipment from the US, to opposition groups fighting in southern Syria via Jordan. The distribution of weapons is not likely to alter the balance of power among parties to the conflict. ([Daily Star 2013/08/15](#), [Washington Post 2013/09/12](#), [NYT 2013/09/12](#))
- In Quneitra, opposition groups took control of several villages such as Umm Allokus, Al-Bakkara, and As Safra. No fighting was reported in As-Sweida. ([Al-akhbar 2013/09/13](#), [AlJazeera 2013/09/16](#))

The West (Lattakia, Tartous)

- Aerial bombardment was reported on the Salma region and Al Kurd Mountain in Lattakia at the beginning of the month. No clashes were reported in Tartous. ([AlJazeera 2013/09/05](#))

Country sectoral analysis

Displacement

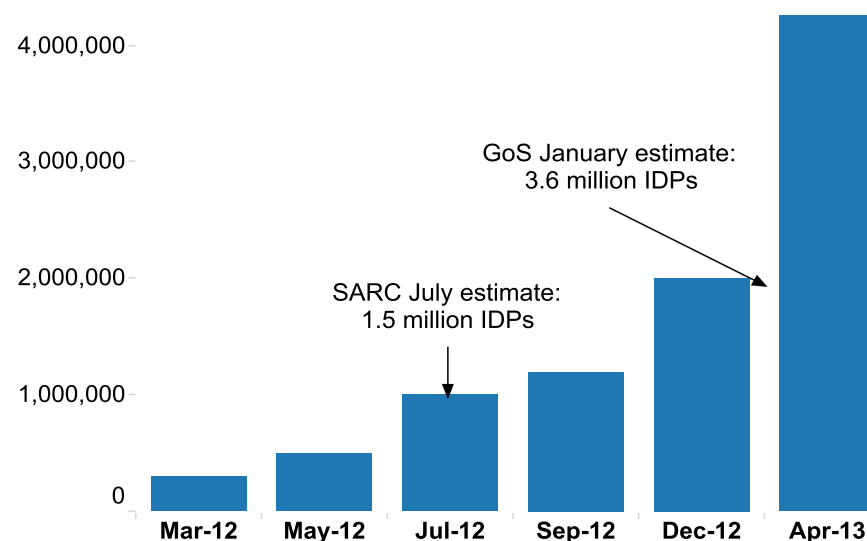
- **Number of IDPs:** There has been no update since April, when 5.1 million people were estimated to be internally displaced within Syria however it is widely understood that internal displacement has significantly increased in recent months. Information became available for several areas:
 - **Damascus/Rural Damascus:** Over 10,000 people fled southward from Damascus and Rural Damascus governorates following the August 21 chemical attacks. Amid escalated fighting and the possibility of international airstrikes on Syria, a further 70,000 IDPs reportedly arrived in Adra Oumaliyah town, northeast of Damascus, during the end of August. The IDPs reportedly originated from surrounding communities, Damascus, and Rural Damascus. ([USAID 2013/09/12](#), [UNFPA 2013/09/11](#), [OCHA 2013/09/09](#), [SOS 2013/08/30](#))
 - **As-Sweida** has become a refuge for more than 25,000 displaced Syrians that fled fighting near their homes in Dar'a and the suburbs of Damascus, an increase of 7,000 since the last estimate of 18,000 people in April. ([IOCC 2013/08/28](#))
 - **Idleb** registered a displacement of 5,000 families. The families are reported to be sheltering in schools and public buildings. ([UNICEF 2013/09/09](#))
 - **Dar'a:** Fighting and escalated tension in southern Syria has exacerbated displacement to and within Dar'a Governorate, where the number of IDP families had reached over 71,000 (355,000 individuals) by the start of September, according to relief organisations. ([UNICEF 2013/09/18](#), [OCHA 2013/09/10](#))
 - **Al-Hasakeh:** Clashes between armed actors and shifting lines of control displaced approximately 20,000 people to Qamishli and Al-Hasakeh cities throughout August. According to relief organisations, a number of the IDPs came from communities in Ar-Raqqa Governorate, including the city of Ras Al 'Ain and Al-Thwarah district. ([USAID 2013/09/12](#))
 - **Quneitra:** Intense shelling on the village of Ghadir Elbostan in southern Quneitra forced over 10,000 residents to flee to the neighbouring village of Rafid in mid September. The priority needs identified are food and medicines. ([Al Jazeera 2013/09/16](#), [PI 2013/09/18](#))
- **Palestinian refugees:** Approximately 235,000 refugees are displaced in Syria with over 200,000 in Damascus, around 6,600 in Aleppo, 4,500 in Lattakia, 3,050 in Hama, 6,450 in Homs and 13,100 in Dar'a. ([UNRWA 2013/09/06](#))
- **Drivers of displacement:** (Fear of) armed attacks and gross violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law by GoS forces

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and opposition groups continue to be key drivers of internal displacement. Fear of sexual violence has also been found to be a trigger in the displacement of families. In addition, massive destruction of homes in certain areas, the disruption of basic services, and the loss of livelihoods forces many Syrians to flee. ([GA 2013/07/15](#))

- **IDP camps along the Turkish border:** An estimated 75,000 IDPs are residing in camps across the border from Turkey. There are several reasons why IDPs decide to reside next to the border instead of settling in Turkey, including cross border employment, maintenance of family ties, and lower prices for goods and rent compared to Turkey.
- **Secondary displacement:** Many refugees have been displaced within Syrian multiple times before crossing the border. For instance, Jordan is typically the fourth stop for Syrians: most of the refugees arriving there have been previously displaced at least 3 times inside Syria. ([GA 2013/07/15](#))
- **Returnees:** As there is no displacement tracking system in place, it is unclear how many people have returned to their place of origin following displacement within or outside Syria. However, as the humanitarian situation in host countries continues to deteriorate and while several areas in Syria remain relatively stable, it is likely that a significant number of people have returned. Some reports mention compensation committees being set up to support return and the GoS reports that by June, over 800,000 IDPs had returned to their places of origin. However, this could not be confirmed by independent sources. ([Al-Akhbar 2013/09/11](#), [GoS 2013/06](#))

Number of IDPs as reported by OCHA
(March 2012 - April 2013)



Key issues September

- 🦋 **PROTECTION:** A UN investigation on the use of chemical weapons in Syria confirmed the use of sarin gas in Rural Damascus on 21 August, killing hundreds of people. At the same time, attacks with heavy weaponry on densely populated areas continue to kill a large number of people and cause damage to infrastructure.
- 🦋 A Child Protection Working Group report highlights several concerns, including kidnapping and hostage taking of children, child recruitment, child labour and an increase in sexual violence.
- 🦋 **WASH:** Water shortages continue due to disruptions in the water networks, while contamination of water sources is increasingly reported.
- 🦋 **HEALTH:** A recent report of the UN Human Rights Council Commission of Inquiry states that GoS forces deny medical care to those from opposition-controlled and affiliated areas as a matter of policy. There is also evidence that opposition armed groups have attacked hospitals in certain areas. In tandem with the damage to health infrastructure and shortages of medical staff, access to medicines is of critical concern. Pharmaceutical factories in Syria currently only cover 20-30% of the total country's needs, compared to 90% before the crisis. Most factories are located in the contested areas of Homs, Aleppo and in the outskirts of Damascus.
- 🦋 **SHELTER:** With insufficient shelter options to host the number of displaced in relatively safe areas, the establishment of more informal tented settlements has been reported. With the new school term starting, many people sheltering temporarily in school buildings have been forced to relocate.
- 🦋 **LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY:** Ahead of the planting season in October, farmers indicate that there is a severe lack of inputs. While domestic production of wheat has significantly decreased and is expected to diminish even further, the GoS is facing increasing difficulties to source the required wheat on the international market.
- 🦋 **EDUCATION:** On 15 September, an estimated 4.5 million students started the school year compared with 5.3 million in 2011. As a result of the on-going crisis and the increase in demand, the costs for school materials has spiralled.

Protection

- 🦋 On 16 September, the findings of a UN investigation into the use of chemical weapons in Syria were made public. The report confirmed the use of the nerve agent sarin during a chemical weapon attack in Rural Damascus on 21 August. The United States stated that 1,400 people were killed during this attack. Both opposition groups and the GoS deny having used these weapons. ([Reuters 2013/09/16](#), [Al Jazeera 2013/09/02](#))
- 🦋 The Syrian Observatory of Human Rights reports that over 110,000 people, of whom over half were civilians, have been killed since the start of the conflict. In September 2012, the centre reported that around 30,000 people had been killed. The large majority of people were killed in attacks with conventional weapons and unlawful attacks have been documented in 12 out of the 14 governorates. Heavy weaponry is being used by GoS forces on densely populated areas while opposition groups use small arms; improvised explosive devices; and rocket-propelled grenades on civilian neighbourhoods. ([UN 2013/09/16](#), [UNHRC 2013/09/25](#), [Daily Star 2013/09/01](#), [SOHR 2013/09/27](#))
- 🦋 The Cluster Munition Monitor reports that GoS forces began using cluster munitions in 2012, and their use has continued into 2013. These weapons were used in at least 152 locations between July 2012 and June 2013. ([CMC 2013/08/29](#), [Cluster Munition Coalition 2013/09/09](#))
- 🦋 Large scale human rights violations continue to be committed by all sides to the conflict, including summary executions, ill treatment of detainees, torture, rape and kidnappings. There are several reports of forced displacement of the civilian population. ([UN News Service 2013/09/16](#), [ARA 2013/09/01](#), [Syrian Free Press 2013/09/03](#), [Assafir 2013/09/05](#), [Daily Star 2013/09/11](#))
- 🦋 A recent report by the UN Human Rights Council indicates that people are purposefully denied medical care as a 'weapon of war'. Hospitals are under attack or are being used as military bases while medical staff are attacked, arrested or tortured. ([UNHRC 2013/09/13](#))
- 🦋 Freedom of movement for civilians is severely restricted in parts of the country:
 - GoS forces and opposition groups have systematically besieged certain areas across the country. Sieges hamper the free passage of foodstuffs and other essential supplies and severely limit the mobility of civilians, with concrete walls erected between neighbourhoods. Areas which have been under siege for multiple months include neighbourhoods of the cities of Homs, Idleb, Aleppo, Eastern Ghouta towns, Salma region in Latakia and the Palestinian refugee camp Yarmouk. ([AFP 2013/09/18](#), [UNOCHA 2013/09/13](#), [UNICEF 2013/08/29](#), [Human Rights Council 2013/06/04](#))
 - Armed actors often control transportation routes and harass, detain, and rob IDPs on roads and at checkpoints along their route. At checkpoints, people must show ID cards that indicate their place of origin; some men

from areas allegedly harbouring opposition groups have reportedly been questioned and detained at GoS checkpoints. There are unconfirmed stories of identity papers being intentionally damaged at checkpoints, to make it more difficult for the individual to enter host countries. ([Brookings LSE 2013/07/10](#), [WFP 2013/07/25](#), [HRW 2013/07/01](#), [Human Rights Council 2013/06/04](#), [PI 2013/09/20](#))

- Entry to Jordan is restricted and those without or damaged identity papers cannot enter Lebanon through official border crossings. As a result, flight options are limited, particularly for those in the south of the country. ([UNHCR 2013/07/16](#), [UNFPA 2013/09/01](#))
- ✦ Over 100 news providers have been killed since the start of the conflict and Syrian and foreign journalists are subject to kidnappings, abuses and arrest. ([INGO 2013/08/28](#))
- Due to the high levels of displacement and destruction of GoS infrastructure, security of tenure is under threat. During their flight, people have lost documentation that proves their ownership of land. There are reportedly a large number of informal settlements in urban areas, many of which have witnessed a high level of conflict. In Homs, all property records were destroyed during a fire in the land registry office. The lack of documentation is likely to hamper return of IDPs to their places of origin. ([OCHA 2013/07/18](#), [Guardian 2013/07/22](#), [Habitat 2013/09/25](#))
- ✦ **Child protection:** A recently published Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) assessment highlights several issues in Syria:
 - Civil/political/armed violence, explosive remnants of war (particularly in Homs and Dar'a), torture in detention, kidnapping and hostage taking of children.
 - A deterioration of wellbeing of children, with disruption in sleep patterns, sadness, bedwetting and unwillingness to go to school.
 - Recruitment of children in armed forces and armed groups.
 - Children's participation in violence looting and/or pillage and children recruiting other children into armed groups or forces.
 - Increase in sexual violence committed by a range of perpetrators.
 - Increase in girls marrying before the age of 18, particularly in Homs and Rural Damascus.
 - An increase in child labour - during a separate assessment in one IDP shelter in Aleppo, half of the children aged 6-12 years interviewed were forced to work to support their families because their father was either disabled, missing or dead. Children reportedly worked over 12 hours per day and were subject to harsh working conditions, verbal abuse and beatings by other children and/or adults at work. ([OCHA 2013/09/09](#))
 - Family separation occurs as a result of the death of parents, or during movements to safer areas. Deliberate separation takes place as well, for example, with families sending children to work or staying with relatives.

Most respondents were aware of families who had sent children out of Syria and cited their motivations as safety, economic hardship and avoidance of being used by armed forces and armed groups. ([CPWG 2013/09](#))

- ✦ **Palestinian refugees:** At least 235,000 Palestinian refugees (PR) have been displaced in Syria (over 50% of all registered PR), either within Syria or to neighbouring countries. With external flight options restricted, (the GoJ does not allow PR to enter and there are increased restrictions for PR to enter Lebanon) Palestinian refugees remain a particularly vulnerable group. ([UNRWA 2013/09/06](#), [UNRWA 2013/09/06](#), [UNRWA 2013/06/21](#))
- ✦ **Third country nationals:** At the end of July, UNHCR reported that over 49,000 refugees are residing in Syria, down from 67,000 in March 2013. The large majority are from Iraq. Besides heightened vulnerability, key protection issues reported include risks from shelling, threats (especially for Iraqi refugees), and incidents of abduction. Most of these do not have documentation, apart from UNHCR papers, and experience problems at checkpoints and when crossing borders. At the end of August, 8 mortars fell in the vicinity of the Fayhaa shelter, which hosts 400 displaced Somali and Sudanese refugees.. ([UNHCR 2013/08/20](#), [OCHA 2013/09/09](#))
- **Migrants:** IOM estimated that in March as many as 120,000 migrant workers remained in Syria, and that an estimated 15,000 were in need of evacuation assistance. Most migrants lived in rural areas but were displaced to urban centres following the outbreak of violence,. ([IOM 2013/06/07](#), [IOM 2013/03/04](#), [IOM 2013/02/01](#), [CARITAS 2013/01/11](#), [SHARP 2013/06/07](#))
- ✦ **Elderly:** Only 2.9% of the registered refugee population is older than 60, while an estimated 6% of the Syrian population is above 60. This illustrates the particular vulnerability of older people, with many unable to flee. Hence, older people are often forced to stay behind with no support as other family members move away. ([UNHCR 2013/09/18](#), [NRC 2013/03/15](#))
- ✦ **Disabled:** Handicap International has indicated that the crisis is leaving an increasing number of people disabled, with a large number of amputations and a higher proportion of spinal cord injuries than seen in other crises. Persons with disabilities generally represent 15% of a given population and this proportion can increase to 18%-20% in case of a conflict-affected population. However, only 1% of the UNHCR registered population in Lebanon concerns persons with a disability, reflecting the specific vulnerabilities of persons with a disability while trying to flee or accessing registration and services. ([HRW 2013/09/19](#), [Lebanon Protection WG 2013/09/18](#))

WASH

- **Water quantity:** As the water infrastructure in Syria is interconnected throughout the country, damage to a part of the network affects water supply to a large number of people. For instance, damage to a water pipeline in Homs affected water supply to an estimated 1.3 million people. Electricity cuts and the shortage of diesel hamper the operation of water pumps and artesian wells in areas such as Dar'a and Al-Hasakeh. In some areas, including Rural Damascus, people are fully reliant on water trucking and buying water in stores at high prices. (ICRC 2013/08/26, UNICEF 2013/09/09, JRS 2013/09/07, Tishreen 2013/09/02, Tishreen 2013/09/05)
- **Water quality:** Contamination of water sources is widespread with, for instance, oil leaking into water sources in the countryside of Deir-ez-Zor and rockets contaminating the Upper Orontes river which supplies water to 65 localities in Hama and Homs. (Tishreen 2013/09/08, Tishreen 2013/08/14)
- An estimated 35% of water treatment plants have been damaged. The import of water treatment materials is restricted, while the local production of these chemicals had almost completely halted by December 2012. The discharge of untreated wastewater in the environment is of increasing concern and pollution of potable water sources due to the malfunctioning of water treatment plants has been reported in several areas, including in Tartous, As-Sweida and Deir-ez-Zor. (UNICEF 2013/06, GoS 2013/06, PI 2013/07/19)
- Maintenance and repair of the water infrastructure is problematic. Insecurity restricts access to damaged water infrastructure for engineers and technicians. In addition, sanctions and depreciation of the Syrian pound impede the import of spare parts, while the capacity of the local market to supply these materials is limited. Looting of spare parts is common and transport and storage of these valuable items are dangerous. (UNICEF 2013/06, GoS 2013/06, PI 2013/07/19)
- Many governing boards no longer function, including the water establishments of Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor and Homs. Water governance boards are facing a lack of funds as insecurity and displacement make it difficult to collect water fees. (UNICEF 2013/06, GoS 2013/06, PI 2013/07/19, SANA 2013/07/16, ICRC/SARC 2013/07/10.)
- **Waste management:** Waste management services, including the rubbish collection, have become almost non-existent in some areas or only continue to be performed through the efforts of the people living there. (ICRC 2013/08/26)
- **Hygiene:** An assessment of hygiene practices in IDP shelters in Damascus found that people's hygiene knowledge and practices do not always take into account the new risks and threats of disease posed by the crisis. For example, pre-crisis, people typically drank water directly from the taps as water sources were mostly clean, while sources currently used can be contaminated and need to be purified before consumption. (OCHA 2013/09/25)

Health

- **Morbidity and mortality:** Only limited information pertaining to morbidity and outbreaks is available. In early September, acute diarrhoea was the main cause of morbidity as recorded by the Early Warning and Response System (EWARS) among 219 sites in Syria. (WHO 2013/09/07, UNICEF 2013/09/06, OCHA 2013/09)
- A notable spike in cases of Brucellosis, an infectious disease caused by ingestion of unsterilised milk or meat from infected animals, has been reported. This increase has likely been caused by a decrease vaccination rates - vaccination of animals against brucellosis dropped from 99% in 2010 to 36% in 2012. (OCHA 2013/09/25, OCHA 2013/09/09)
- During the up-coming winter months, influenza-like illnesses are likely to resurface as was the case during last winter. In the first week of January 2013 for instance, 93% of morbidity cases reported were due to influenza-like illnesses. (OCHA 2013/01/21)
- **Health infrastructure:** Large parts of the health infrastructure have been damaged or destroyed. A July Ministry of Health report stated that up to 60% of public hospitals have limited or no capacity. In Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor and Idlib governorates, 70% of health centres are either damaged or out of service. Makeshift clinics have taken over part of the functions of hospitals but lack equipment and qualified staff. About 90% of public ambulances have been damaged. (OCHA 2013/09/25, OCHA 2013/08/14, IRIN 2013/08/07, Daily Star 2013/09/17)
- Parties to the conflict are increasingly using denial of access to medical care as a military tactic. The UN Human Rights Council Commission of Inquiry states that Government forces have strategically assaulted hospitals and medical units to deprive persons perceived to be affiliated with the opposition of medical care. The policy is implemented through attacks on medical units, by endangering hospitals, targeting medical personnel, and interfering with patients receiving treatment. Opposition groups have also attacked medical staff and equipment – on 16 August for instance armed groups attacked a Kurdish Red Crescent ambulance in Aleppo governorate killing the driver, a patient and a paramedic. (UN News Service 2013/09/16)
- **Personnel:** There is a widespread shortage of qualified health personnel, as many were forced to flee. In Ar-Raqqa National Hospital for instance, out of the 1,050 pre-conflict staff members, only about 300 currently remain, including some 20 doctors. (Ar-Raqqa City Council & Relief Office 2013/07/24, OCHA 2013/09/09, Al Watan 2013/09/11)
- Although some health facilities and personnel face GoS attacks, the GoS continues to support a many hospitals, which includes paying the salaries of health staff working in opposition controlled areas. Facilities which are no longer receiving GoS support are reliant on external funding or are forced to raise the standard fees, which are normally set by the MoH. Health personnel

are forced to look for other sources of income. (PI 2013/09/15, Ar-Raqqa City Council & Relief Office 2013/07/24, OCHA 2013/09/09, Al Watan 2013/09/11)

- Even before the conflict, mental health care was in short supply in Syria, with only 70 psychiatrists countrywide. The only functioning public psychiatric hospital, located outside of Damascus, operates with limited capacity because of security concerns. (WHO 2013/09/22)
- **Medicines and medical equipment:** Syrian pharmaceutical factories currently only cover an estimated 20-30% of the required medicines, compared to 90% pre- crisis. Most factories are located in the heavily contested areas of Aleppo (50% of production capacity), Homs and in the outskirts of Damascus. 18 of 73 factories have closed because of damage, transport difficulties and a halt in raw material imports. In addition, the inability to access raw materials due to the sanctions on imports is one of the main constraints to local production. Although medicines are not subject to sanctions, the financial sanctions hamper transfers through international banks and delays transfer of payments in foreign currencies. The significant depreciation of the SYP compared to the USD is making imports more expensive. (Daily Star 2013/07/01, AFP 2013/08/19)
- Hence, locally produced medicines are in short supply and import of medicines is increasingly expensive. The GoS reports that there are 62 kinds of medications missing and the Ministry of Health stated that it has major difficulties in securing medicines for chronic diseases. (Tishreen 2013/09/17, AFP 2013/08/19)
- The GoS has increasingly restricted the delivery of medical supplies to opposition-controlled areas in recent months, refusing to approve medical deliveries; taking medical supplies out of aid convoys; and requiring case-by-case negotiations for the delivery of surgical kits. The restrictions come on top of other constraints facing medical aid deliveries, including the hijacking of aid convoys, attributed to armed opposition groups and criminal elements. (IRIN 2013/08/07)
- **Quality of medicines:** There are concerns about the quality of the available medicines. Insulin is for instance imported into the country without the necessary cold chain. (AFP 2013/09/18)
- **Nutrition:** Paediatricians from Damascus Children's Hospital and SARC clinics confirm a noticeable increase in the rates of moderate and severe acute malnutrition, and cases of severe malnutrition among children in the besieged town of Madamiyat Elsham have been reported. (UNOCHA 2013/09/13, Syria Observer 2013/09/02, UNICEF 2013/09/19)

Shelter

- **Shelter:** In areas subject to heavy fighting, a large proportion of the houses are damaged, destroyed or uninhabitable. According to various sources, an estimated 20-30% of the total number of buildings in the country have been damaged or destroyed. (Al-Akhbar 2013/08/01, AFP 2013/07/06, OCHA 2013/04/08)
- Families renting houses in less affected areas are finding it increasingly difficult to continue to pay rent owing to the depletion of their resources. (GA 2013/07/15)
- **Displaced:** With the start of the school year on 15 September, many IDP families residing in school buildings have been forced to search for alternative accommodation. In Aleppo for instance, 50 schools were evacuated before the start of the school year. (PI 2013/09/19, UNICEF 2013/09/06, IFRC 2013/09/18)
- Relatively safe areas have witnessed large influxes of IDPs, further exerting pressure on the already burdened infrastructure and basic social services - in Jaramana, a relatively safe village in Rural Damascus, the population increased by 50% due to the influx of people from contested areas. (Al-Akhbar 2013/09/19, UNICEF 2013/09/06)
- The majority of the displaced (an estimated 85%) reside with host families. Over 170,000 people reside in 845 public shelters in GoS held areas. The remainder of IDPs live in other collective shelters, unfinished buildings, public gardens, and rented apartments. In Damascus IDPs are reportedly staying in hotels, often at reduced room prices. (UNICEF 2013/19/09, OCHA 2013/09/09)
- Collective shelters are often designed to house large numbers of people. An assessment among collective shelters in Homs, Lattakia, Damascus and Rural Damascus indicated that most collective centres are overcrowded and unsanitary. In Lattakia for instance, the situation in the 3 collective shelters continues to deteriorate and families are reportedly in urgent need of humanitarian aid. IDPS living in unfinished buildings often lack basic WASH facilities. (IOM 2013/07/29)
- Along the border with Turkey, in Idleb, Lattakia and Aleppo, a number of camps have been established, including at least 26 in Idleb. An estimated 75,000 IDPs reside in these camps. Throughout the country, small informal camps are being established, as the current shelter options in relatively safe areas are insufficient to host all IDPs. (Islamic Relief 2013/08/29, Al-Akhbar 2013/07/08, ACU 2013/06/14)
- Of the estimated 235,000 displaced Palestinian refugees, over 7,000 are hosted in UNRWA facilities (schools and hospitals) while the remainder have moved to alternative refugee camps (18,000); rent apartments; reside with host-families or have fled to other countries. (UNRWA 2013/09/06)

- **NFI:** An IOM assessment among 160 displacement sites showed that there is a need for basic relief items such as house cleaning kits, hygiene kits, mattresses, blankets, pillows and quilts, and mosquito nets. ([IOM 2013/07/29](#))
- **Electricity:** Prior to the crisis, over 90% of Syrian households had access to electricity and the Syrian economy and infrastructure relied heavily on the constant flow of electricity. Although power cuts were common before the crisis, the damage to the electricity infrastructure now leaves some areas without electricity for long periods of time. At least 30 of the 400 power stations have been damaged and areas including Aleppo city and Rural Damascus witness power cuts for days on end. ([Tishreen 2013/09/04](#), [Assafir 2013/09/05](#), [PI 2013/09/19](#), [WB 2009](#), [SANA 2013/07/18](#), [Tishreen 2013/07/18](#), [INGO 2013/07/11](#), [Al-Akhbar 2013/06/28](#))
- **Winter months:** Although temperatures are currently around 30°C, preparation for the winter months, between December and March, are on-going. During these months night temperatures are on average below 5°C and rain is common. Anticipated areas of concern include:
 - Widespread shortages of heating fuel and significant price increases. The Ministry of Oil recently released a decision to increase fuel stockpiles in private fuel stations from 25% to 40%. However, it is unclear to what extent fuel stations can obtain the required reserves.
 - One source reports that a diesel crisis is expected in Rural Damascus as the reservoirs of the public fuel company have been damaged and no alternative location for the storage of diesel has been found. ([Al Watan 2013/09/09](#))
 - During the last winter, a lack of access to fuel prompted many Syrians to rely on electric heating. However, electricity cuts are currently widespread so this option will no longer be available to a large number of families. Cutting down trees will increasingly take place, to be used as an alternative source of heating.
 - A need for NFIs such as blankets, clothes and quilts is expected, while shortage of these items on the local market has been reported.
 - During last winter, IDPs living in collective shelters, in camps and those in makeshift shelter such as IDP camps were particularly affected, as these shelters often lack adequate insulation. ([OCHA 2013/01/21](#), [Al Baath 2013/09/16](#))

Livelihoods and Food Security

Food availability

- **Food shortages** are becoming more apparent, particularly in besieged areas where supply of food is often largely blocked. For instance, in Madamiyat Elsham, a town in Rural Damascus that has been under siege for months, an estimated 12,000 people face severe food shortages. ([OCHA 2013/09/13](#))
- **Wheat sources:** The main sources of wheat are domestic production and import by the GoS. The June wheat harvest was the worst in decades and international sanctions have damaged Syria's ability to fund food imports. In addition, the GoS is facing challenges in purchasing food on the international market, with an increasing number of unsuccessful tenders. Traders report that this is because Syria insists on unrealistic conditions. ([Reuters 2013/09/17](#), [Reuters 2013/09/13](#))
- In several areas, subsidised bread continues to be available, although long queues have been reported countrywide. It reportedly costs the GoS between SYP 100 - 110 to obtain 1.55 kg bread that is then sold at SYP 15. Shopkeepers stated that they regularly pay bribes to GoS inspectors in order to ignore increasingly unrealistic state price controls. ([Reuters 2013/09/17](#))
- Food aid is in serious danger of running out in some areas of the country due to lack of funding and the length of Syria's conflict. Food parcels are being split to feed two families instead of one, and individuals are also selling some of their food to pay for other essentials. ([Canadian Red Cross 2013/09/11](#))
- **Wheat production:** Ahead of the planting season in October, farmers have indicated a number of obstacles towards cultivation including shortages in inputs such as seeds, fertilisers, water and electricity. As the conflict has disrupted seed supply from other governorates, farmers are forced to source their seeds locally. (Trusted source 2013/09)
- Before the crisis, the GoS almost fully controlled the wheat market, with GoS agents collecting 80% of wheat produced distributing it to GoS bakeries. However, due the insecurity and the destruction of GoS wheat collection centres, a part of the farmers in the north are no longer served by the GoS agents. Private grain merchants have reportedly emerged, taking over GoS functions. ([PI 2013/09/22](#), [FAO 2013/07/12](#), [FAO/WFP 2013/07/05](#), [Al-Akhbar 2013/07/13](#))
- **Other food items:** Fresh fruit and vegetables are increasingly unavailable on the markets. To address the issue, the Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade, decided on 15 September, to extend the resolution to suspend the export of all kinds of vegetables until the end of the year 2013. However, smuggling is rife across much of the border no longer under control of GoS forces. ([Syria News 2013/09/15](#))

Food access

Prices: Across the country, prices of commodities such as rice, lentils, oil and tea increased by an average of 25% during September. Prices are very volatile and increased sharply due to a sudden increase in demand for food at the start of the month, when international military intervention seemed likely. (OCHA 2013/09/25)

According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, the annual inflation in March 2013 was 300% compared to 145% in March 2011. According to CBS, living expenses were highest in Aleppo in April 2013 and lowest in Damascus. (Al Watan 2013/09/08, Eqtisad 2013/09/04)

Depreciation: The Syrian Pound depreciated further during the threat of an international intervention, up to SYP 280 per USD. Since that, the exchange rate has decreased again, to around SYP 210 on the market. (Syrian Observer 2013/09/10, Eqtisad 2013/08/27, Al Watan 2013/09/11)

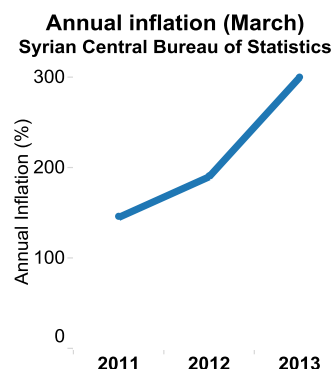
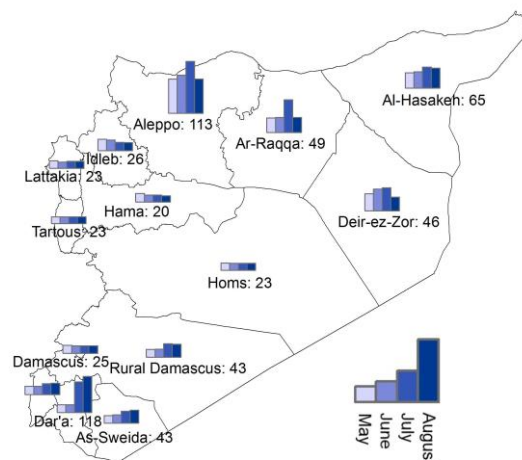
Livelihoods: With the deterioration of the economy, illustrated by an estimated 40-60% decrease in GDP since the start of the crisis, a large proportion of the population have lost their traditional source of income.

Damage to economic infrastructure; the flight of capital and human resources; and widespread insecurity including looting continue to negatively impact economic productivity. Recent GoS figures indicated that 2 of the 4 industrial Syrian cities (Aleppo and Deir-ez-Zor) are almost entirely out of service and with it, all of their employees. (Zaman-Al-Wasl 2013/08/14, Al Watan 2013/07/27)

The public sector, employing an estimated 30% of the formal work force, appears to be less affected and continues to form an important source of income for many Syrian households. However, in some areas it is increasingly difficult to access monthly salaries: communication and Internet outages in the

Trend of bread prices by governorate (May – August)

Label indicates price in August



province of Aleppo in September disrupted the payment of salaries to many public sector workers, particularly those reliant on ATM machines to withdraw their salaries (Tishreen 2013/09/18, Al Akhbar 2013/07/03, FAO/WFP 2013/07/05, Tishreen 2013/07/02)

As a result of the breakdown of the traditional economy, new income sources have emerged while others have expanded. Aid, local support networks and an increase in remittances make up for part of the income losses. Some people for instance buy bread from GoS bakeries and sell it for a premium to those unwilling to queue. (Reuters 2013/09/17)

Coping mechanisms: The main coping mechanisms reported include reducing the number of meals and switching to lower quality food, including buying less fresh food. Other coping strategies include borrowing food; sending family members to relatives; decreasing education expenditures; and sharing apartments with other families (OCHA 2013/07/01, Daily Star 2013/06/26, FAO/WFP 2013/07/05)

Education

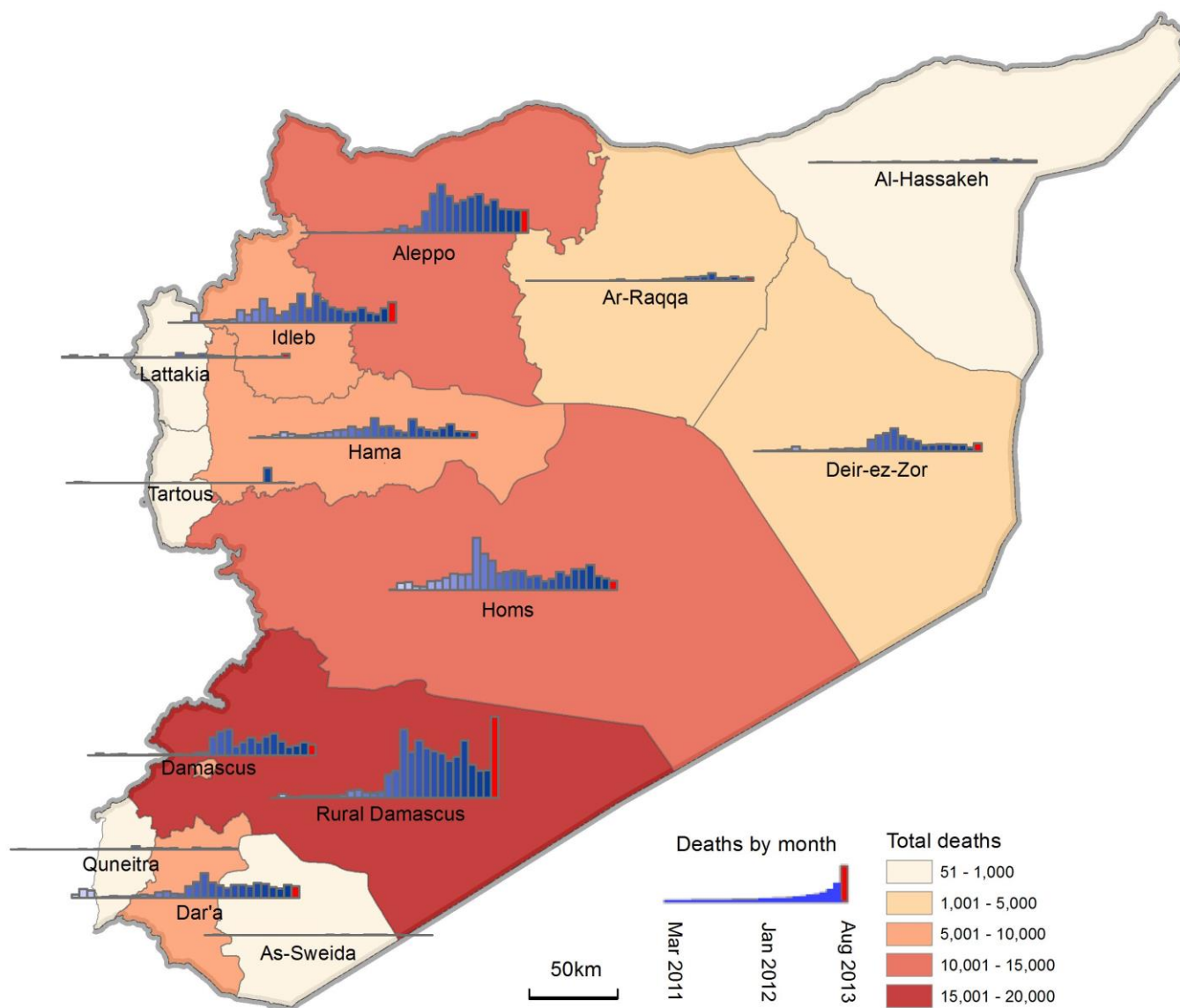
Local media reports that over 4.5 million students started the academic year on 15 September. However UNICEF report almost 2 million children have dropped out of school since the last school year. (UNICEF 2013/09/07, Al Baath 2013/09/16). As the estimated number of school age children was 5.3 million in 2010, the reported number of students starting this year may be over-estimated.

UNRWA reported in August that of 22,000 school buildings, over 3,600 (16.5%) are damaged, destroyed or being used as shelters by displaced families. As fighting has continued and expanded to different geographic areas since then, it can be assumed that more schools are currently not functional. (UNRWA 2013/07/22, Save the Children 2013/07/12, SHARP 2013/06/07)

In addition, education facilities continue to be exposed to attacks, with at least 64 schools attacked since the start of 2013. In addition to schools, other educational assets have been damaged or destroyed, including warehouses and school buses. Manufacturers of school supplies have been affected by the crisis and the price of education materials such as books has increased prior to the start of the school year mid-September. In Hama for instance, price increases of 300-400% for school materials have been reported. (Tishreen 2013/09/01, Eqtisad 2013/09/05, Tishreen 2013/08/15)

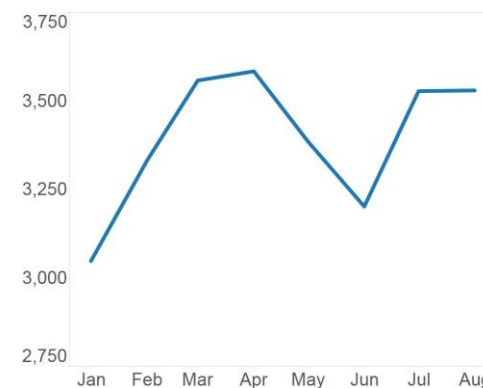
UNRWA stated that half of its schools in Syria have been closed due to damage to facilities or general insecurity. As a result, over 45,000 Palestinian refugee children will face a disruption in their education. (UNRWA 2013/09/01, OCHA 2013/09/09)

Estimated deaths by governorate - March 2011 to August 2013



Use of Syrian Martyr's database as a source: There is a variety of sources for data on the number of deaths resulting from the conflict in Syria. A report commissioned by OHCHR details eight databases documenting fatalities from the conflict. The report found that between March 2011 and April 2013 there were 92,901 verifiable unique fatalities. The authors identified numerous reasons why this was likely to significantly underestimate the total number of fatalities ([Human Rights Data Analysis Group](#)). For the data presented in this map SNAP used one of these sources, the Syrian Martyr's Database ([Syrian Shuhada](#)), as only the results and not the raw data from the combined analysis is available. This database is used because the relative trend of the data is in line with the result from the combined data, the extent of the data, the evidence presented for each record and the ability to report by governorate each month. The data should be interpreted as indicative of the pattern of fatalities by governorate rather than in definitive numbers.

2013 – Recorded conflict incidence per month*
(Source: UNMAS)



*Conflict incidence recorded from open sources and include: shelling; weapons fire; arrests; IEDs; rockets; Mortars.

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 infographic describes the level of information available per sector for the specific governorate.

Information gaps

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

Map symbols

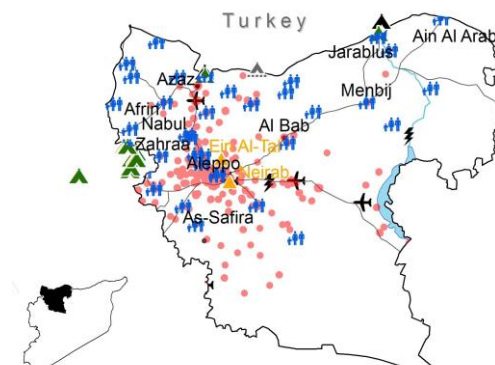
 Conflict extent (Jan-Aug 2013)	 Official border crossing
 IDP location	 Restricted access
 Palestinian refugee camp	 Unofficial crossing
 IDP camp	 Major roads
 Refugee camp	 Power plants
 Under construction	 Airports

Aleppo

Key developments

- Aleppo city remains largely under siege, with vehicle access frequently denied. As a result, the supply of food and medication is limited to what people can carry, leading to large shortages in basic commodities and further price increases.
- The health situation is of significant concern, with health personnel and facilities under attack and limited opportunities to transport medicines, which usually come from Damascus, to people in need.
- The frequent breakdown of communications in Aleppo and the large number of armed groups and checkpoints is significantly hampering humanitarian access.

Context: Before the crisis, Aleppo was home to around 20% of Syria's total population and Aleppo city was the economic capital of Syria and the centre of agriculture, industry and trade. Amid heavy fighting since February 2012, opposition forces gained control over the northern area between Aleppo city and the Turkish border, including the 2 official border crossings. The north-eastern part of the city of Aleppo is in the hands of opposition groups, while its south-western neighbourhoods are under Government control. Clashes between Kurdish groups and opposition factions are common.



Operational constraints

- ISIS and its affiliates have stated that cross-border humanitarian access via Jarablus should be limited only to Syrian nationals, and that they do not allow 'foreigners' in Syria. (PI 2013/07/21, Trusted source 2013/09/13)
- WFP reports that no food rations for September have been dispatched to Aleppo, due to increasingly fierce fighting around key transit routes, such as the International and Khanaser roads. (OCHA 2013/09/25)

Sector information

- ✚ **Protection:** Civilians continue to bear the brunt of hostilities. In Sfeirah town, subject to constant shelling by GoS forces based in nearby Jebel al-Waha, 4 women were killed and a number of others wounded, for instance. Meanwhile, in Afrin and Jebel al-Kurd, the armed wing of the PYD (the Democratic Union Party in Syria, a Syrian Kurdish political party) has been arresting members of other Kurdish groups such as the Kurdish Democratic Party in Syria and the Kurdish Azadi Party. ([Al-Jazeera 2013/09/16](#), [Ara News 2013/09/12](#))
- ✚ The city of Aleppo was temporarily cut off from telecommunications and the Internet for over 3 weeks in August and September. The shutdown of communication networks has further isolated the GoS-held western part of Aleppo city. ([Trusted Source 2013/09/19](#), [Assafir 2013/09/05](#), [OCHA 2013/09/09](#))
- ✚ **WASH:** Water pumping stations and electricity supply are facing increasing disruptions. The decline in waste management services, including garbage collection, renders communities more vulnerable to health problems. ([ICRC 2013/08/26](#))
- ✚ In Al-Fardous village, residents—including IDPs—reportedly only have access to 4 litres of water per person per day. It is not known whether other villages suffer similar shortages. The WASH Working Group recommends each person should be able to access at least 7.5 - 15 litres of water per day. ([Trusted source 2013/07/21](#))
- ✚ **Health:** Of the 5,000 doctors in Aleppo at the start of the conflict, only 36 remain. Many of these have been deliberately targeted by parties to the conflict. At the start of the month, a 28-year old Syrian surgeon employed by MSF was killed in Aleppo province. GoS warplanes allegedly targeted a field hospital near Aleppo city killing 11 persons and wounding dozens while ISIS and Jabhat Al-Nusra allegedly targeted a Red Crescent ambulance killing the driver, a patient and a paramedic. ([The Telegraph 2013/09/16](#), [MSF 2013/09/05](#), [Assafir 2013/09/05](#), [ReliefWeb 2013/09/16](#))
- ✚ The incidence of outbreaks (acute Jaundice, Typhoid Fever, and acute bloody Diarrhoea) reported in Menbij the previous months has momentarily abated. ([Trusted source 2013/09/05](#))
- ✚ In the industrial Northern Aleppo city of Sheikh Najjar, where IDPs have also congregated, 70 cases of suspected Hemolytic Anemia have been flagged. ([Trusted source 2013/09/19](#))
- ✚ In al-Fardous village, Measles, Scabies, Leishmaniasis, Diarrhoea and Hepatitis at incidence levels above average were reported, particularly among children. ([Trusted source 2013/07/21](#))

Information Gaps



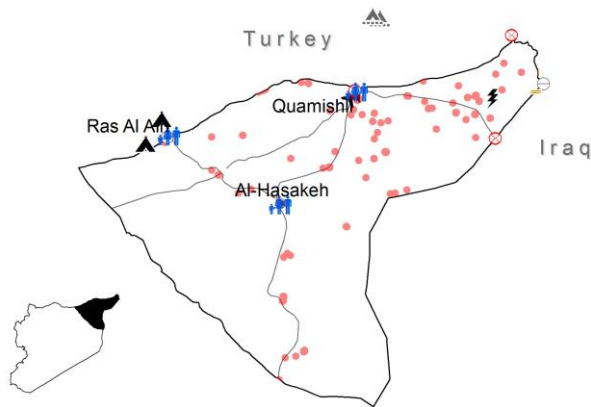
- ✚ Insulin supplies in the governorate have nearly been depleted, placing those with diabetes at high risk. ([Trusted Source 2013/09/09](#))
- ✚ **Nutrition:** Infant formula has become exceedingly scarce in Al-Fardous village. ([Trusted source 2013/07/21](#))
- ✚ **Prices:** Prices continue to rise in Western Aleppo: at the start of the month, a tray of eggs cost over 1,400 SYP, a pack of bread 250 SYP, a litre of gasoline 1,300 SYP, 1 kilo of infant formula 3,000 SYP and a kilo of tomatoes at 300 SYP. ([Eqtesad 2013/09/04](#))
- ✚ **Shelter :** The GoS has evicted IDP families from over 50 schools in Aleppo city to facilitate the start of the school year in September. ([Trusted Source 2013/09/19](#))
- ✚ **Displacement:** There are no updated figures on the total number of displaced in the governorate. The only updated information available concerns FSA-controlled al-Fardous village where, since June 2013, at least 10,000 IDPs have relocated. Of these, only about 200 had sought shelter in a public school whereas the rest are being accommodated by the local community. ([Trusted source 2013/07/21](#))
- ✚ **NFI:** According to a survey conducted among IDPs and host families in Awram al-Kobra and Kafr Halab (as well as two other villages in Idleb governorate), the following items were indicated as the most needed: carpets, firewood for heating, mattresses, blankets, winter jackets, long underwear, and infant diapers. The choice of wood represents a shift from natural gas and liquid fuels and may not be practical to have delivered by aid agencies in large quantities; however, an alternative could entail substitution with more carpets, blankets and winter clothing items. ([Trusted source 2013/09](#))
- ✚ **Education:** According to a survey of 231 schools in the governorate, 125 indicated a lack of heating appliances while 75 reported that heating has never been available. The same survey noted that of 4,183 teachers in the governorate's surveyed schools, 1,393 had yet to draw their salaries and that 1,123 of them were volunteers. ([ACU 2013/09/11](#))
- ✚ Group discussions held in an IDP shelter in Aleppo revealed that 50% of children aged 6-12 years living there had dropped out of school in order to make a living as their fathers were disabled, missing or dead. ([OCHA 2013/09/09](#))
- ✚ In al-Fardous village, only 6 of the existing 30 schools remain open, mainly due to structural damage. 40% of children go to these schools, whereas 50% reportedly attend parallel education institutions such as mosques. ([Trusted source 2013/07/21](#))

Al-Hasakeh

Key developments

- ⚠️ Fighting between Al-Qaeda affiliated groups and Kurdish factions is on-going. Human rights violations, including kidnapping and summary executions are frequently reported.
- ⚠️ Availability of potable water is a concern; the supply of drinking water to Al-Hasakeh city was interrupted for 4 days at the start of the month.
- ⚠️ The governorate's agricultural production levels are in sharp decline compared to previous years.
- ⚠️ There is limited information available on the health situation in the governorate.

Context: Much of Al-Hasakeh is under Kurdish control and there are strong linkages between the Kurdish population in the governorate and their fellow kinsmen in neighbouring Iraq. The governorate is Syria's main oil and grain producing region. In July 2012, the YPG (Kurdish Popular Protection Units, the armed wing of the PYD) took control of all towns and cities in the governorate, with the exception of Al-Hasakeh city and a Syrian army base in Qamishli. Since then, clashes between Kurdish groups and opposition fighters have taken place in several areas, including in and around the strategic border town of Ras Al-Ain.



Sector information

- ⚠️ **Protection:** Kurdish civilians are reportedly being taken hostage by Jihadist factions in order to be used in prisoner exchanges. ([ReliefWeb 2013/09/16](#))
- ⚠️ Clashes continue between Al-Qaeda-affiliated combatants and Kurdish forces, with the former reportedly focusing mortar shelling efforts on Ras al-Ain's al-Mahatta neighbourhood, where the Syrian-Turkey crossing point is sited. Furthermore, Al-Qaeda affiliated-fighters are allegedly targeting Kurdish Yazidi communities. Clashes have also been reported in Tell Kojar, after the YPG

wrested control, from Jihadists, of 30 villages in the vicinity of Tell Kojar and Ras al-Ain. ([Ara News 2013/09/04](#) [Al-Akhbar 2013/09/09](#) [Ara News 2013/09/10](#))

- ⚠️ Southern Al-Hasakeh governorate continues to suffer GoS aerial bombardments and artillery shelling, and this, together with the on-going extremist-Kurdish hostilities has given rise to another wave of internal displacement towards Qamishli and Al-Hasakeh cities, with one estimate placing this figure at 20,000 (alongside an additional 55,000 believed to have fled to neighbouring Iraqi Kurdistan). ([Al-Akhbar 2013/09/09](#) [OCHA 2013/09/09](#))
- ⚠️ **Fuel:** An oil well in Rumeilan with a daily production capacity of 3,000 barrels was set alight by armed groups at the start of the month ([Tishreen 2013/09/04](#))
- ⚠️ **Agriculture:** A mere 30% of the total planned area for cotton (17,512 out of 57,000 hectares of land) was cultivated in 2013, a further, drastic decline from the 52,000 hectares cultivated in 2012. Accordingly, the yield is expected to be 63,670 tonnes as opposed to last year's 240,000 tonnes. Reasons include the high cost of inputs and transport, and the lack of farming loans. ([Tishreen 2013/09/015](#))
- ⚠️ **WASH:** Drinking water shortages persist, partly as a consequence of declining flow between Ar-Raqqa's western and eastern dams, and partly due to the lack of electricity for pumps. Water through the pipe network is only available 5 hours per week. At the beginning of the month, the supply of drinking water was interrupted for 4 straight days, the first time this has reportedly happened. In the interim, 15 of the 30 wells belonging to the Ras al-Ain water project act as substitutes by supplying 75,000 out of the 120,000 cubic metres of water required for Al-Hasakeh city. ([OCHA 2013/09/25](#), [Tishreen 2013/09/02](#) [Tishreen 2013/09/05](#))

Information Gaps

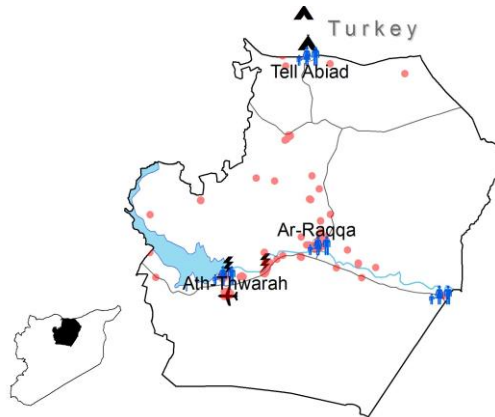


Ar-Raqqa

Key developments

- Current protection concerns include summary executions, kidnappings and possibly forced evictions.
- A severe shortage of infant formula has been reported.
- Water shortages are of concern, with the water network reportedly only operating at 60% of its capacity. Technical upkeep and a constant supply of fuel will be crucial to maintaining the network.
- Cross-border access via Tell Abiad is fraught with difficulties, though reportedly less so for goods. Access to areas west of Tell Abiad remains difficult given the on-going fighting, since mid-July, between Kurds and the opposition.

Context: Ar-Raqqa, the only governorate to have fallen under opposition control, is dominated by the Al-Qaeda affiliated groups, ISIS (mainly local as opposed to foreign fighters) and Jabhat al-Nusra, and the Ahrar ash-Sham faction. Pockets of GoS forces still hold out in some areas particularly north of Raqqa city, Ein Eissa (about 30km south of Tell Abiad) and the Tabqa military airport near the Euphrates dam, from where they conduct sporadic shelling and bombardments.



- Jabhat al-Nusra, which had left following disagreements with ISIS earlier this year, reportedly returned in force to Ar-Raqqa city in the middle of September where Ahrar ash-Sham and the FSA are still present. Fresh frictions have been reported between ISIS and Jabhat al-Nusra (the local ISIS Emir apparently defected to Jabha al-Nusra some weeks back), who since returning have not only openly aligned themselves with the FSA-affiliated 11th Brigade against ISIS in the northern parts of the governorate, but have announced that they would henceforth no longer tolerate abductions, the donning of facemasks and other behaviour typically associated with ISIS. (PI 2013/09/18 PI 2013/09/20)

Sector information

- Protection:** Al-Qaeda affiliated groups reportedly assaulted Kurdish neighbourhoods in Ar-Raqqa city with heavy guns and mortars. This followed on from clashes between Al-Qaeda affiliated groups and Kurdish forces nearby Tell Abiad. Kurdish civilians are reportedly also being taken hostage to be used in prisoner exchanges, such as in Tell Abiad. (Ara News 2009/09/01 ReliefWeb 2013/09/16 Ara News 2013/09/14)
- ISIS publicly executed two men they claimed to be members of the Syrian President's security forces. (Daily Star 2013/09/17)
- Unrest incited by a local group known as Sheikh al-Islam (reportedly affiliated to ISIS) against Ahrar ash-Sham, the armed faction currently in control of the border areas, led to arrests and closure of the group's offices by Ahrar ash-Sham fighters. Extremist groups led by ISIS stormed the town of Ain al-Arous (3km south of Tell Abiad), reportedly detaining Kurdish civilians and ordering them to pay a tribute of 500,000 SYP (about USD 4,000) or be evicted. In addition, extremists have allegedly seized a number of diesel-powered water pumps from Kurdish neighbourhoods following evictions. (PI 2013/09/15, Ara News 2013/09/02)
- GoS forces have been bombarding the northern parts of Ar-Raqqa city, while opposition forces continue to shell the Tabqa Military Airport where GoS forces have held their ground. (PI 2013/09/18)
- The rigid brand of 'Islamic justice' (under which people were subject to arbitrary and harsh sentences) meted out in the early days following the takeover of Ar-Raqqa has largely mellowed down. The popular protests directed against the Jihadists in support of the abducted Italian priest Paolo Dall'Oglio, have also died down. (Ar-Raqqa City Council & Relief Office 2013/09/18)
- Access:** Cross-border humanitarian access via Tell Abiad, still manned by Ahrar ash-Sham, has been temporarily disabled owing to hostilities and GoT policy to only allow registered INGOs into Syria. (PI 2013/09/02 PI 2013/09/11)
- Telecommunications and Internet networks in Ar-Raqqa function only erratically. (OCHA 2013/09/09)
- Health:** Ar-Raqqa National Hospital (*Mashfa ar-Raqqa al-Watani*), the only major health facility left in the city, is operating beyond its limits. Out of the 1,050 pre-conflict staff members, only about 300 currently remain, including some 20 doctors. At the government hospital for obstetrics and gynaecology, medical staff are reported to be leaving for the private sector since state salaries have ceased. (Ar-Raqqa City Council & Relief Office 2013/07/24)

Information Gaps



- **Nutrition:** There is a severe shortage of powdered formula for infants under 1 year old, of whom there are an estimated 45,000 in the governorate (20,000 in Ar-Raqqa city alone). (Ar-Raqqa City Council & Relief Office 2013/09/18)
- **Livelihoods and food security:** There is a reported shortage of pulses such as lentils, chickpeas and *foul*. (Ar-Raqqa City Council & Relief Office 2013/09/18)
- **WASH:** Ar-Raqqa's water network is estimated to be operating at 60% of its capacity as a consequence of shortages in electricity supply, which itself has been affected by the price of diesel having risen by 80% (currently USD 1.5 per litre) since July. (Ar-Raqqa City Council & Relief Office 2013/09/18)
- A decline in waste management services including garbage collection, if not addressed, risks exposing communities to health problems. (ICRC 2013/08/26)
- Ar-Raqqa City receives up to about 18 hours of electricity each day, whereas this may range between 5-15 hours, often interrupted, in the rural areas. While the current consumption levels are still manageable, an increase owing to the use of heaters in winter is expected to reduce the number of hours of electricity to around 5, local power authorities warn. Maintenance and on-going fuel supply will therefore be critical in the coming weeks. (Ar-Raqqa City Council & Relief Office 2013/09/18)
- **Education:** Students are gradually returning now that the school term has started, but schooling materials and stationary are still lacking. Of the 16 schools previously serving as IDP shelters, only two remain occupied by IDPs. (Ar-Raqqa City Council & Relief Office 2013/09/18)
- A survey of schools in the governorate indicated a lack of heating appliances. (ACU 2013/09/11)

Information Gaps



As-Sweida

Key developments

- The governorate continues to be relatively calm with no reported clashes over the last month. As a result, it is one of the least affected governorates in Syria. However, its population is indirectly affected by weakened livelihoods, lack of fuel and increase in prices.
- Because of its relative stability, the governorate is seeing an influx of IDPs. Estimates on the number of IDPs in the governorate range from 15 to 30,000 IDPs. (Al-Akhbar 2013/06/14, IOCC 2013/08/28)

Context: Mountainous as-Sweida governorate continues to be one of the least directly affected areas in Syria. The area is inhabited by Druze communities, which mainly support the GoS.

Operational constraints

- No operational constraints were reported. After going through customs clearance in Naseeb, trucks traveling from Jordan to Damascus are required to travel on a military road to As-Sweida with a military escort, then are able to travel onwards. (Logistics Cluster 2013/09/05)

Displacement

- An NGO reported that 25,000 IDPs primarily originating from Damascus suburbs and Dar'a are sheltering in host communities and tents in the governorate. Official sources indicate that there are 15-20,000 IDPs in collective shelters in As-Sweida, while the Red Crescent estimates that there are around 30,000 IDPs in the governorate. While IDPs are permitted to stay in As Sweida, they are subject to heavy scrutiny upon arrival and during their stay by GoS and local security forces. (PI 2013/09/18, Al-Akhbar 2013/06/14, IOCC 2013/08/28)

Sector information

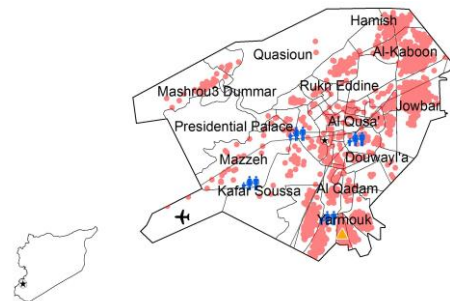
- **WASH:** The functioning of irrigation wells in some villages has been disrupted due to a lack of fuel. (Al Watan 2013/06/10)
- **Livelihoods and food security:** The high costs of feed, fuel and veterinary services are inhibiting livestock production and increasing prices. (Al Watan 2013/09/01)
- **Education:** The costs of stationary have reportedly increased by 200% in As-Sweida markets. (Tishreen 2013/09/11)

Damascus (city)

Key developments

- Intensive shelling, airstrikes and clashes have resumed in opposition enclaves in the east and south following a lull after the 21 August chemical attacks in the Damascus suburbs and as international military intervention was debated.
- The already dire humanitarian situation in the besieged areas, particularly Yarmouk and eastern and western Ghouta, continues to worsen with renewal of intense clashes in the eastern and southern outskirts of the city.
- Children residing in Yarmouk are at high risk of severe malnutrition due to major shortages of food. Medicine, medical supplies and fuel are in extremely short supply. (UNRWA 2013/09/06, Daily Star 2013/09/14, Al Jazeera 2013/09/13, Jafra Foundation 2013/09/18)

Context: Major clashes between the Syrian Army and opposition forces were reported for the first time in the city of Damascus around March 2012. 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. Analysts said that the Government had focussed a large part of resources to secure an area of control in a radius of about eight kilometres around Damascus city.



Operational constraints

- Operational access further deteriorated in September due to increased tensions resulting from the chemical attacks and threats of international military strikes. UN agencies drastically reduced the presence of international staff and restricted the daily movements of most national staff. (UNFPA 2013/09/10, WFP 2013/09/10)

Besieged areas

- Yarmouk camp:** Yarmouk has been under siege since late 2012 and for nearly 3 months, the camp has been sealed off from all movements of people and goods. Bread and milk are no longer available and the cost of fuel for water pumps has skyrocketed as supplies run out. There is a severe lack of medical

supplies. Given this combination of factors, the risk of severe malnutrition among children is very high. SAF and pro-Government militias have recently made inroads into some areas of Yarmouk but it remains largely under opposition control. 3 Palestinian refugees were reportedly killed by shelling on 4 September. Less than 30% of Yarmouk's population, which totalled 150,000 people pre-crisis, remain in the camp. (UNRWA 2013/09/06, Daily Star 2013/09/14, Al Jazeera 2013/09/13, Jafra Foundation 2013/09/18)

- Qaboun:** The Qaboun neighbourhood has been under siege since early 2013 by SAF and was subjected to intensified clashes, shelling and airstrikes in mid-September. 2 UNRWA schools are hosting IDPs but all other UNRWA facilities are closed. (UNRWA 2013/09/06, Al Jazeera 2013/09/17)
- Barzeh:** Barzeh has been under siege since early 2013 by SAF and is subject to regular clashes and shelling. All UNRWA facilities are closed. Electricity, water, fuel and food are scarce and there is only limited humanitarian access. Checkpoints and GoS snipers reportedly hamper movement of civilians. (UNRWA 2013/09/06, Al Jazeera 2013/09/13, Al Jazeera 2013/09/16, Al Jazeera 2013/09/17)

Displacement

- Tens of thousands of people from Damascus, particularly those residing near Government buildings reportedly have left to Lebanon and other areas within Syria due to fears of international military strikes. Some of the reported 70,000 IDPs who arrived in Adra Oumaliya in Rural Damascus originate from Damascus city. (PI 2013/08/30, OFDA 2013/09/12, OCHA 2013/09/10)

Sector information

Information Gaps



Protection

- Half of marriages recorded in Damascus and surrounding areas reportedly involved marriages of minors, which are classified as under 18 for males and under 17 for females according to Syrian law. A child protection assessment found that the most common perception of pre-crisis marrying age was 19-25 among males and 15-18 among females. (Al Iqtisadi 2013/09/19, CPWG 2013/09)
- A shelter hosting 400 Somali and Sudanese refugees was affected by 8 mortars in late August and residents had to be evacuated. (OCHA 2013/09/10)
- Situation in Palestinian refugee camps:** Yarmouk has been completely closed to all goods and movement of people and subject to intense clashes and shelling. Approximately 1,700 children have registered in schools supported by local NGOs. 56 Palestinian children have been killed since the beginning of the conflict in Yarmouk alone. (UNRWA 2013/09/06, IPS 2013/08/26, Jafra Foundation 2013/09/18)

Health

- Damascus residents are reportedly stocking up on the limited supplies of available medicine in the markets, particularly for chronic diseases, in anticipation of possible military strikes. The high demand has reportedly led to five-fold increases in medicine costs. ([Al-Eqtasad 2013/08/28](#))
- There was a spike in reported cases of Brucellosis in recent months, which is often transmitted by livestock and exacerbated by poor water sources and sanitation practices. 52 cases of Brucellosis were reported in Damascus in the first week of September. ([WHO 2013/09/07](#), [OCHA 2013/09/10](#))

Livelihoods and food security

- Food prices have reportedly increased since late August and some foodstuffs are no longer available in the market. ([JRS 2013/09/07](#))
- Although urbanised and densely populated, residents in the besieged Yarmouk camp are beginning to plant small gardens and raising chickens to address the massive food shortages. ([Jafra Foundation 2013/09/18](#))

WASH

- Residents of East Ghouta report that water sources have been contaminated and there is an increase in reports of typhoid in some villages. ([OCHA 2013/08/26](#))
- The Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) called for the activation of emergency wells to cope with the needs of IDPs and disruption to the electricity grid. ([OCHA 2013/09/21](#))

Shelter

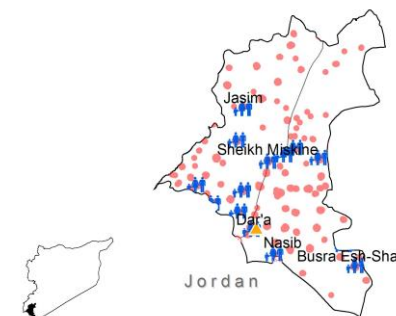
- Numerous Damascus hotels are sheltering IDPs instead of tourists. Room rental rates are reportedly increasing due to increased fuel costs. ([Daily Star 2013/09/06](#))

Dar'a

Key developments

- An inter-agency mission reported that WASH, NFI and health situation further deteriorated. An estimated one third of the health workers have fled the governorate and most health facilities are no longer functioning.
- Due to restrictions on entry into Jordan, thousands of people are reportedly stranded in host communities near the border.
- There are reports of increased flow of weapons, including anti-tank missiles supplied by Saudi Arabia and light arms, munitions, and non-lethal equipment from the US, to opposition groups fighting in the south via Jordan. However, there is no discernable change in conflict dynamics attributable to the increase in the opposition's access to weapons. ([Daily Star 2013/08/15](#), [Washington Post 2013/09/12](#), [NYT 2013/09/12](#))
- GoS forces re-took the town of al-Harra while contested border towns such as Nawa, Inkhel, Jasem and Tafas, continue to witness clashes, air strikes and shelling between armed groups. ([WFP 2013/08/20](#))

Context: GoS forces continued their offensive in Dar'a to gain strategic control of population centres along transit routes and border crossings in September. Home to the first uprising in March 2011, Dar'a is an ancient transit route between Syria and Jordan, as well as the Gulf states. Bordering the Golan Heights and close to Israel, Dar'a is traditionally one of the most militarised regions in Syria.



Operational constraints

- A high-level UN inter-agency mission visited Dar'a on 3 September to re-establish contact with local partners, monitor distributions and advocate for the establishment of a permanent UN humanitarian hub to monitor activities. The WASH, NFI and health situation reportedly deteriorated in Dar'a despite the relative availability of aid. ([SANA 2013/09/03](#), [UNICEF 2013/09/05](#), [WFP 2013/09/10](#))
- Road access between Dar'a and Damascus is subject to sporadic fighting, numerous checkpoints and bureaucratic delays, which continue to hamper the delivery of basic supplies and assistance. In addition, transport capacity is limited as the available commercial transport services are reportedly overwhelmed and fuel is in short supply. ([UNRWA 2013/09/06](#), [UNHCR 2013/09/11](#), [UNICEF 2013/09/18](#))

Displacement

- 🚩 UNICEF and SARC reported that over 71,000 families or 355,000 people are displaced in Dar'a alone making up about one third of the pre-crisis population. The majority of IDPs are living with members of the host community, with about 4,500 families living in public facilities and unfinished buildings. ([UNICEF 2013/09/18](#), [OCHA 2013/09/10](#))
- 🚩 The majority of Nawa residents have fled intensive clashes, shelling and airstrikes in August and early September and are displaced in neighbouring areas, Quneitra, Damascus and rural Damascus. ([WFP 2013/08/20](#), [Al Jazeera 2013/09/05](#))
- 🚩 There are reports of up to 65,000 IDPs from Damascus and its suburbs stranded in towns along the Jordan-Syria due to the August chemical attacks, but these figures remain unverified to date. ([Jordan Times 2013/09/04](#), [UNHCR 2013/09/02](#), [Jordan Times 2013/09/12](#))
- Dar'a has seen very high levels of displacement, with a large number of people having left the governorate and the arrival of returnees and displaced from other areas. Over one third of the original 2011 population of Dar'a is registered as a refugee in Jordan. ([UNHCR 2013/07/13](#))
- Displacement patterns in Dar'a are characterised by frequent displacement for relatively short-term periods to host communities, public facilities and unfinished buildings in nearby villages and neighbourhoods. IDPs generally return home for the periods between fighting. ([PI 2013/07/25](#))
- The GoS has reportedly gained control of a number of border crossings, both official and unofficial, with Jordan. People trying to flee Syria are increasingly taking eastern routes into Jordan. ([PI 2013/07/25](#), [UNHCR 2013/07/16](#), [WP 2013/07/23](#))

Sector information

Information Gaps

Protection

- 🚩 Sources in Dar'a and Jordan reported that some people trying to flee to Jordan are required to pay JD 300 (USD 423) to enter. As a result, thousands of people reportedly remain in border villages. ([PI 2013/08/19](#), [PI 2013/08/21](#))
- 🚩 Checkpoints in Dar'a present considerable protection issues for civilians including children.
 - Boys and young men are reportedly subject to arrest and abuse, particularly at al Madakah checkpoint, for failing to report for military duty by the age of 18, based on a March presidential decree.
 - Women have been harassed and physically and sexually assaulted at checkpoints. One woman was reportedly raped at a Dar'a checkpoint because of her brother's activities, then forced to marry someone else.

- IDPs, particularly those without identity documents and from contested or opposition-controlled areas, are often harassed and subject to arbitrary arrest.
- A number of beatings have occurred at the entry checkpoint to Dar'a city. ([Human Rights Council 2013/08/16](#), [CPWG 2013/09](#))
- 🚩 A number of residential homes and other civilian structures have been demolished by the GoS forces in Dar'a near the 15th Brigade's base and in other areas for purported military advantage. ([Human Rights Council 2013/08/16](#))

Health

- 🚩 The UN reported that about one third of health workers in Dar'a have fled the country. 3 out of 7 hospitals, including the Dar'a public hospital, and health centres in nearby villages are not functioning, forcing families to walk one hour to obtain vaccinations in the city. ([OCHA 2013/09/10](#), [UNICEF 2013/09/18](#), [UNICEF 2013/09/19](#))
- The health situation reportedly deteriorated further in Dar'a in early July due to a lack of medicine and supplies as well as the systematic targeting and shelling of health facilities. On 28 May, an opposition group attacked Dar'a's national hospital. ([OCHA 2013/07/15](#), [Human Rights Council 2013/08/16](#))

Food security

- 🚩 Local organisations reported that over 71,000 families (or 355,000 individuals) in Dar'a require food assistance. ([OCHA 2013/09/10](#), [UNICEF 2013/09/18](#))
- 🚩 There is no food price monitoring in Dar'a and bread prices are one of the most volatile in the country. The costs of vegetables are estimated to have doubled in early September. Produce traders operating between Jordan and Syria have reportedly stopped shipments in early September due to the threat of international military attacks, which will likely exacerbate price hikes in Syria. ([WFP 2013/07/23](#), [Tishreen 2013/09/08](#), [Jordan Times 2013/09/08](#))
- 🚩 Bread in the Government controlled areas of Dar'a city was found to be available at subsidised prices of SYP 15, although long lines are common due to shortages in fuel and flour. Food production in Dar'a has reportedly decreased by two thirds since the beginning of the crisis. ([OCHA 2013/09/10](#), [UNICEF 2013/09/18](#), [UNICEF 2013/09/19](#))
- The lack of livestock vaccinations in Dar'a - previously provided for free by the GoS - is believed to have caused the appearance of lumpy-skin disease in cattle in Lebanon, Jordan and the West Bank. ([WFP 2013/07/05](#))
- 🚩 **Education:** The prices of stationary, books, uniforms and other school materials have significantly increased compared to last year's prices. ([Tishreen 2013/09/01](#))

- An armed opposition group broke into an UNRWA school in Dar'a and used classrooms as shelter for IDPs. The IDPs have since been relocated to a GoS school in the area. (OCHA 2013/08/26)
- Schools in Dar'a have suffered some of the worst damages in the country, with an estimated 300 schools damaged out of 600 at a cost of SYP 356 million (USD 1.8 million at USD 1=SYP 200) since the beginning of the crisis. (UNRWA 2013/07/22)
- **Situation in Palestinian refugee camps:** There was sporadic fighting and shelling reported in the Dar'a camp in September. All UNRWA facilities remained open and operational. Less than 10% of the pre-crisis population remains in the Dar'a camp due to continuing hostilities. (UNRWA 2013/09/04)
- **Shelter:** An estimated 4,500 families are sheltering in overcrowded public facilities and unfinished buildings in Dar'a city with poor water and sanitation facilities. (UNICEF 2013/09/19)

Information Gaps

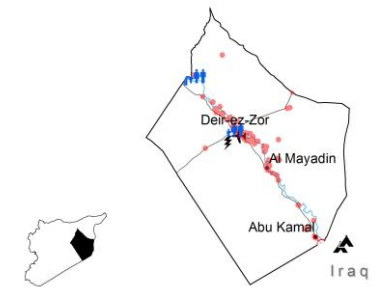


Deir-ez-Zor

Key developments

- Although more limited than during the previous month, fighting continues in Deir-ez-Zor governorate.
- Water and electricity supply are facing increasing disruptions.
- Humanitarian access remains problematic owing to the intensity of the fighting in parts of the governorate, and to reported constraints imposed by Jihadist groups.

Context: Social structures in the energy-rich governorate are primarily tribal, extending across the border into Iraq, and the GoS historically enjoys less of a support base in Deir-ez-Zor. The region is remote, receives little media coverage, and is rife with smuggling. Opposition groups are in control of a large swathe of territory stretching from the provincial capital city Deir-ez-Zor to the Iraqi border. GoS forces still control 3 neighbourhoods in western Deir-ez-Zor, including the military airport and key intelligence and security bases.



Operational constraints:

- According to an unverified report, Al-Qaeda-affiliated factions only permit Islamic NGOs to work in the governorate. (PI 2013/09/20)

Sector information

- **Energy Infrastructure:** The Jebseh gas pipeline in Sfeirah, 25km north of Deir-ez-Zor city, was reportedly sabotaged, causing disruptions to gas-powered electricity stations in Al-Taim and Az-Zara. Jebseh gas plant previously produced 1.5 million cubic metres of gas daily, and this incident is expected to impact power supply to both Deir-ez-Zor and Al-Hasakeh governorates. (Tishreen 2013/09/04)
- **WASH:** Water stations, electricity supply and waste management services are facing increasing disruptions. (ICRC 2013/08/26)
- The targeting of an oil pipeline near Mrat village reportedly led to the shutdown of water purification plants affected by the leak. (Tishreen 2013/09/08)
- **Education:** A survey of schools in the governorate indicated a lack of heating appliances. (ACU 2013/09/11)

Hama

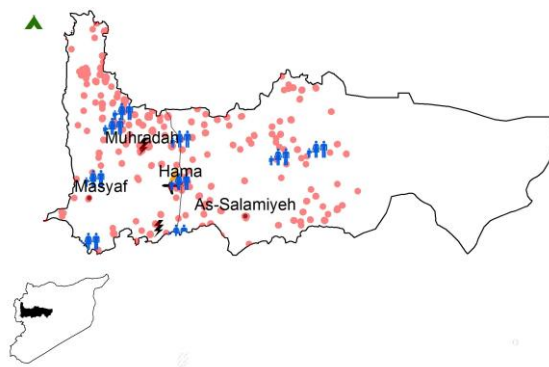
Key developments

- 🚩 **Fighting in Hama** is on-going, with frequent clashes between opposition forces and the Syrian army especially around villages under opposition control. Several villages in the east of the governorate witness heavy shelling. Meanwhile, military installations are regularly attacked in Hama city. (Al Jazeera 2013/09/16)
- 🚩 **Water shortages** have been reported, mainly due to the breakdown of a major water pipeline in Homs.

Context: Hama has endured heavy fighting throughout the 2-year conflict. The north of the governorate is of particular strategic importance as the main road linking Aleppo to Damascus runs through it.

Operational constraints

- Heavy fighting seriously impedes aid delivery to many areas of the region. The north of Hama is of particular strategic importance as the main road linking Aleppo to Damascus runs through it.



Sector information

- 🚩 **Livelihoods and Food Security:** Due to high input prices and difficulties in transportation, the price of meat and chicken has soared. 35% of Syria's chicken is farmed in Hama, but production in the governorate has fallen by 68% - due largely to the hike in the price of maize after supplies, usually allocated to the farmers, were sold on the black market. (Tishreen 2013/08/20)
- 🚩 The prices of many basic foodstuffs have increased considerably. The price of a carton of eggs, for example, recently reached SYP 695, up from SYP 485 in less than 2 weeks. (Al Watan 2013/09/09)
- 🚩 **WASH:** A major pipeline supplying water to 1.3 million people in Hama and some areas in Homs has been damaged, disrupting the water supply.
- 🚩 The Upper Orontes river, supplying 65 localities in Hama and Homs with drinking water, has been tainted by rockets, which have affected the water's turbidity. (Tishreen 2013/08/14)

- 🚩 **Shelter and NFI:** Only 60% of the governorate's fuel needs are being met by the current supply. (Tishreen 2013/08/15)
- 🚩 **Education:** The prices of school materials, such as stationery, have been severely affected due to the cessation of manufacturing in the governorate. Prices have risen between 300% and 400% since 2012. (Tishreen 2013/09/01)
- 195 schools have been damaged during the conflict, out of 1,600 in total. (UNRWA 2013/06/30)
- 🚩 **Situation in Palestinian refugee camps:** There are over 3,000 displaced Palestinians in Hama camp, mostly having come from Yarmouk and Ein El Tal Camps. (UNRWA 2013/09/06)

Information Gaps

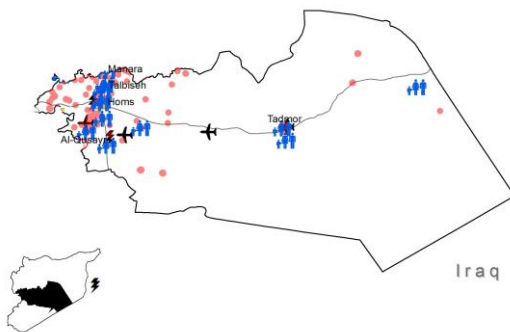


Homs

Key developments

- Following the late July capture of Khalidiyeh neighbourhood in Homs city, GoS forces continued their campaign to gain control of remaining opposition areas of the city (Bab Houd, Old Homs, al Warshah, Hamidiyeh) and surrounding villages and towns (Rastan, Talbisseh, Tir Maallah, Ghanto) along the critical M5 highway which connects Damascus to Aleppo. Intense clashes and shelling continue. The capture of Khalidiyeh cut off opposition enclaves in the centre of the city from strongholds further north.
- Despite intensive efforts by aid agencies, the disruption of a major water supply network for 1.3 million people in Hama and Homs governorates significantly increases the risk of water-borne diseases.
- Al Wa'er neighbourhood in Homs city continues to face massive shortages of food, medicines and medical supplies. Al Wa'er's population has quadrupled with IDPs making up 80% of the population. Aid agencies have been permitted sporadic access but the assistance provided remains insufficient. (Tishreen 2013/09/02, Al Jazeera 2013/09/05, SANA 2013/09/12, Al Akhbar 2013/09/14, SANA 2013/09/15, Al Jazeera 2013/09/17)

Context: Homs lies along a highway axis running north to Hama and Aleppo and south to Damascus and Dar'a, a vital road juncture linking army bases on the coast, and Government forces in the capital Damascus. The Syrian Army is in control of the city of Homs, except for the Old City.



Operational constraints

- Access remains extremely limited due to the tense security situation and number of checkpoints. On 27 August, civilians, including 2 SARC volunteers, were killed by mortar shells at the SARC Homs office. UNICEF reported movement restrictions on its staff to support and monitor aid distributions. (OCHA 2013/09/10, UNICEF 2013/09/09)
- UN agencies were required by local authorities to use small pick up trucks instead of larger trucks for aid deliveries in Homs city. (WFP 2013/08/23)
- On 12 August, aid distributions were suspended due to the lack of appropriate GoS permission letters. (WFP 2013/08/23)

- Displacement:** Some IDPs from Qusair have reportedly returned to rebuild their homes and livelihoods. A GoS reconstruction committee is expected to be established to compensate residents for destroyed homes and businesses. (Al Akhbar 2013/09/11)

Besieged areas:

- The **old city of Homs** has been under siege for over one year with no access to humanitarian aid. There are an estimated 10,000 civilians reportedly trapped in the old city facing major shortages of food, medicines and medical supplies. (UNICEF 2013/08/22, OCHA 2013/09/25)
- An estimated 300,000 people are under siege in **northern parts of Rural Homs**, including Ar Rastan, Talbiseh and Houla. (OCHA 2013/09/25)

Sector information

- Protection** Jabhat al-Nusra fighters executed 12 Alawite civilians in Maksar al-Hissan village near Homs city on 10 September. (AFP 2013/09/11, As Safir 2013/09/13, Daily Star 2013/09/15, ARA News 2013/09/12, Daily Star 2013/09/16)
- Civilians are subject to physical assault and arbitrary detention at the Deir Baalbah checkpoint on the Homs-Damascus road, where there is also a detention facility, before transiting prisoners to military intelligence offices. (Human Rights Council 2013/08/16)
- Opposition forces in Al Dablan neighbourhood in Homs reportedly attacked a school being used as a collective centre by IDPs. (Al Akhbar 2013/07/31)
- In Al Wa'er, a neighbourhood in Homs, snipers are reportedly targeting people moving through the Al-Mzaara crossing, the only access point for an estimated 400,000 civilians and IDPs. (OCHA 2013/09/25)
- Palestinian refugee camp:** The Homs camp remains calm with all facilities open with increased security checkpoints at the entrances. (UNRWA 2013/09/06)
- Health:** Almost half of Homs' public health facilities are no longer functioning, representing a 30% decrease in since June. Half of the doctors from Homs city have reportedly fled. (OCHA 2013/08/14, Al Akhbar 2013/08/06)
- WASH:** A major water tunnel in the embattled Homs neighbourhood of al Wa'er was heavily damaged, cutting off water to between 800,000 to 1.3 million people in 65 communities in Hama and parts of Homs. The UN is reportedly repairing the tunnel, providing water tankering and water treatment supplies and establishing a back-up water source for contingency purposes. However, a lack of GoS approval temporarily halted water delivery in mid August. (UNICEF 2013/09/05, OCHA 2013/08/26, OCHA 2013/09/10, OCHA 2013/08/26)
- Livelihoods and food security:** Local markets in Homs are running out of basic foodstuff and non-food items. (WFP 2013/08/23)

Idleb

Key developments

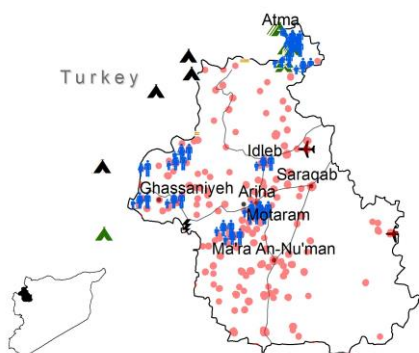
- Ahead of the planting season in October, farmers have indicated a number of obstacles towards cultivation including shortages in inputs such as seeds, fertilisers, water and electricity. As the conflict has disrupted seed supply from other governorates, farmers are forced to source their seeds locally.
- Seeds for certain crops such as cotton and beet are reportedly no longer in demand given the breakdown in Government subsidies and the lack of outlet markets. The lack of cultivation of these crops will further decrease productivity in the cotton and sugar industries, which are largely dependent on local production.
- Severe shortages of water have been reported in some of the IDP camps along the border with Turkey.

Context: Some of the conflict's harshest battles have taken place in the governorate, leaving GoS forces in control of the major cities (including Idleb) and access routes (especially towards Hama and the Mediterranean Coast) while the armed opposition's numerous factions have staked out territory in the surrounding countryside. Idleb governorate has also become the site of the largest number of IDP camps known to humanitarian agencies.

GoS forces took back the northern border town of Ariha, preserving a supply line between the coastal areas and the pockets of GoS deployments in this largely rebel-held province. ([Daily Star 2013/09/04](#))

Sector information

- **Protection:** Cluster munitions have allegedly been used in Idleb governorate, where a school in Awram al-Kubra was reported to have been targeted by incendiary bombs. . ([ReliefWeb 2013/09/16](#))
- A car bomb exploded on the Syrian side of Bab al-Hawa crossing point, across from the Turkish border city of Reyhanlı. At least 7 people were killed and 20 wounded. ([Guardian 2013/09/17](#))



Information Gaps

- Amid clashes with the FSA, GoS forces shelled Saraqeb, Mount Arba'een and northern villages on az-Zawya Mountain. GoS forces also reportedly took control of Mount Arba'een after launching an offensive on Jabhat al-Nusra there. ([Al-Jazeera 2013/09/05](#) [Al-Akhbar 2013/09/14](#))
- **Access:** Both the Turkish Government, as well as the Islamic Courts on the Syrian side of the border, have been clamping down on smuggling activities undertaken via (unofficial) Harem crossing point. ([Trusted source 2013/09/06](#))
- Telecommunications and Internet networks in Idleb function only erratically. ([OCHA 2013/09/09](#))
- In Idleb's countryside, ISIS has issued a prohibition against the sale of tobacco and smoking in public places. ([Eqtesad 2013/09/14](#))
- **Food:** Food remains the priority need in the governorate, based on a survey of 6 sub-districts. ([Goal 2013/08](#))
- Farmers in parts of the governorate (and probably elsewhere in Syria) anticipate a number of problems for the coming months: unavailability or prohibitive costs of diesel fuel for irrigation systems, tractors, and transport for markets (farmers tend to purchase for immediate usage rather than stock fuel, and are thus more vulnerable to shortages); unavailability or prohibitive costs of water, especially for seasonal plants; electricity shortages, shortages of water pumps as well as cold storage; and decreasing availability of fertilisers (chemical fertilisers have been banned by the GoS given their dual-use in explosives). In addition, the proximity and the prospect of conflict has caused displacement or a reduction in asset investments. ([PI 2013/09/14](#))
- **Agriculture:** A survey conducted with agriculture-dependent households in the villages of Ebbin and Al-Jin (as well as Batabo in Aleppo governorate) showed that on average, there has been a 31% decrease in the surface area planted. The main reason cited was the high cost of agro-inputs (seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and fuel). Wheat remains the dominant crop (cultivated by 62% of respondents, making up 41% of total land)– which surprising given that a UN assessment earlier this year showed many households switching to barley, which consumes less water. Conversely, potato, beet, and cotton seeds are now particularly rare, since they were previously supplied through the Government and/or have now little access to outlet markets. The survey also confirmed that insecurity and access to fields was not a major obstacle, and farmers continue to have access to agricultural pharmacies who supply most of their requirements. ([Trusted source 2013/09](#))
- Seed inputs are currently sourced from local farmers and traders from within the governorate or from Turkey, with both Government and trans-governorate (particularly from pre-conflict Aleppo) procurement channels closed due to the



conflict. Onion seeds, for instance, used to be sourced almost exclusively overseas and are now sourced only locally. There appears to be a decrease in cereal seed stocks likely to be linked to the cessation of the GoS' subsidy programme, as well as cucumber and tomato seeds—the latter both being key crops for small farmers. (Trusted source 2013/09)

- ✦ At the same time, the demand for seed inputs is declining compared to pre-conflict levels. Reasons cited include the high costs of production (particularly fuel), and displacement stemming from insecurity. Furthermore, the premium placed on American-sourced seeds appears to be facilitating black market trade for farmers who refuse to substitute with Turkish-sourced seeds. (Trusted source 2013/09)

- ✦ **Displacement:** Over 3,000 IDPs reportedly arrived at Atmeh camp, the largest of at least 26 camps in the governorate, between late August and early September. At the same time, IDPs have recently been observed moving from larger camps into smaller camps (especially from southern to northern Idleb and into neighbouring Lattakia's Yamadia camp), mainly owing to congestion and the lure of improved services (in some cases, a deliberate 'pull factor' on the part of managers in newer camps); and new smaller camps have appeared such as al-Farouk, al-Aisha and al-Ummah. IDPs have also been sheltering in schools and public buildings even as the school term is set to start in September. (Trusted source 2013/09/05 & 2013/09/19 [UNICEF 2013/09/05](#))

- ✦ **NFIs:** 10km from the Turkish border, the recently established Al-Masamek camp (also known as Kherbet i-Jozz) hosts some 110 families originating from Idleb and Lattakia, who indicated a need for tents, among other things. As the area is controlled by the opposition, it has been subject to aerial bombings. (Trusted source 2013/08/26)

- ✦ In Haneen Camp (Tamanaa), 140km from the border, some 300 of the 1,150 families do not have tents and instead shelter under vegetation. (Trusted source 2013/07/20)

- A recent survey in 6 sub-districts (Darkosh, Harem, Kafr Takharaim, Ma'aret Tamsrin, Qourqeena and Salqin) indicated the following NFI needs for winter, which are compounded by market unavailability: heating fuel (preferably diesel, followed by wood and gas), winter clothing (preferably wool) and boots, blankets, carpet/rugs, cooking fuel, mattresses and laundry basins. Of these, basins and carpets/rugs are perceived to be the least available in local markets. Conversely, electric heaters and lighting appliances were in abundance. (Goal 2013/08/10)
- In Nasr Camp (Qah), one third of the IDPs (100 of 300 families) do not own their own tents and are obliged to share with other families. (Trusted source 2013/07/01).

- ✦ **WASH:** The only permanent water supply in Al-Masamek camp is river water, which is also used for bathing and laundry, and there is a reported lack of systematic waste management. (Trusted source 2013/08/21)

- ✦ In Haneen Camp, of the 5-6 litres of water each IDP receives per day, only 1 litre is specified for drinking. The WASH Working Group recommends each person should be able to access at least 7.5 - 15 litres of water per day. (Trusted source 2013/07/20)

- **Health:** In Nasr Camp (Qah), nearly half of the 2,100 IDPs are reported to suffer from Diarrhoea. (Trusted source 2013/07/01)
- **Education:** In Nasr Camp (Qah), no educational activities currently exist (Trusted source 2013/07/01)

Lattakia

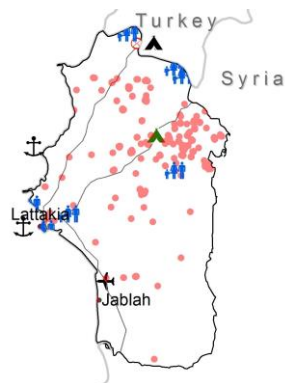
Key developments

- ⚠ Limited fighting between GoS and opposition forces in the northeast of the hitherto largely conflict-free governorate has led to the killing and displacement of civilians.
- ⚠ Despite the presence of a small but growing number of IDP camps along the Turkish border, humanitarian access has proven to be challenging.

Context: The Governorate of Lattakia is the ancestral homeland of President al-Assad's family and the Alawite sect. The majority of the governorate is under GoS control, although opposition groups have captured villages in the areas bordering Turkey.

Displacement

- ⚠ An estimated 25,000 individuals from 30 neighbouring villages have sought refuge in Lattakia city as a result of clashes in August and September. (OCHA 2013/09/09)



Sector information

- ⚠ **Protection:** Sectarian violence in the coastal regions, including Lattakia, continues. There have been reports of mass killings and displacement from a number of villages. Furthermore, abduction of women as 'spoils of war' has also been reported. (UNFPA 2013/09/10)
- ⚠ **Health:** In Rabea (Lattakia 1) Camp, the sole primary healthcare centre manned by 1 doctor and 2 nurses is receiving 3-4 times as many patients as it can treat. No vaccination programme exists for infants or children. (Trusted source 2013/08/27)

Information Gaps



Quneitra

Key developments

- ⚠ GoS troops and opposition forces continue to clash intermittently in Quneitra. Intense shelling on the village of Ghadir Elbostan in southern Quneitra forced over 10,000 residents to flee to the neighbouring village of Rafid. The priority needs identified are food and medicines.

Context: This rural governorate is particularly delicate given its proximity to the Israeli occupied Golan Heights. Clashes began in early November 2012, when the Syrian Army clashed with opposition groups in several towns and villages in the governorate. (Al Jazeera 2013/09/16, PI 2013/09/18)

Operational constraints

No governorate specific information available

Displacement

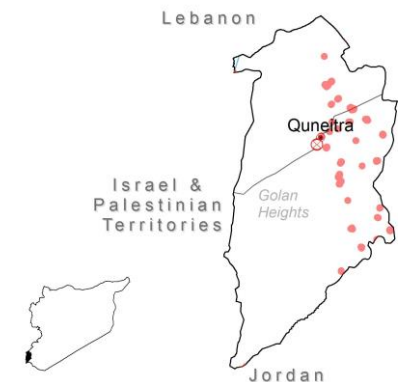
- ⚠ An untold number of the estimated 75,000 IDPs from Nawa and al-Harra in Dar'a governorate reportedly fled to Quneitra. (WFP 2013/08/07)

Sector information

- ⚠ **Health:** There is a shortage of medicine for treatment of chronic diseases and a lack of ambulances. (Tishreen 2013/09/06)

- ⚠ An estimated 200 Syrians with severe injuries have been transported through Quneitra and the Golan Heights to hospitals in Northern Israel for advanced medical treatment. (NPR 2013/09/13, Reuters 2013/09/13)

- ⚠ **Education:** 107 out of 279 schools in Quneitra have been damaged since the beginning of the crisis at a cost of 52 million SYP. IDPs are reportedly residing in 22 schools being used as collective shelters. (UNRWA 2013/07/22, Tishreen 2013/09/05)



Information Gaps



Rural Damascus

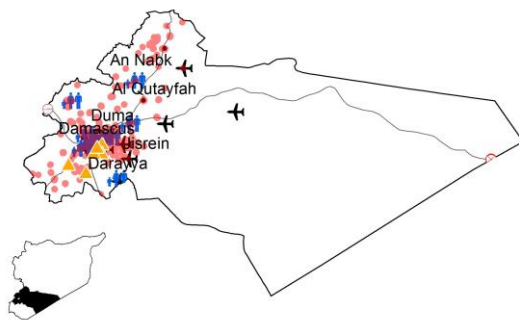
Key developments

- Intensive fighting resumed around the Damascus suburbs in September as the GoS sought to re-gain besieged opposition enclaves. Humanitarian access, which was already poor, further deteriorated in September due to insecurity and lack of GoS authorisation for aid distributions.
- At least 500,000 people in besieged areas, particularly Madamiyat Elsham, are facing a severe and deteriorating humanitarian crisis due to the lack of food, medicine, medical supplies and basic goods amidst intensive clashes, shelling and airstrikes. There are unconfirmed reports of acute severe malnutrition in the besieged area of Madamiyat Elsham. (UNICEF 2013/09/05, WFP 2013/09/10, OCHA 2013/09/10, OCHA 2013/09/13, Jafra Foundation 2013/09/18, CNN 2013/09/02, Eqtsad 2013/09/04)
- The lull in fighting as a result of the threat of international military intervention in early September quickly ended with the northeastern and southern suburbs of Damascus witnessing the resumption of intensive airstrikes and shelling as the GoS attempts to reclaim a protective barrier around the capital. (SANA 2013/09/17, Al Jazeera 2013/09/17)
- The opposition attack of the Christian town of Ma'aloula has raised sectarian tensions, although rumours of the desecration of religious statues have not been verified to date. (BBC 2013/09/11)

Context: Some of the heaviest fighting in the country is currently being witnessed in Rural Damascus with the whole governorate reportedly affected.

Operational constraints

- Humanitarian access is extremely limited in Rural Damascus due to insecurity, the proliferation of checkpoints and the lack of GoS permission, all of which have been exacerbated since the alleged chemical attacks. WFP has been unable to access 39 sites identified in high need of assistance for over one year. The UN has made 7 official requests to access Madamiyat Elsham with no success to date. (UNICEF 2013/09/05, WFP 2013/09/10, OCHA 2013/09/10)



Displacement

- An estimated 70,000 IDPs from nearby and Damascus city arrived in Adra Oumaliya in late August. (OCHA 2013/09/09)
- In Jaramana, the population has reportedly increased from pre-crisis levels of 500,000 to 800,000 due to the influx of people eastern and western Ghouta. (Al-Akhbar 2013/09/19, UNICEF 2013/09/06)
- 2,000 people have reportedly fled Ma'aloula. (Al Akhbar 2013/09/11, IOCC 2013/09/13, BBC 2013/09/11)
- Daraya residents have reportedly vacated the town, located in the southern outskirts as airstrikes and clashes intensified. (Al Akhbar 2013/09/17, PI 2013/09/18)

Besieged areas

- **Madamiyat Elsham:** The humanitarian situation in Madamiyat Elsham is dire and continuing to worsen as the siege has been continuing for over 10 months with no movement of people, food, goods or medical supplies in to the neighbourhood. 2 children reportedly died of severe acute malnutrition in early September and another 50 are reportedly in critical condition. A brief lull in fighting following the chemical attacks ended with intensive fighting, shelling and airstrikes mid-month. Approximately 12,000 civilians remain in Muadamiya, while 70,000 residents have already fled. (OCHA 2013/09/13, Jafra Foundation 2013/09/18, CNN 2013/09/02, Eqtsad 2013/09/04)
- **Eastern Ghouta:** Various towns in Eastern Ghouta, including Zamalka, Kafr Batna, Arbeen and Harasta, have been under siege by GoS forces for over 6 months. Bread has been unavailable for 3 months, while electricity was cut off 9 months ago. The price of cooking gas is 8 times higher than found in nearby Damascus. Eastern Ghouta's farmlands have provided some local sources of food but malnutrition is a concern and food security is fragile due to the lack of inputs for the winter planting. (Syria Deeply 2013/09/06, PI 2013/09/18)
- **Darayya:** Civilians have largely evacuated Darayya neighbourhood which remains subject to intense shelling. Hajar Aswad is reportedly sealed off and there is little information on the humanitarian conditions. (Al Jazeera 2013/09/05, PI 2013/09/18)
- **Babella:** Sbeineh, Yalda and Babella neighborhoods have been sealed off. Although the vast majority of Sbeineh residents have fled, the Palestinian camp and nearby areas remain closed off by GoS forces and subject to intensified airstrikes and shelling in recent weeks. Yalda and Babella residents have some access to farmlands and are able to grow some food locally but food shortages are common. (UNRWA 2013/09/04, SANA 2013/09/17, Al Jazeera 2013/09/17, PI 2013/09/18, Al Jazeera 2013/09/05, PI 2013/09/18)

Sector information

Information Gaps



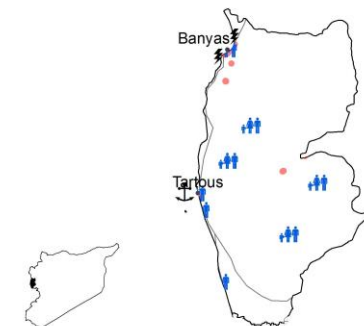
- ✦ **Protection:** IDPs fleeing Homs south through northern Rural Damascus were reportedly extorted for money by GoS forces to be able to transit safely through al Nabk, Dayr Atiyah, al Qarah and Yabrud. ([Human Rights Council 2013/08/16](#))
- ✦ **Situation in Palestinian refugee camps:** Husseiniah and Sbeineh camp residents have largely fled and all facilities are closed.
- ✦ **WASH:** Residents of Eastern Ghouta report that water sources have been contaminated and there was an increase in reports of typhoid in some villages. Many residents in these areas have not been vaccinated against typhoid. ([OCHA 2013/08/26](#), [UNICEF 2013/08/24](#))
- ✦ In besieged areas, skin and respiratory diseases are reportedly increasing due to the lack of clean water and sanitation. ([OCHA 2013/09/13](#))
- ✦ **Livelihoods and Food Security:** Price spikes have affected the cost of bread and other foodstuffs. The Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, supported by FAO, reportedly opened a new silo in al Qutayfah to distribute barley and wheat seeds for the October planting season. ([OCHA 2013/09/10](#))
- ✦ The price of sheep has reportedly dropped due to the lack of vaccination and other veterinary services and poor production. ([al Watan 2013/08/19](#))
- ✦ The wheat mill and silo in Ghizlaniyyah near the Damascus airport were attacked by opposition forces. ([Tishreen 2013/08/14](#))
- ✦ **Nutrition:** 2 children reportedly died and an additional 50 children are at risk of acute malnutrition in Madamiyat Elsham due to the siege of the area, which has caused a severe shortage of food, water and medicines. ([CNN 2013/09/02](#))
- ✦ The Damascus Children's Hospital and SARC clinics have reported a notable increase of cases of moderate and acute malnutrition. ([UNICEF 2013/09/19](#))
- ✦ **Shelter:** Houses were reportedly destroyed by opposition attacks in Ma'aloula. ([OCHA 2013/09/10](#))
- ✦ **Health:** There are severe shortages of medicine and basic medical supplies in besieged areas. Medical staff are reportedly using old clothes for bandages. ([OCHA 2013/09/13](#), [Jafra Foundation 2013/09/18](#))

Tartous

Key developments

- ✦ Tartous is one of the governorates least directly affected by the conflict, though several incidents of violence have taken place since the start of the crisis. As a result of its relative calmness, it has received a large number of IDPs over the last couple of months – from an estimated 90,000 in April to unconfirmed reports of over 700,000 IDPs currently. ([Huffington Post 2013/08/30](#))
- ✦ The infrastructure and basic social services in Tartous are being increasingly over-burdened by the large IDP population that originates from all over Syria. ([UNICEF 2013/09/06](#))

Context: The majority Alawite 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 Alawite, Shii, Christian and other minority backgrounds.



Operational constraints

- ✦ Clashes on the main route between Tartous and Damascus are common and significantly disrupt the movement of vital goods, including aid, between Damascus and Tartous.

Information Gaps



Sector information

- ✦ **Humanitarian access:** Coordination of WASH support to IDPs takes place through a joint hub of humanitarian agencies. ([ECHO 2013/09/04](#))
- ✦ **Displacement:** 21 communal shelters are housing thousands of IDPs while thousands more are hosted by local communities. ([UNICEF 2013/09/11](#))
- ✦ **Protection:** An assessment carried out by UNICEF in 4 IDP shelters found cases of child labour, early marriage, psychological disorders and unaccompanied children. ([USAID 2013/08/22](#))
- ✦ Negative coping mechanisms including begging and prostitution are on the rise among the displaced as the IDPs, mostly women and children, struggle to support themselves. ([Huffington Post 2013/08/30](#))

- 🚩 **Livelihoods and food security:** Prices of basic commodities, including food and clothing, have increased enormously since the beginning of the crisis, as have rents, in some cases trebling. (Huffington Post 2013/08/30)
- 🚩 Bakeries in the governorate are operating at a considerable loss due to increases in salaries and the prices of spare parts and packaging. In some bakeries, the output is of poor quality due to the use of substandard flour and yeast. (Tishreen 2013/08/15)
- 🚩 Farmers in the governorate are predicting a market crisis given the rising costs of shipping and transportation, labour and packaging as well as the insecure trade routes and the lack of refrigerators for storage. (Tishreen 2013/08/15)
- **Health:** Supplies of medicines and drugs, both imported and locally manufactured, are rapidly decreasing, thereby affecting the functioning of hospitals and medical centres. This is partly due to the destruction and closure of several pharmaceutical laboratories. There are shortages of medicines to treat diabetes, osteoporosis, blood pressure issues and drugs needed for pregnant women. There is also a continued lack of infant formula. (Tishreen 2013/07/15)
- 🚩 **WASH:** Water, sanitation and hygiene conditions in the 21 IDP communal shelters are dire and considerable basic needs are unmet. The situation for those residing with host families, the majority of those displaced in the governorate, is unknown. (UNICEF 2013/08/24)
- The water system in Tartous has been polluted with sewage, constituting a considerable health hazard as water sources are contaminated and the risk of diseases spreading is increased. (Tishreen 2013/06/26)
- **Education:** 65 schools have been damaged during the conflict, out of 902 in total. (UNRWA 2013/06/30)

Previous SNAP reports

- **Regional Analysis for Syria (Part I and Part II)** January – August 2013
- **Thematic reports**
 - Aleppo Governorate Profile April 2013
 - Legal Status of Individuals Fleeing Syria June 2013
 - Impact of the conflict on Syrian economy and livelihoods July 2013
 - Syrian border crossings September 2013
 - Assessment Lessons Learned September 2013
- **Scenarios** February 2013/September 2013

All reports can be found on: <http://www.acaps.org/en/pages/syria-snap-project>

Forthcoming SNAP reports

- RAS (Part I and Part II) End October 2013
The RAS report will be updated on a monthly basis
- Thematic report: Baseline data Lebanon October 2013

Map data sources

Administration: OCHA Common Operational Datasets. Oil and Gas: Lynx Information Systems Ltd. IDP camps: ACU. Refugee camps & IDP locations: State Department HUI. Infrastructure: Global Energy Observatory, OCHA, WFP, Global Security. Conflict incidents: UNMAS, UNDSS, Ethnicity: GeoEPR. Border crossings: SNAP. Palestinian camps: SNAP.

Definitions

In this report the term opposition forces is used to refer to all armed groups and individuals engaged in armed conflict against the GoS.

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 that 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 persons unknown to the SNAP project. Information sourced as a 'Trusted Source' refers to information received from an actor known and trusted by the project.



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 should include 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 however 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 refugee are in a specifically vulnerable position, both within Syria and 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).