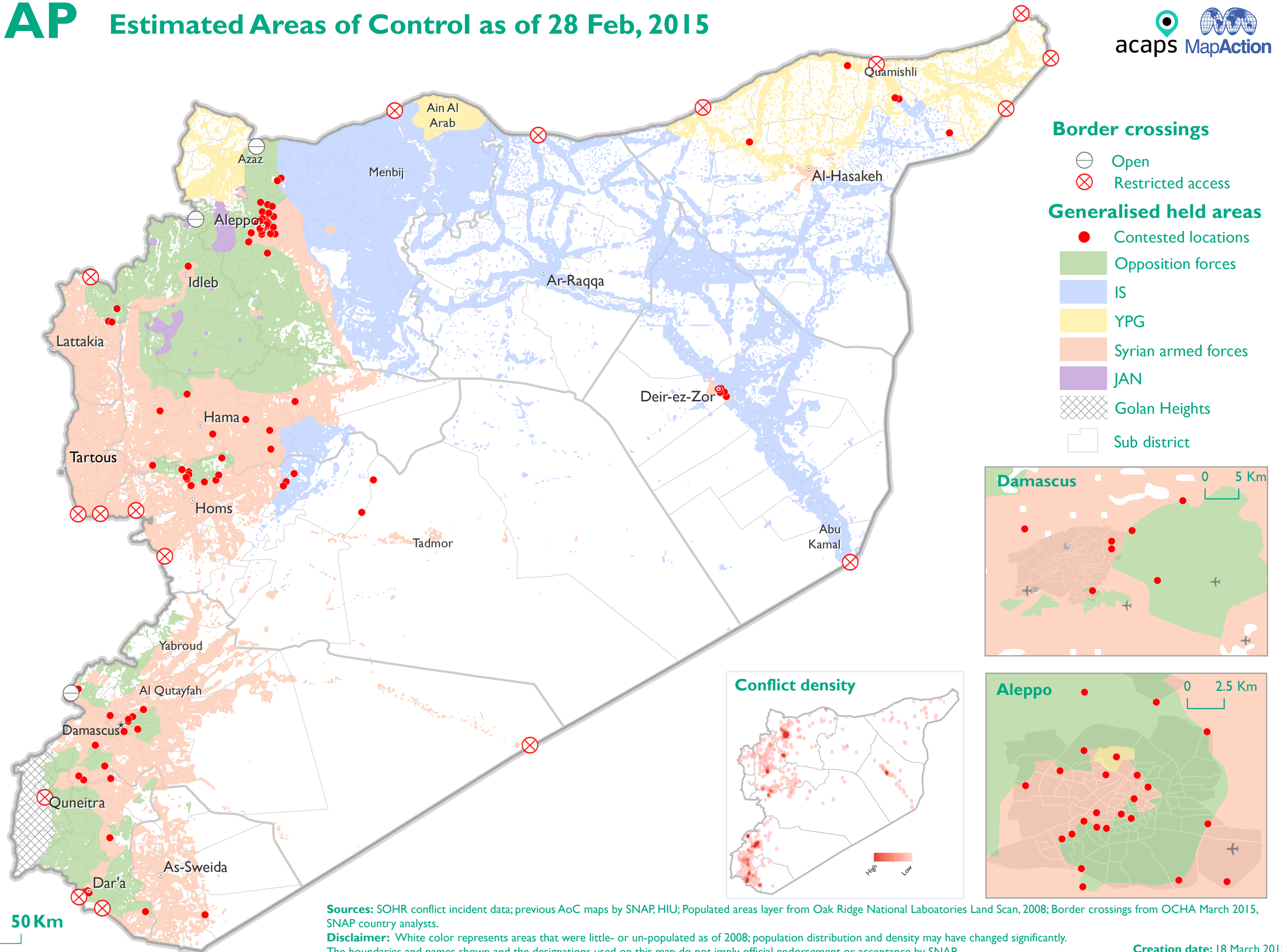


Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	530
Land:	Syrien
Kilde:	ACAPS
Titel:	Estimated Areas of Control Map
Udgivet:	Marts 2015
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	11. maj 2015



Sources: SOHR conflict incident data; previous AoC maps by SNAP, HIU; Populated areas layer from Oak Ridge National Laboratories Land Scan, 2008; Border crossings from OCHA March 2015, SNAP country analysts.

Disclaimer: White color represents areas that were little- or un-populated as of 2008; population distribution and density may have changed significantly. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by SNAP.

Creation date: 18 March 2015

SNAP Estimated Areas of Control Map

1 Jan – 28 Feb 2015

This map is intended to provide humanitarian actors with a regularly-updated picture of which groups control territory in Syria, in order to facilitate an estimation of the obstacles that may be faced in program operations. Due to the limitations of available data, it is not comprehensive, and should be used to complement, not replace, information from the field.

Methodology

The primary source for this map is a database of conflict incidents as recorded by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR). For each incident, SOHR's network reports which group is currently controlling the affected territory. SNAP maps these incidents to create a general impression of the latest developments in conflict areas. For every location, the group that was in control at the time of the latest incident in the reporting is taken to be the controlling party for mapping purposes. To generalize from points to areas of control, SNAP makes a best estimate based on secondary data (media reports, etc.), the availability of roads and other terrain features, and on information provided by SNAP's Syria analyst, from private interviews (PIs). Areas described by SOHR as "contested" are marked with red dots. As a baseline and cross-check, SNAP uses previous areas of control maps, including [its own](#), those by the US State Department's [Humanitarian Intelligence Unit](#), and other maps not currently published.

The final areas of control (colors) are overlaid onto a [LandScan](#) population density layer (colored vs. white areas) to more accurately represent the scope of populated territory controlled.

The conflict density shown in the insert is also derived from SOHR data.

Limitations

While this map can provide a dynamic impression of how the control of territory changes, it is only an estimate. In an information-poor environment, SOHR provides some of the broadest coverage and best access available, but it is still a single source, which carries limitations of its own, including potential for bias. While SOHR reports a significant number of conflict incidents, their coverage is unlikely to be comprehensive. Furthermore, SOHR may not report changes of control that are not conflictual, for example, truce agreement, withdrawals, or political agreements between armed opposition groups (AOGs).

The extrapolation of territorial areas of control from a limited set of incidents, and general situational awareness, also introduces the possibility for error. Previous SNAP maps, which are used as a baseline and cross-check, were based solely on the situational awareness of a SNAP Syria analyst via PIs, and may be distorted due to limitations or inherent biases in that network.

The inability to clearly distinguish between the territory held by various AOGs is a shortcoming of all currently available control maps.

There is a lack of updated population density information for Syria, even for the pre-crisis period. The population density layer used, which is from 2008, may not fully represent the populated areas before the crisis, and does not include the changes in population resulting from the displacement of more than half of Syria's pre-war population. In addition, significant locations that are not per se "populated areas" such as oil wells, power plants, and water treatment facilities, may not be appear on this map.