

**Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale**

<b>Bilagsnr.:</b>	<b>354</b>
Land:	Syrien
Kilde:	Norwegian Refugee Council.
Titel:	Ragional Analysis Ayria, Part I – Syria.
Udgivet:	31. juli 2013
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	10. september 2013

# REGIONAL ANALYSIS SYRIA

31 July 2013

## Part I – Syria

*This Regional Analysis of the Syria conflict (RAS) is an update of the [June 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. Annex B gives an overview of information products available on the Syrian crisis. 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](mailto:SNAP@ACAPS.org).*

### Content Part I

Overview  
How to use the RAS?  
Possible developments  
Map - Latest developments  
Information gaps and data limitations  
Operational constraints  
Humanitarian profile  
Conflict developments  
Country sectoral analysis  
Map - Estimated deaths per governorate  
Governorate profiles  
Previous and forthcoming SNAP reports  
Annex A: Definitions Humanitarian Profile

🚩 Red flags indicate new information

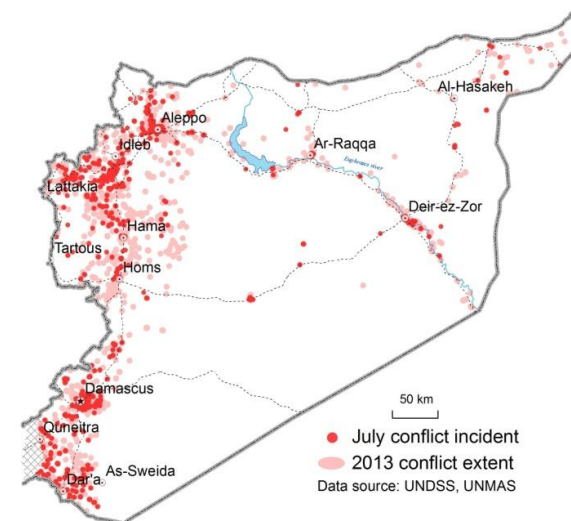
### Overview

- 🚩 **Conflict and political developments:** The Government of Syria's (GoS) forces are reported to have made progress in regaining territory in Homs city. The city, though emptied of the large majority of its population, is of invaluable strategic importance given its position as the central crossroads of major supply routes. The districts in the Old City still under opposition control are in the hands of hard-line factions, many of whose members are foreign fighters.
- 🚩 Fighting amongst various factions of the opposition reached new heights during July, when senior Free Syrian Army (FSA) commander, Kamal Hamami, was killed by fighters from the armed group the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). The attack signifies the growing tension and animosity between hard-line and more moderate groups that serves to weaken the cohesion of the opposition movement.
- 🚩 Also in July, tensions between Kurdish fighters and the wider opposition movement came to a head, with several battles taking place in Ras Al Ayn and Tell Abiad in northern Syria. The Kurdish community has unified since the start of the crisis in Syria and is allegedly pursuing the long-term goal of an semi-autonomous region within the state of Syria.
- 🚩 At the close of June, incidences of successful locally brokered truces were reported to be taking place, notably in Tal Kalakh in Homs governorate, where

local leaders of the FSA surrendered their weapons to GoS troops. The amnesty was agreed by local community leaders anxious to prevent their town becoming a heated battleground in the wake of the Al-Qusayr conflict. Commentators see this development as a sign of local frustration at the status quo.

- 🚩 **Humanitarian concerns:** The continued deterioration of the state's healthcare system is compounded by the fact that medical supplies are running low throughout the country. Although the international sanctions on Syria were not intended to include medicines, their effect is to hamper the trade of raw materials, thereby severely curtailing drugs manufacturing in Syria. At the start of July, the GoS allowed for an increase in medicine prices to compensate for high production costs, making it more difficult for Syrians to purchase necessary medicines.
- 🚩 Existing health concerns are exacerbated by the deterioration of the water and sewage infrastructure. Part of the infrastructure has been damaged and repair is problematic due to a lack of spare parts. Engineers and technicians have difficulties reaching water stations in contested areas, while the collection of fees is often difficult. Water shortages have been reported and the quality of drinking water is decreasing due to a lack of water treatment chemicals.
- 🚩 The worsening economic situation is resulting in continual currency depreciation. Meanwhile the prices of many basic foodstuffs increased during Ramadan. The population are seeing their purchasing power continuously diminish and more and more families are struggling to make ends meet. Average prices of bread and wheat flour have more than doubled since February 2012. In addition, when fighting forced the Damascus-Aleppo highway to close, food and fuel prices were seen to increase significantly in area usually supplied by the transit route.

- 🚩 **Besieged areas:** Areas in Aleppo, Homs, Idleb and Rural Damascus in particular have been under siege for long periods of time, with food and medical supplies being blocked either by GoS or opposition forces. Concern for communities in such areas is heightened, as intensified shelling campaigns have led to increased casualties in many areas that have little or no medical supplies or access to assistance.



## 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?

SNAP encourages information sharing and all information in this report can be used in other publications. 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.

## Possible developments

- 🚩 **Conflict and political developments:** Looking at the current state of affairs, the following developments are likely: GoS forces will build on the momentum gained following the capture of Al-Qusayr last month by retaking control of Homs and, therefore, the intersection between Aleppo, Damascus and Tartous.
- 🚩 Meanwhile opposition groups will continue to vie for control of territory in the north with the more hard-line Islamic groups gaining influence. In Al-Hasakeh governorate the Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD) will establish, at least temporarily, a de facto semi-autonomous region adjacent to Kurdish areas in Iraq and Turkey.
- 🚩 **Returnees:** As the situation in host countries becomes increasingly difficult, and as refugees' savings dwindle, growing numbers will return to Syria: for example already over 12,000 have returned from Anbar in Iraq. The GoS estimates that 800,000 displaced Syrians have returned, although this figure cannot be verified. The situation for returnees will vary wildly depending on the area of origin. Some districts have sustained severe damage and lack basic infrastructure, while armed violence is ongoing or sporadic in many more areas. Returnees are likely to face complications in repossessing their properties, particularly as they may have been occupied by IDPs in some areas. In Homs, the registry office holding all records of property ownership was destroyed in the conflict.
- 🚩 **Protection** Flight options out of Syria will continue to reduce due either to restrictions by refugee-hosting country governments or to increasing instability in the host countries themselves. This will result in tens of thousands of displaced people stranded along the border with little to no protection and reliant almost exclusively on national Syrian organisations for humanitarian assistance.
- 🚩 **WASH and health:** The sewage system will reach breaking point in many areas resulting in contamination of groundwater in the vicinity of sewage treatment plants and significant amounts of sewage leakage in urban areas. Solid waste will continue to accumulate, especially in urban areas and access to safe water and hygiene items will further deteriorate. This deterioration in the WASH situation will result in an increase in communicable diseases including hepatitis, typhoid and dysentery. Outbreaks of diseases such as measles will occur due to the low immunisation rate. While both the GoS and humanitarian organisations will seek to facilitate the provision of medical supplies and drugs, the health services will be overwhelmed in areas that have suffered the worst of the conflict due to the lack of medical staff and damage to facilities.
- 🚩 **Food security:** Continuing insecurity will disrupt the supply of inputs to many areas. This, together with the uncertainty of a protracted crisis likely to last well into 2014, will result in a significant reduction in arable areas planted this October, further exacerbating food insecurity of a large number of Syrians.
- 🚩 **Education:** The beginning of the school year in September may create additional displacement as a number of IDPs are currently sheltering in school facilities.

# Latest developments

July 2013

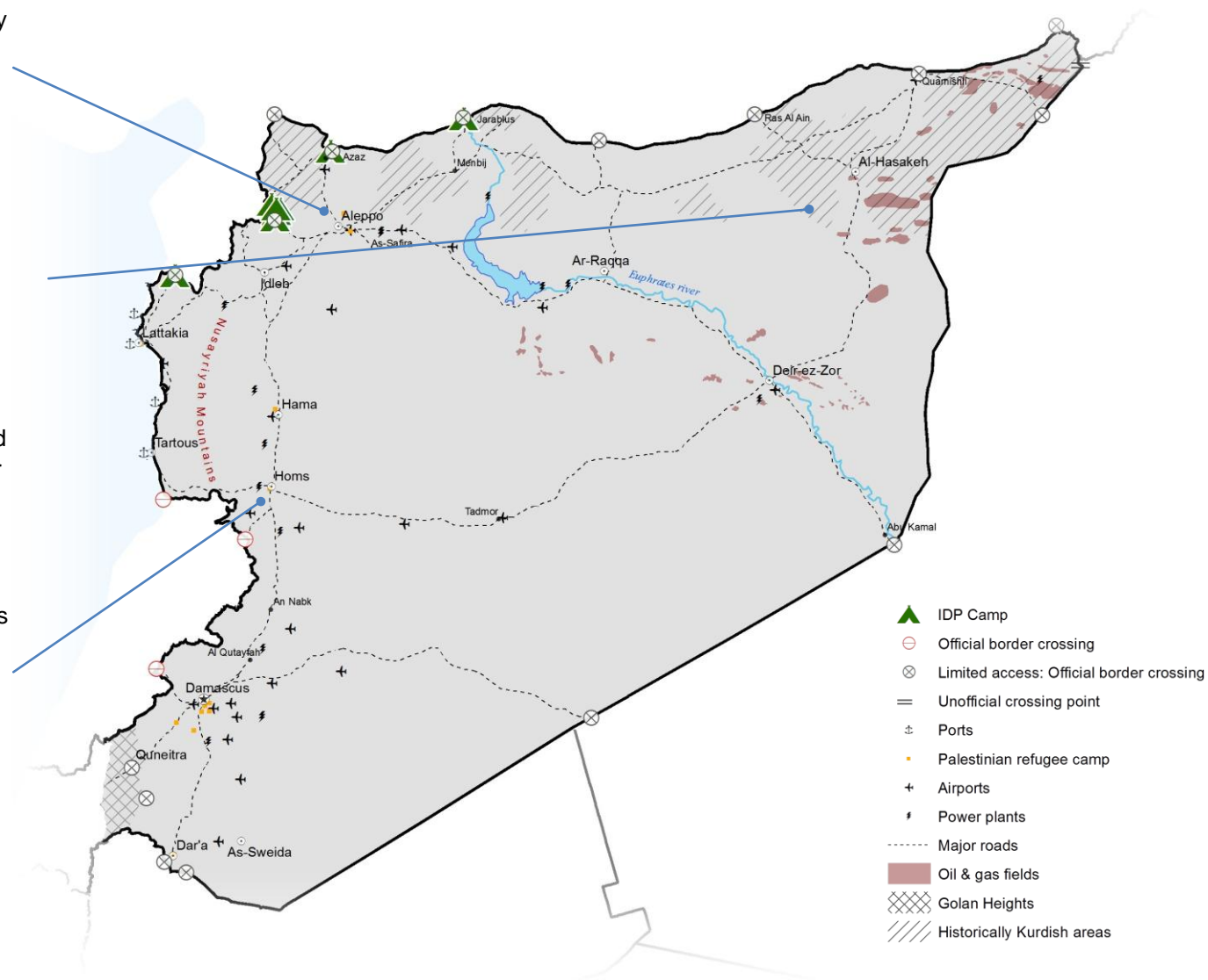
**Protection:** The besiegement of areas, such as the western neighbourhoods of Aleppo city, is increasingly being used as a military tactic. A large number of people are in areas under siege and do not have access to basic supplies and health care.

**Food security:** The 2013 wheat production, primarily taking place in Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, and Al-Hasakeh, is 2.4 million tonnes, some 40% less than the annual average harvest of more than 4 million tonnes before the crisis. An estimated 4 million Syrians are unable to produce or buy enough food.

**WASH:** The GoS estimates that 35% of water treatment plants have been damaged and a lack of maintenance, electricity and funds is leading to a rapid decrease in available water. There are concerns over the quality of drinking water and pollution of water sources by sewage, with treatment of water being increasingly hampered due to a lack of inputs.

**Conflict:** The GoS is making significant gains in Homs city. The SAF took control of an important neighbourhood in the south of the city of Homs at the end of July and the only remaining opposition-held areas in the city are surrounded by GoS troops.

**Health:** in June, MSF reported 7,000 cases of measles in northern areas, primarily due to the decrease in vaccination coverage, from 95% in 2010 to an estimated 45% in 2013. The measles cases have not been confirmed by WHO and there is no information available on the current status.



## Information gaps and data limitations

### Available data June

- Several reports on the humanitarian needs in Syria have become available in July.
  - A FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission to the Syrian Arab Republic, covering the situation with regards to food security, crop and livestock production and trade. ([FAO/WFP 2013/07/05](#))
  - UNRWA published the 1<sup>st</sup> of 5 quarterly reports on the socioeconomic impact of the crisis on the Syrian population and infrastructure. ([UNRWA 2013/07/22](#))
  - The first results of the ACU (Syrian National Coalition's Assistance Coordination Unit) IDP camp monitoring system for 16 IDP camps in Latakia, Idlib and Aleppo. The report covers the period 25 June to 10 July 2013 and will be updated on a monthly basis.
- Early Warning And Reporting System (EWARS) reports continue to be published. As information gathering relies on channels between public hospitals and the Syrian Government, which can be interrupted for any number of reasons, they cannot offer a complete picture of health issues. The ACU is planning to set up a system similar to the EWARS in opposition-controlled areas.
- In many sectors and areas of Syria, no new information has become available since the publication of the June 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 in Syria.
  - The number and location of migrants and unregistered refugees in Syria prior to the crisis.

- UNRWA states that there are 525,000 Palestinians in Syria. However, the number of registered refugees as of 1 January 2012 was 486,946.
- 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	As-Sweida, Dar'a, Damascus, Hama, Homs, Rural Damascus, Tartous, Quneitra, Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Idlib, Lattakia
Some	
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+).
- 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.
- **Returns:** 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 Government or 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 the health care, are becoming of a increased concern, specifically for children. A nutrition surveillance system needs to be established.
- **Market information:** More comprehensive information required on availability of products per sub-districts.
- **WASH:** The status of water networks per governorate (functional, partly functional, not functional).
- Analysis of impact of hot summer weather on access to water and worsened 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

## On-going and planned assessments

- 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

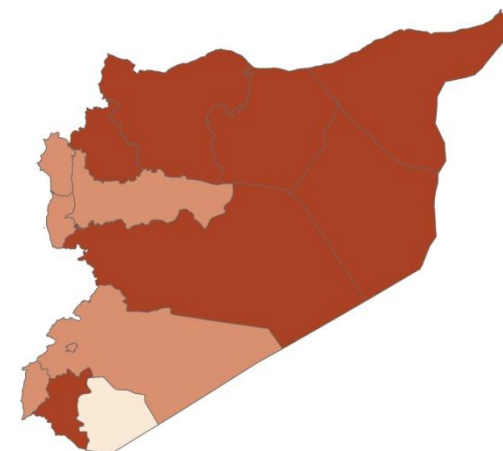
- The ACU is planning several assessments:
  - Survey of Police and Judicial System in Aleppo Governorate
  - Early Warning Alert and Response Network (EWARN)
  - Dynamic Situation Monitoring on sub-district level (DYNAMO)
  - Damage Assessment Aleppo
  - Joint Rapid Assessment in southern Syria (J-RAS)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

## Information availability – humanitarian needs

This page indicates the type of information available on the humanitarian needs within the governorate. SNAP distinguishes between 5 types of information sources:

- Assessment
- UN/NGO situation reports
- Regional Media
- International media
- Key informants

Sources used per governorate



Every governorate received a rank between 1 – 5, based on the type of sources available. For instance: for Hama governorate, SNAP has access to information from UN/NGO situation reports and regional media articles. Hence, Hama received 2 out of 5 points.

## Operational constraints

### Access of the affected population to humanitarian aid

- Areas under siege across Syria, particularly in Aleppo, Homs and Rural Damascus, have little or no access to aid. Both GoS and opposition groups have cut off movement to and from certain areas, hampering supply chains and population movement. Food and medicines are being blocked and residents suffer from shortages of all basic essentials including electricity and fuel. (see map on [page 9](#) for more on besieged areas). ([AFP 2013/07/10](#), [WFP 2013/07/01](#))
- UN agencies have identified 2.8 million people in the most affected areas who have been difficult to reach with assistance over the past two years, despite their desperate situation. ([OCHA 2013/07/16](#))
- Across the country, active fighting and insecurity render certain areas completely inaccessible for humanitarian staff and aid delivery missions. ([UNHCR 2013/07/16](#))
- Anecdotal evidence suggests that the population in some areas is less accessible to INGOs as they might fear consequences of being associated with foreign aid agencies. (Personal Interview (PI) 2013/06/24)

### Government impediments to humanitarian access

- Oxfam has recently received permission to provide aid in Syria. Only 12 other INGOs are formally allowed to operate in the country, in addition to several UN organisations. 3 INGOs have not been able to start projects as of yet. ([EU 2013/05/11](#), [OCHA 2013/02/18](#))
- According to UNHCR, the GoS has denied them authorisation to enter a number of areas in Syria, including some areas that are located within a few kilometres of their offices in Damascus and Homs governorates. ([UNHCR 2013/07/16](#))
- Some sources report that the Syrian Government is requesting organisations to provide services which are normally provided by the Government, including basic health services and water supply. (Trusted source 2013/07/25)
- The GoS may take months to authorise access to certain areas, if ever granting it. After months of delays in securing permission for an interagency mission to deliver aid to [Madamiyet Elsham](#), Rural Damascus, a week's access was negotiated. However, 2 attempts at a food and NFI delivery mission had to be abandoned due to on-going hostilities on the road. ([WFP 2013/07/01](#))
- A recent Human Rights Watch investigation found that the GoS' refusal to allow humanitarian actors access to the town of Al Qusayr during the conflict lead to several dozen deaths as medical assistance could not be delivered. ([HRW 2013/07/15](#))

- At the end of June, a new law was put in place, which imposes a prison sentence and a fine of up to USD 50,000 on anyone entering the country illegally. ([Daily Star 2013/06/26](#))
- The GoS has not given approval for the United Nations or 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 2013/06/12](#))
- There are several organisations operating in northern Syria from Turkey. However, it has become increasingly difficult for organisations with cross-border operations into northern Syria to reside in Turkey. The Government of Turkey (GoT) requires all organisations in Turkey to be registered with the authorities and recently issued a directive requesting all unregistered INGOs to cease activities. Registration is reportedly lengthy and complex. Some NGOs have faced difficulties in renting properties. (PI 2013/06/19)

### Lack of funding

- By the end of July, only 36% of the USD 1.41 billion requested in the revised Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP) for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2013 was covered. ([FTS 2013/07/28](#), [SHARP 2013/06/07](#))
- WFP has stated that a ration reduction in food deliveries in Syria was implemented in July and that unless further funds are received, there will be a complete halt to food distribution by mid-August. ([WFP 2013/07/16](#))
- The revised SHARP outlines planned operations by the UN, IOM and Government approved INGOs. As parts of the country are largely inaccessible to these actors, including parts of northern opposition-controlled regions, it is likely that the appeal does not cover the needs in all areas of the country.

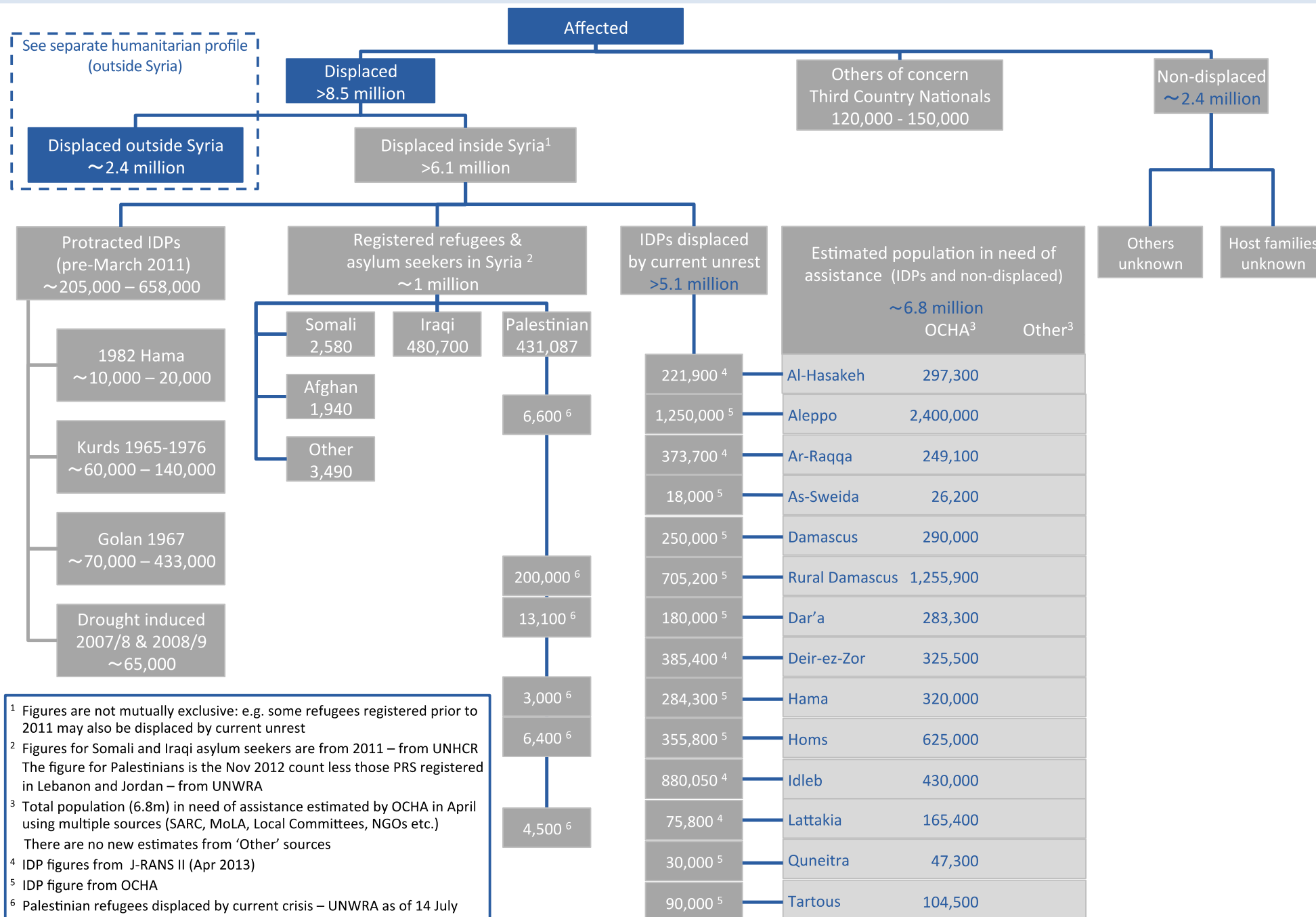
### Active hostilities and violence against personnel, facilities and assets

- Humanitarian staff operate at risk in many areas. To date, 7 UNRWA staff members have been killed during the conflict and another 15 have been detained or reported missing. ([UNRWA 2013/07/22](#))
- A convoy of SARC and Department of Health doctors heading towards the besieged Aleppo central prison was attacked en route and 13 personnel were injured. ([Assafir 2013/07/12](#))
- Areas under siege are particularly challenging for aid actors. Snipers have reportedly targeted those trying to deliver aid to the besieged areas in Aleppo. ([Al Akhbar 2013/07/14](#))
- UNRWA report access challenges hampering their ability to fully operate their healthcare facilities. ([UNRWA 2013/07/22](#))
- WFP was unable to access its warehouses in Damascus for a month due to fighting in the area. ([WFP 2013/07/01](#))





## Humanitarian profile (see annex A for definitions)



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

<sup>2</sup> Figures for Somali and Iraqi asylum seekers are from 2011 – from UNHCR. The figure for Palestinians is the Nov 2012 count less those PRS registered in Lebanon and Jordan – from UNWRA

<sup>3</sup> 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

<sup>4</sup> IDP figures from J-RANS II (Apr 2013)

<sup>5</sup> IDP figure from OCHA

<sup>6</sup> Palestinian refugees displaced by current crisis – UNWRA as of 14 July

# Conflict developments

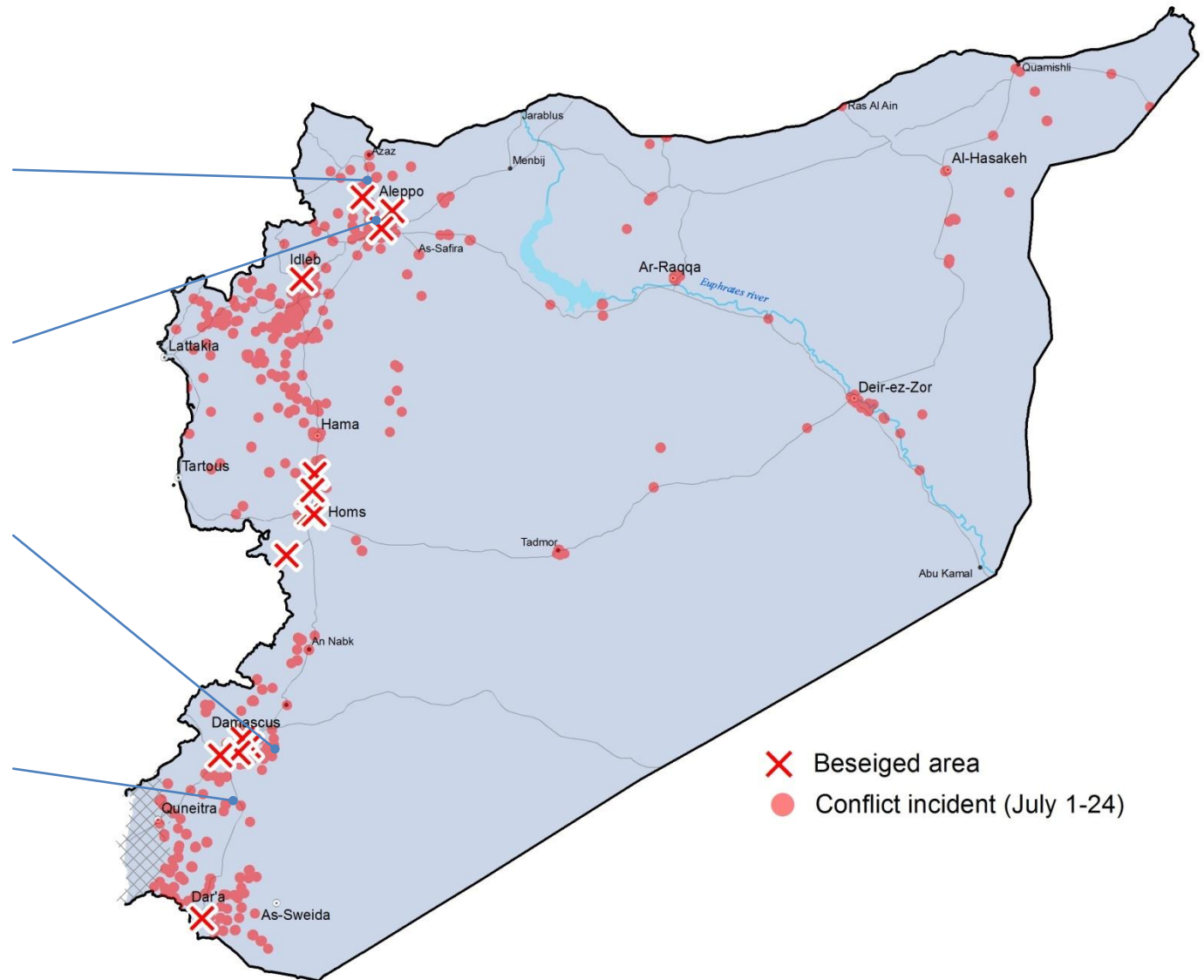
## Besieged areas

**Nabul and Zahraa:** Since July 2012, opposition forces have imposed sieges on the towns of Nabul and Zahraa, which allegedly support the Government. Access for approximately 70,000 people to food, fuel, and medical supplies is extremely limited.

**Western Aleppo city:** An estimated 2 million people face major shortages of essential items in western areas of Aleppo city, since opposition groups are preventing food and medical products from entering the Government-controlled areas.

**Eastern Ghouta:** Since early 2012, Syrian Armed Forces have besieged opposition-controlled suburbs such as Qaboun and Barzeh: an estimated 1 million people reside in these areas. Electricity, water, fuel and food are scarce and there is only limited humanitarian access.

**Yarmouk camp:** The Palestinian camp has been under siege since late 2012, with SAF controlling the northern entrance which links the camp to the other neighbourhoods of Damascus city. Entry of foodstuffs, medicines, fuel and spare parts is limited, affecting around 20,000 Palestinian refugees.



## Conflict developments July

- Overall, July saw fighting in Aleppo and Homs intensify and fierce clashes continued in the outskirts of Damascus, in Rural Damascus, Dar'a and the countryside of Idlib. The country is increasingly divided: the GoS retains its grip on Damascus and tightened control over several major cities in the centre of the country, while opposition groups continue to hold large swathes of land in the country's north, east and south. Meanwhile, the Kurds presented a constitution and a plan to elect a council to administer areas in the north-eastern region of Al-Hasakeh. The opposition is far from united and the rift between Islamists and more moderate elements of the armed Syrian opposition is widening. Clashes between the Free Syrian Army (FSA) fighters and fighters of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS, an armed group originating from Iraq) erupted in Lattakia after a FSA commander was killed by the group affiliated to Al-Qaeda. In their pursuit for a semi-autonomous area, known as Rojava or west Kurdistan, Kurdish groups increasingly clash with Islamist groups over control of areas in Al-Hasakeh. ([Economist 2013/2013/07/27](#), [Washington Post 2013/07/06](#), [Al-akhbar 2013/07/17](#), [Al-akhbar 2013/07/10](#), [NY Times 2013/07/17](#))
- **The North (Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Aleppo, Idlib):** An important part of the fighting has centred in the north, essentially because armed groups are able to secure resources from Turkey. The opposition is highly fractionalised in the northern region, with over 220 different armed opposition groups identified. ([ICG 2013/06/27](#), [Guardian 2013/07/12](#), [Al Jazeera 2013/07/19](#))
- In July, Kurdish fighters gained control over several areas in Al-Hasakeh and were involved in clashes with opposition groups. On 14 July, Kurdish fighters from YPG (The Kurdish Popular Protection Units), the military wing of the PYD, seen as the Syrian equivalent of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), took control of checkpoints in Eastern Al-Hasakeh on the Iraqi borders. On 17 July, fighting erupted between Kurdish and Islamist groups and the YPG expelled Islamists from Ras Al 'Ain town on the Turkish border. Kurdish control extends beyond Al-Hasakeh: the PYD has also retained control of the villages of Ain Al 'Arab in Aleppo and Tell Abiad in Ar-Raqqa. In Ar-Raqqa, the Government still controls more than a military site from which it shells the city, and especially through Tabaka airport (near the Euphrates Dam) which is continuously shelled by the FSA.. ([Assafir 2013/07/02](#), [Al-jazeera 2013/07/11](#), ([AFP 2013/07/17](#), [Daily Star 2013/07/19](#), [Daily Star 2013/07/24](#), [Al-akhbar 2013/07/22](#), [Al-Monitor 2013/07/21](#), [AFP 2013/07/20](#), [Al-akhbar 2013/07/24](#))
- Fierce shelling and clashes continue in Aleppo governorate, which serves as an opposition gateway for weapons and supplies from Turkey. Clashes have been reported in various districts of Aleppo city; around military airports and the Central Prison. Opposition fighters took control of the south-western entrance to the city on 3 July, tightening the siege on the western half of the city in an attempt to weaken popular support for the GoS. On 20 July, opposition forces claimed to have full control of the strategic town of Khan Al Asal in the southwest. After fierce clashes, the Syrian army was able to retake Rashideen neighbourhood which has a strategic location in the extreme west of Aleppo, near the Military Academy and New Aleppo. ([Daily Star 2013/07/03](#), [SANA 2013/07/03](#), [Al-akhbar 2013/07/23](#), [Al Jazeera 2013/07/21](#), [NY Times 2013/07/10](#), [Assafir 2013/07/08](#), [Daily Star 2013/07/21](#))
- Idlib has witnessed fierce clashes since March 2012. The FSA controls the major part of the countryside (Bennsh, Saraqeb, Al-Zawya Mountain, Ma'arrit Annu'man) including the Turkish border crossings, while the SAF controls major cities in the governorate (Idlib, Jisr-Ash-Shugur, Ariha, Khan Shaykhun) in addition to military camps and major highways. In July, clashes erupted around military checkpoints on major highways (Hamah- Idlib Tartous-Idlib, and Idlib-Lattakia) with fierce shelling by the SAF on opposition-controlled areas. Clashes around Qarameed military camp resumed in an attempt by the opposition forces to control it and several neighbouring villages were severely bombed. ([Assafir 2013/06/28](#), [Al-jazeera 2013/07/08](#), [Daily Star 2013/07/16](#), [Aljazeera 2013/07/16](#), [AFP 2013/07/18](#), [SANA 2013/07/23](#), [Al-akhbar 2013/07/24](#))
- Ar-Raqqa remains the only provincial capital under opposition control: remnants of the SAF remain north of Ar-Raqqa city; at Tabqa military airport near the Euphrates dam, and in Ein-Issa, about 30km south of Tell Abiad. GoS forces occasionally shell locations such as Ar-Raqqa city. In addition, Syrian Kurdish forces clashed with Islamist elements of the Syrian opposition near Tell Abiad, a strategic entry point into Turkey. ([Financial Times 2013/07/18](#) [Daily Star 2013/07/21](#) [AlJazeera 2013/07/23](#) [alAkhbar 2013/07/24](#))
- **The East (Deir-Ez-Zor):** Traditionally, the GoS has less of a support base in the east of the country. Since the beginning of July, the SAF have clashed with armed groups in several city districts (Hweika, al-Jubeileh, al-Sina'a) and opposition-controlled villages (Bor Sa'eed, Muhasan). ([ICG 2013/06/27](#), [SANA 2013/07/03](#), [Al-jazeera 2013/07/11](#), [Al-Jazeera 2013/07/15](#), [SANA 2013/07/23](#))
- **The South (Dar'a, As-Sweida, Quneitra):** Dar'a is a strategically important governorate, due to its long border with Jordan through which armed groups are alleged to receive military support. Heavy shelling and clashes continue throughout the governorate. Opposition forces currently control the major cities within the governorate and reported that their forces have rapidly advanced since the start of Ramadan. The FSA is said to have taken control of Nawa town on 17 July, home to a large number of SAF troops and the symbolic but heavily damaged Omari mosque, where the first protests began in March 2011. ([AlJazeera 2013/06/28](#), [SANA 2013/07/02](#), [Al-akhbar 2013/07/18](#), [SANA 2013/07/22](#), [AlJazeera 2013/07/17](#), [Al-Hayat 2013/07/22](#), [ICG 2013/06/27](#), ([Jordan Times 2013/07/02](#), [NYT 2013/06/29](#), [AP 2013/06/28](#), [Reuters 2013/06/29](#))
- As-Sweida governorate has remained relatively untouched by the conflict, with no active fighting reported in the month of July. Quneitra has been witnessing more incidents with Israeli troops more embedded in the infighting. Clashes between SAF and opposition forces were reported in the countryside during which, redundant shells fired from Syria repeatedly fell on the occupied Golan.

With the withdrawal of part of United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and fighting near the buffer zone that runs along the length of the Israeli border, the 1974 armistice between the Syrian and Israeli Government is increasingly endangered. ([Guardian 2013/01/06](#), [Associated Press 2012/11](#), [ICG 2013/06/27](#), [AlJazeera 2013/07/17](#), [Daily Star 2013/07/15](#), [Assafir 2013/07/17](#))

- **The Centre (Damascus, Rural Damascus, Hama and Homs):** The axis between Hama and Damascus is an active battleground for multiple reasons: the area is an important supply route from Damascus to the northern areas; it connects the Alawite stronghold of Tartous and Lattakia with Damascus; and borders Lebanon from where both opposition as well as GoS groups receive military support.
- GoS troops are currently involved in heavy fighting against opposition forces in the suburbs of Damascus. The SAF has retaken parts of Barzeh district and is allegedly progressing in the northeast in Jobar and Qaboun, neighbourhoods which are used by opposition groups to stage attacks on the centre of Damascus. July started with heavy shelling of the northern neighbourhood of Qaboun. Armed groups centred in Jobar continue to shell the heart of the capital. In southern Damascus, clashes resumed around Yarmouk camp and shelling was reported in several districts. Numerous incidents of car explosions continue to be reported in the capital despite tightened security in and around the centre. ([Daily Star 2013/07/01](#), [AFP 2013/07/06](#), [Al-jazeera 2013/07/10](#), [Al-akhbar 2013/07/17](#), [AFP 2013/07/23](#), [Daily Star 2013/07/20](#), [AFP 2013/07/17](#), [ICG 2013/06/27](#))
- In northern Rural Damascus, SAF operations focus on areas along the highway between Damascus and Homs, including the city of An Nabk and the mountainous region close to Halbun. Meanwhile, fighting in Eastern and Western Ghouta (a green agricultural belt surrounding the city of Damascus), continues and is notable for the large number of skilled fighters on both sides. ([Al-akhbar 2013/07/03](#), [SANA 2013/07/02](#), [Al-akhbar 2013/07/11](#), [SANA 2013/07/18](#), [Al-akhbar 2013/07/23](#), [AlJazeera 2013/07/23](#), [Assafir 2013/07/01](#))
- Following the victory for the GoS and its allies in Qusair, the overall balance of power in Homs between SAF and opposition fighters was unchanged in July. On 26 June, SAF took control of Tall Kalakh on the Lebanese border and Qaryatein in rural Homs in an attempt to isolate the south of the governorate from other areas. The battle for Homs city intensified during July, with heavy ground fighting and shelling. The city is of strategic importance as it lies on the main road to Hezbollah strongholds in Lebanon and GoS bases near the Syrian coast, the main entry point for Russian support. The Syrian army fiercely shelled Khaldiyeh, a northern district that links the outskirts of the Homs city with its centre, Bab Houd, Juret Al Shayah, and other Old city districts. Since 27 July, the SAF has controlled the district of Khaldiyeh district and has been able to surround Old Homs and separate it from other districts in the north. Shells have been also falling on GoS-controlled neighbourhoods

such as Akrama and the area around the University. ([Al-akhbar 2013/07/12](#), [AFP 2013/06/29](#), [Daily Star 2013/07/06](#), [Al-jazeera 2013/07/10](#), [Daily Star 2013/07/24](#), [The Independent 2013/06/25](#), [Al-akhbar 2013/07/29](#), [Al-akhbar 2013/07/30](#))

- Sporadic to severe shelling was reported during July on Hama countryside in the north (Kfar Nbooda, Hawash) and the east (As Salamiyeh district). ([Al-Jazeera 2013/07/01](#), [SANA 2013/07/15](#), [SANA 2013/07/17](#), [AlJazeera 2013/07/22](#))
- **The West (Lattakia, Tartous):** The GoS remains in control of the coastal governorates of Lattakia and Tartous and fighting has been limited to the northern countryside of Lattakia where clashes occurred between the FSA and ISIS over control of a strategic checkpoint. The situation escalated after FSA commander Kamal Hammami was killed by ISIS fighters. ([Foreign Affairs 2012/07/18](#), [NYT 2012/12/22](#), [Al-akhbar 2013/07/18](#), [Al-akhbar 2013/07/22](#), [Daily Star 2013/07/21](#))

## Country sectoral analysis

**Number of people displaced by current crisis:** >5.1 million (April 2013)

- There has been no updated estimate of the number of internally displaced since April and no projections have been made for the upcoming 6 months. However, as the fighting has extended to new geographic areas since April, the number of displaced is likely to have increased.
- Approximately 235,000 Palestinian refugees are displaced in Syria with over 200,000 in Damascus, around 6,600 in Aleppo, 4,500 in Lattakia, 3,000 in Hama, 6,400 in Homs and 13,100 in Dar'a. ([UNRWA 2013/07/22](#)) It is unclear whether the Palestinian refugees are counted within the number of displaced as published by OCHA in April.
- The Government of Syria (GoS) reports that by June, over 800,000 IDPs returned to their place of origin. ([GoS 2013/06](#)) However, as there is no displacement tracking system in place, it is not possible to confirm this statement.

Governorate	J-RANS II	OCHA	Combined Figures
Al-Hasakeh	221,900	207,400	221,900
Aleppo	1,062,450	1,250,000	1,250,000
Ar-Raqqa	373,700	230,000	373,700
As-Sweida		18,000	18,000
Damascus (city)		250,000	250,000
Damascus (rural)		705,200	705,200
Dar'a		180,000	180,000
Deir-ez-zor	385,400	283,200	385,400
Hama	227,800	284,300	284,300
Homs		355,800	355,800
Idleb	880,050	300,600	880,050
Latakia	75,800	70,000	75,800
Quneitra		30,000	30,000
Tartous		90,000	90,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,277,100</b>	<b>4,254,500</b>	<b>5,100,150</b>

104 of all 150 sub-districts in the 7 northern governorates were covered

\* figures for Aleppo city are from March

From various sources in April

Combination of OCHA estimates and J-RANS II (highest figure) in April

**Number of people in need:** >6.8 million (April 2013)

- The number of people in need has not been updated since April. Heavy fighting continued over the last 3 months and a continuing deterioration of the humanitarian situation is reported. Hence, it is likely that this number is significantly higher.

SNAP: Regional Analysis Syria – Part I: Syria

## WASH

**Number of people in need:** > 8 million ([SHARP 2013/06/07](#))

- Before the crisis, around 90% of the population used improved water sources, with around 150 water treatment plants providing water to 3.7 million households subscribed on the network. ([UN 2012](#), [WHO 2009](#), [CBSS 2009](#), Family Health Survey 2009)

### Main water sources per governorate in June 2013 - GoS 2013/06

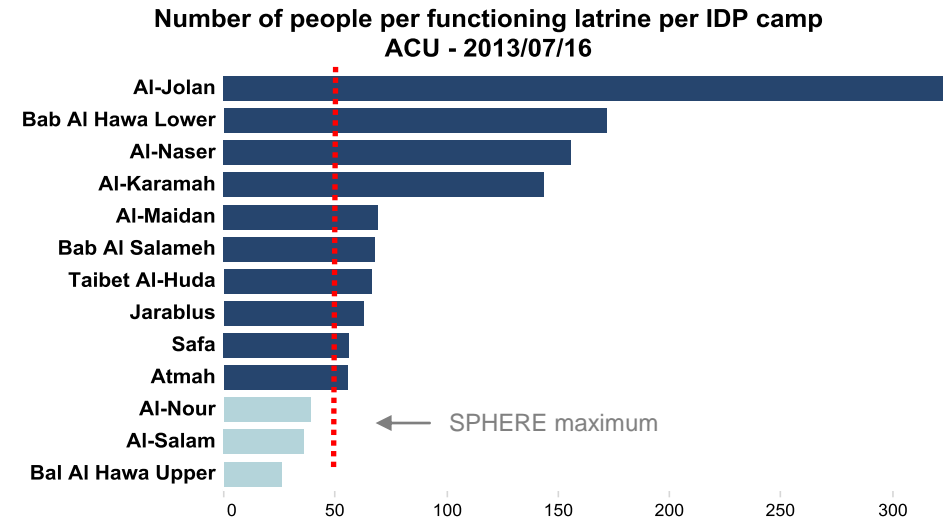
Governorate*	Water source	Proportion of total use
Aleppo	Assad and October Lake	93%
	Wells	7%
Al-Hasakeh	Wells	58%
	Springs and dams	42%
Ar-Raqqa	Euphrates River	94%
	Wells	6%
Damascus (city)	Alfaja system	59%
	Barada wells	21%
	Damascus wells	20%
Dar'a	Wells	47%
	Springs	53%
Deir-ez-Zor	Euphrates River	100%
Hama	Orontes River	46%
	Wells and springs	54%
Idleb	Wells	92%
	Natural springs	8%
Lattakia	Assenn springs	57%
	Wells	40%
Rural Damascus	Wells	98%
	Springs	2%

\*There is no information available on As-Sweida, Homs, Quneitra and Tartous

### Impact of the crisis on the water and sewage systems:

- The water and sewage infrastructure has been severely impacted by the crisis:
  - An estimated 35% of water treatment plants have been damaged. Many governing boards no longer function, including the water establishments of Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor and Homs.
  - Maintenance and repair of the water infrastructure is problematic. Insecurity is making it difficult for engineers and technicians to access damaged water infrastructure. A number of GoS engineers and technicians have been killed or are missing. 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 is dangerous.
  - Water governance boards are facing a lack of funds as insecurity and displacement make it difficult to collect water fees.
  - 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.
  - Due to the lack of fuel, it is increasingly difficult to secure the electrical supply necessary for pumping and purifying water. (UNICEF 2013/06, GoS 2013/06, PI 2013/07/19, SANA 2013/07/16, ICRC/SARC 2013/07/10, Tishreen 2013/06/26, Tishreen 2013/07/13, Tishreen 2013/07/21)
- In 7 of the country's 14 governorates, the water and sanitation infrastructure is deemed to be at high risk. Needs are highest in the eastern governorates – including in Ar-Raqqa, Hasakeh and Deir-ez-Zor – where water shortages have reportedly reached unprecedented levels. (ICRC/SARC 2013/07/10, UNICEF 2013/06, UNICEF 2013/07/18)
- In areas where the main water system is no longer functioning, people are reliant on water trucking. Prices are high: for example in Rural Damascus 120 litres of trucked water is SYP 70 (USD 0.35 at USD1= SYP 200). (Tishreen 2013/07/11)

- IDPs in collective centres are particularly vulnerable, as most shelters are not equipped to provide adequate water and sanitation services. Illustratively, in 10 out of 13 IDP camps monitored by the ACU, the number of people per functioning latrine is above the Sphere standard maximum of 50 people (ACU 2013/07/16, ICRC/SARC 2013/07/10, UNICEF 2013/06, UNICEF 2013/07/18)



### Solid waste management

- Solid waste management has also been severely affected by the conflict and the general build-up of waste is of growing concern. A number of rubbish collection trucks have been stolen or damaged, staff members have been killed and there is a lack of inputs such as rubbish bags. In several areas, GoS supported solid waste collection systems have ceased to operate, including in areas of Aleppo, Homs and Rural Damascus. (GoS 2013/06, IRIN 2013/07/03, PI 2013/07/18)

## Health

**Number of people in need:** 6.8 million ([SHARP 2013/06/07](#))

### Morbidity and mortality

- ✦ The increase in temperatures and deterioration of the WASH and health infrastructure is leading to an increase in communicable and non-communicable diseases. There has been a steady increase in the cases of acute diarrhoea, especially in Rural Damascus, Idleb, Homs, Aleppo and Deir-ez-Zor. Cases of Leishmaniasis continue to be reported, with over 4,800 infected in Al-Hasakeh alone. ([OCHA 2013/07/01](#), [Tishreen 2013/07/21](#))
- ✦ In June, an outbreak of measles was reported in parts of northern Syria, with MSF reporting 7,000 people infected. The disease is spreading more quickly in part because of the large number of Syrians displaced by the conflict and living in close quarters. Of the 139 laboratory-confirmed cases, 70% of the patients were not vaccinated. Vaccination coverage has decreased significantly, from 95% in 2010 to an estimated 45% in 2013. No cases were reported in Syria in 2010 and 2011. ([WHO 2013/06/04](#), [MSF 2013/06/18](#), [Daily Star 2013/06/18](#))
- ✦ Treatment and services for chronic conditions such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and cancer are virtually non-existent in opposition-held districts. ([Lancet 2013/06/25](#))

### Health infrastructure and supplies

- **Infrastructure:** By 30 April, 57% of the public hospitals were reportedly damaged, ranging from 0% of hospitals damaged in As Sweida, Quneitra and Tartous up to 88% damaged in Rural Damascus. 11 out of 23 UNRWA health centres require urgent repairs. Up to 70% of the health workforce has fled, resulting in severe shortages in qualified health personnel. In the National Hospital in Ar-Raqqa for instance, only 25 of the original 112 doctors remain. ([WHO 2013/06/04](#), [HRW 2013/06/12](#), [SHARP 2013/06/07](#))
- ✦ **Medicines:** In 2010, there were 70 privately owned pharmaceutical plants in Syria, producing low-cost generic drugs. These plants supplied around 90% of domestic needs and were mainly based in Aleppo (50% of production capacity), Homs and rural Damascus. Due to the crisis, an estimated 20% of these plants are no longer functioning and the remainder has been operating with reduced capacities of between 10 and 60%.
- ✦ As a result, overall pharmaceutical production has decreased by an estimated 75%. Reasons for the reduction in production capacity include damage and destruction of plants, high production costs and the difficulties of transporting, distributing, and storing pharmaceutical shipments across the country. Some

plants have been taken over by armed groups. Pharmaceutical products that were once produced in Syria at affordable prices – such as insulin, oxygen, anaesthetics, serums and intravenous fluids – are no longer available. To counter the effects of the crisis, the GoS has issued licenses for 41 new factories. ([Tishreen 2013/06/26](#), [Tishreen 2013/06/28](#), [Daily Star 2013/07/01](#), [Daily Star 2013/07/01](#))

- ✦ 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](#))
- ✦ Medicine prices are set by the Syrian Health Ministry. At the start of July, Syria's Ministry of Health allowed pharmaceutical companies to raise the price of their products by up to 50% in order to ease the shortages of pharmaceutical products and as a response to rising costs for manufacturers. ([The Syria report 2013/07/10](#), [Daily Star 2013/07/01](#), [SANA 2013/07/11](#))

### Maternal health

- Before the conflict, skilled birth attendants assisted 96% of deliveries in Syria. Currently, a significant part of maternal health care has broken down. Births by Caesarean section are 3-5 times higher than in normal conditions. For instance, in one hospital in Homs, 75% of the babies are delivered using the surgical procedure. ([IRIN 2013/05/27](#))

### Nutrition

**Number of people affected:** over 1.6 million children and pregnant/lactating women ([SHARP 2013/06/07](#))

- A MUAC rapid assessment, undertaken in Damascus among 235 children under 5, indicated that the nutritional status of children is of concern. The percentage of global acute malnourished children was reported at 14.4 %, while 8% was reported as moderately malnourished, and 6% severely malnourished. Apart from this survey, which is limited in geographical scale and sample size, there is no information available on the nutrition situation in the country. ([UNICEF 2013/05/15](#))

## Shelter

### Number of people in need: unknown

- **Shelter:** In areas subject to heavy fighting, a large proportion of the houses are damaged, destroyed or uninhabitable. In April, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) estimated around 1.2 million houses to have been damaged or destroyed. It can be assumed that in the contested regions, those areas that are or have been under control of armed groups opposing the GoS suffered the highest levels of destruction, due to heavy shelling and aerial bombardments. In Homs for instance, an estimated 60-70% of houses in opposition-controlled areas have been damaged or destroyed. ([Eqtsad 2013/06/29](#), [AFP 2013/07/06](#), [OCHA 2013/04/08](#), [Tishreen 2013/07/15](#))
- **Displaced:** Most IDPs reportedly reside with host families. Others reside in schools, unfinished buildings or have pitched tents on vacant lots. Some IDPs have sought shelter in Palestinian refugee camps. In Al-'aadeen camp in Homs for instance, around 900 Syrian IDPs are reportedly residing. IDPs who have rented apartments in areas with a high concentration of IDPs are facing high rental prices. In Damascus, landlords are offering rooms to whoever can pay the highest prices and families are repeatedly forced to move. ([Jafra Foundation for Relief and Youth Development 2013/07/30](#), [Brookings LSE 2013/07/10](#), [INGO 2013/07/11](#), [Al-Watan Newspaper 2013/06/11](#))
- Of the estimated 235,000 displaced Palestinian refugees, 8,500 are hosted in UNRWA facilities (schools and hospitals) while the remainder have moved to alternative refugee camps; rent apartments or reside with host-families. ([UNRWA 2013/07/22](#))
- Around 170,000 IDPs (4% of total estimated number of IDPs) are hosted in 854 GoS supported public shelters, including 680 schools. Some IDPs are afraid to approach these public shelters because of the SAF presence in and around the shelters. ([Brookings LSE 2013/07/10](#), [SANA 2013/07/16](#), [SANA 2013/07/23](#))
- Along the border with Turkey, 16 IDP camps have been identified, hosting around 63,000 people (1.5% of total estimated number of IDPs) in mid-June – down from around 69,000 IDPs in mid-May. ([Al-Akhbar 2013/07/08](#), [ACU 2013/06/14](#))
- It was reported that many IDPs are moving to GoS-controlled areas, because those areas were perceived to be safer than opposition held areas. ([Brookings LSE 2013/07/10](#)) As there is no information available on displacement trends, this statement is difficult to verify.
- **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. In Mid-July, the GoS reported that fighting around gas and fuel transfer pipelines, which fuel the power generation stations, caused blackouts in the provinces of Dar'a, As-Sweida, Quneitra, Damascus and Rural Damascus. ([WB 2009](#), [SANA 2013/07/18](#), [Tishreen 2013/07/18](#), [INGO 2013/07/11](#), [Al-Akhbar 2013/06/28](#))
- The cutting of supply lines; damage to power generation stations; decrease of subscribers; and disruption of gas and fuel transfer pipelines to some power generation stations have led to large financial losses. The Ministry of Electricity announced a doubling of electricity prices for subscribers involved in commercial and industrial works as of 1 September. ([Eqtsad 2013/07/07](#), [SANA 2013/07/18](#))
- **Cooking gas:** The difficulties in the transport of food commodities and a lack of electricity to fuel fridges means that people are more reliant on dry food. In addition, WFP food baskets, distributed to over 2 million people on a monthly basis, consist of dry food such as lentils and pasta. However, the gas used for preparing food is often unavailable and cooking possibilities are therefore restricted. ([Tishreen 2013/07/02](#))



## Livelihoods and food security

**Number of people in need:** 4 million (FAO/WFP 2013/07/05)

### Food availability

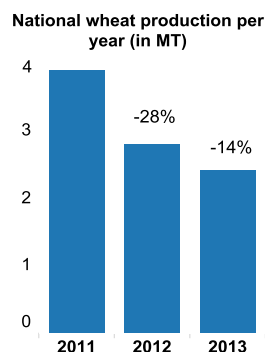
Wheat: Wheat is particularly important within the Syrian diet, it provides about 40% of households' calorie consumption, and is consumed primarily as bread. Syria's domestic wheat production, normally over half of the domestic consumption, is severely affected. Inputs such as fertilisers, casual labour, and herbicides and pesticides are not available or are very expensive. Machinery and storage facilities have been damaged and some farmers no longer have access to their land. The GoS traditionally purchased 80% of wheat produced. However, an estimated 30% of the GoS wheat collection centres are currently not functioning and access to commercial markets is hampered due to insecurity. As a result, farmers are reportedly leaving their land unattended and in some areas are not harvesting. (FAO 2013/07/12, FAO/WFP 2013/07/05, Al-Akhbar 2013/07/13)

However, the above average rains mitigated in part the impact of the crisis in the northern areas of the country. Hence, losses were not as severe in 2013 as they were in 2012 (decrease of 14% in 2013 compared to 28% in 2012). (FAO/WFP 2013/07/05)

As agricultural production has decreased a large part of domestic consumption the wheat will need to be imported. The wheat import requirement from July 2013 to June 2014 is estimated at about 1.5 million tonnes of which 0.5 million tonnes will be imported by the GoS. (FAO/WFP 2013/07/05)

The GoS continues to provide bread at the subsidised price of SYP 15 per bundle of 1.55 kg throughout much of the country. However, it will be increasingly difficult for the GoS to sustain this scheme: public revenues are decreasing due to disruption in oil production, tourism and trade, while the purchase of imported and domestic wheat is becoming more expensive. (SANA 2013/07/12)

As a result of the decrease in wheat production and marketing, the average monthly price of wheat flour has more than doubled between May 2011 and May 2013 in several areas, and there are serious bread shortages across the country. During an assessment in the north of Syria, it was found that a large majority of households consume less bread than before the crisis. (FAO/WFP 2013/07/05, GOAL 2013/07)



The planting season will start in October. If farmers are not supplied with fertilisers, seeds and incentives to plant before this period the following harvest will be severely compromised. (FAO 2013/07/12, Al Watan 2013/07/02)

**Other food commodities:** A decrease in availability of almost all goods have been reported, regardless of whether they are produced locally (bread, wheat flour, legumes, vegetables, fruits, meat, dairy products) or imported (sugar, vegetable oil, rice, pasta). The poultry industry has largely collapsed and eggs and chicken meat are often not available. The continuous electricity cuts have impacted the availability and quality of fresh food items such as dairy products. In addition, vegetables and fruit are often unavailable. For instance, in Aleppo city a complete absence of different kinds of vegetables was reported at the start of July. (FAO/WFP 2013/07/05, Tishreen 2013/07/08, Eqtsad 2013/06/29, Tishreen 2013/07/08)

The GoS has expanded the list of subsidised basic materials to include tea, bulgur, oils and margarine. (Al Akhbar 2013/07/15, SANA 2013/07/14)

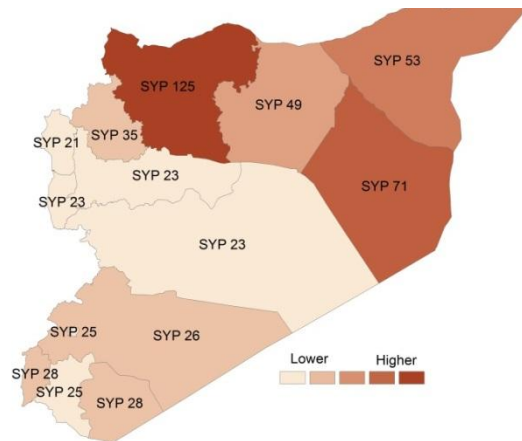
### Prices

Syrians are facing an increase in prices, while sources of income have been disrupted:

**Prices:** The GoS appears to be unable to control prices and inflation has soared. The increase in costs for transport and raw materials and decrease in supply has led to price increases for almost all basic goods. The month of July has seen further price increases - Ramadan traditionally leads to price increases due to an increase in demand and an increase of 5% on direct and indirect taxes was announced at the start of July. (Tishreen 2013/07/09, Al-Akhbar 2013/07/10, Eqtsad 2013/07/15)

As can be seen in the map on the next page, prices differ significantly between governorates, with the prices in Aleppo being the highest in the country. WFP weekly price data indicates that average monthly prices of bread are particularly volatile in Rural Damascus, Dar'a, Qamishli and Aleppo. In other areas, there have been signs of relative wheat flour price stability since March. This is mainly due to increased volumes of wheat imports from neighbouring countries and the international markets. (FAO/WFP 2013/07/05)

**Average price of bag of unsubsidised bread per province  
June 2013 (WFP/VAM)**  
(Pre-crisis price: SYP 45)



- While prices are far above those pre-crisis, the Syrian pound is worth less. The Consumer Price Index increased by 70% between 2011 and the first quarter of 2013, which means that Syrian families need to spend 70% more Syrian Pounds to purchase the same amount of goods compared to 2010. (SCPR 2013/04)
- Livelihoods** With the deterioration of the economy, illustrated by an estimated 40-60% decrease in GDP since the start of the crisis, an estimated 50% of the population have lost their employment. The increase in unemployment rate is attributed mainly to job losses in the agriculture and transportation sectors, and, to a lesser extent, in the construction and manufacturing sectors. Those who still have employment are often unable to reach their work due to insecurity and checkpoints. 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. Even civil servants who live and work in opposition-controlled areas continue to receive salaries, with the exception of those in the city of Ar-Raqqa where GoS salaries have reportedly not been paid since the city fell to opposition groups. (Al Akhbar 2013/07/03, FAO/WFP 2013/07/05, Tishreen 2013/07/02)
- Due to disruptions of Internet connectivity and damage to ATMs, banks are often unable to provide any service to its customers and to secure salaries for the workers who are paid their salaries through these banks. (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. Although figures are hard to define, casual work and informal trade appear to have become more important sources of income. It is estimated that 80% of the workforce was engaged in informal activities by the end of 2012. Illicit economic activities, such as extraction of oil and smuggling of goods, have been widely reported. (FAO/WFP 2013/07/05, Clingendael 2012, ODI 2011, ILO 2009, SHARP 2012/12/19)
- Coping mechanisms:** The main coping mechanisms reported include reducing the number of meals per day and switching to lower quality food, including buying less fresh food, less meat etc. Other coping strategies include borrowing food; sending family members to relatives; decreasing education expenditures; and sharing apartments with other families. Among WFP beneficiaries, the proportion of people who were forced to beg in order to survive increased from 5% in March to 9% in May. (OCHA 2013/07/01, Daily Star 2013/06/26, FAO/WFP 2013/07/05)
- IDP camps:** In 8 out of 11 IDP camps, the amount of bread per person per day was above the Sphere standards of 150 gram. However, bread delivery is often unpredictable and food was consistently mentioned as a key priority for intervention across the camps. The largest camp for instance, Atmah, did not receive bread for 2 days in the period between 25/05 and 10/07. (ACU 2013/07/16)

## Protection

### Human rights violations

- Human rights violations, including summary executions, ill treatment of detainees, torture, rape and enforced disappearances continue to be committed by all parties to the conflict. Arbitrary arrests by the GoS are widely reported and detainees have limited access to legal support. Many inmates are unable to contact family members. ([ECHO 2013/07/24](#), [HRW 2013/06/24](#), [Syria News Desk 2013/07/01](#))
- Different parts of the country apply different legal systems, ranging from national laws in GoS-controlled areas to sharia law in areas controlled by Islamist groups. There are for instance 3 Islamic courts operational in the province of Idlib. In parts of the country there is a lack of law and order. Impunity is widespread, and victims often do not have access to legal redress. ([Assafir 2013/06/28](#), [Amnesty 2013/07/26](#), [Economist 2013/07/27](#))
- GoS forces and opposition groups have systematically employed sieges across the country. Sieges hamper the free passage of foodstuffs and other essential supplies and severely limit the mobility of civilians. Areas currently under GoS siege include neighbourhoods of the cities of Homs, Idlib and Damascus. Opposition forces imposed a tight siege on pro-GoS villages and neighbourhoods in northern governorates, including the Shi'a localities of Nubul and Zahra in Aleppo. In addition, blockades are being set up to restrict the supply of basic items to the civilian population. ([Human Rights Council 2013/06/04](#))
- The mobility of civilians is also restricted by snipers, checkpoints and closed border crossings. 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. Official border crossings to Iraq are closed, while entry to Turkey and Jordan is restricted. As a result, flight options are limited. Over 30,000 people are reportedly stranded at the Syrian-Jordanian border. ([WFP 2013/07/25](#), [HRW 2013/07/01](#), [Independent 2013/06/27](#), [Assafir 2013/07/01](#), [AFP 2013/06/15](#), [AlertNet 2013/06/07](#), [Human Rights Council 2013/06/04](#), [Jordan Times 2013/07/17](#))
- There are several reports of forced displacement of the civilian population. In Lattakia for instance, Alawite communities were reportedly forced to leave towns in areas controlled by opposition forces. ([Amnesty 2013/07/26](#), [Guardian 2013/07/22](#))
- Opposition groups have used violence to disperse demonstrations of civilians protesting against the groups in control. For instance, at the end of June, YPG forces killed 6 civilians following protests. ([Al-Monitor 2012/11/01](#))

- Indiscriminate attacks and the use of heavy weaponry on densely populated areas are common, with some areas experiencing shelling on a daily basis. Besides the continuous use of aerial bombardments, strategic missiles, cluster and thermobaric bombs are frequently used, causing widespread damage and civilian casualties. A UN team tasked with investigating the alleged use of *chemical weapons* is currently in Damascus to discuss the terms of a possible inquiry. ([Daily Star 2013/07/24](#), [Human Rights Council 2013/06/04](#))
- The remnants of improvised explosives are posing great risks to civilians. One person was wounded in Qusair, during an operation to clean the city after the heavy clashes in June. ([Al-Akhbar 2013/07/03](#))
- 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. 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](#))

### Child protection

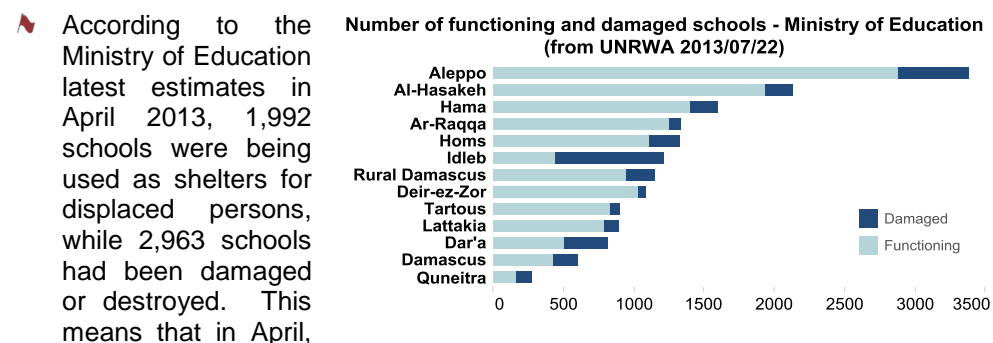
- Detention, torture and ill treatment of children for alleged association with the opposition continues to be a worrying trend. A number of accounts of sexual violence against boys to obtain information has been reported. Children suffered similar or identical methods of torture as adults, including electric shock, beatings, stress positions and threats and committing acts of sexual torture. ([Al Jazeera 2013/07/22](#), [Human Rights Council 2013/06/04](#))
- Child recruitment by opposition forces is on-going, and most children are between 15 to 18 years of age. In June, the FSA was included on the UN 'list of shame' for recruiting child soldiers. The list outlines situations where armed groups and armed forces recruit and use children, kill and maim, commit sexual violence or attacks on schools and hospitals in conflict zones. The GoS was added to the list for detaining minors and acts of sexual violence against children. ([UN 2013/06/15](#), [UN 2013/07/22](#))
- Palestinian refugees:** The situation of Palestinian refugees (PR) in Syria deteriorated over the past months and refugee camps in Syria are directly affected by the conflict. At least 44,000 PR homes have been damaged by the conflict and over 50% of all registered PR are now displaced, either within Syria or to neighbouring countries. With external flight options restricted, (the Government of Jordan does not allow PR to enter) Palestinian refugees remain a particularly vulnerable group. ([UNRWA 2013/07/22](#), [UNRWA 2013/06/21](#))
- Iraqi and other refugees:** UNHCR reports that, as of 13 March, there were an additional 67,000 registered refugees in Syria from Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, and Sudan. Besides heightened vulnerability, key protection issues reported include risks from shelling, threats (especially for Iraqi refugees), incidents of

abduction, and absence of legal documentation hence inability to find accommodation and to move freely, as well as experiencing problems at check points. There are estimated to be many more third country nationals in Syria; most not registered either by choice or because the registration procedure is lengthy – Iraqi refugees were waiting over a year for their appointment prior to 2011. (OCHA 2013/03/18)

- **Migrants:** IOM estimates that in March as many as 120,000 migrant workers remain in Syria, and that an estimated 15,000 are in need of evacuation assistance. Most migrants lived in rural areas and following the outbreak of violence, were displaced to urban centres. (IOM 2013/06/07, IOM 2013/03/04, IOM 2013/02/01, CARITAS 2013/01/11, SHARP 2013/06/07)
- **Elderly:** Only 2.6% 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, while other family members move away. (UNHCR 2013/07/25, INGO 2013/02/05, NRC 2013/03/15)
- **Disabled:** Disabled people, particularly those in wheelchairs, have limited options to flee and are therefore especially vulnerable. (INGO 2013/02/05) There is no information on the number of disabled people in need about their specific needs.

## Education

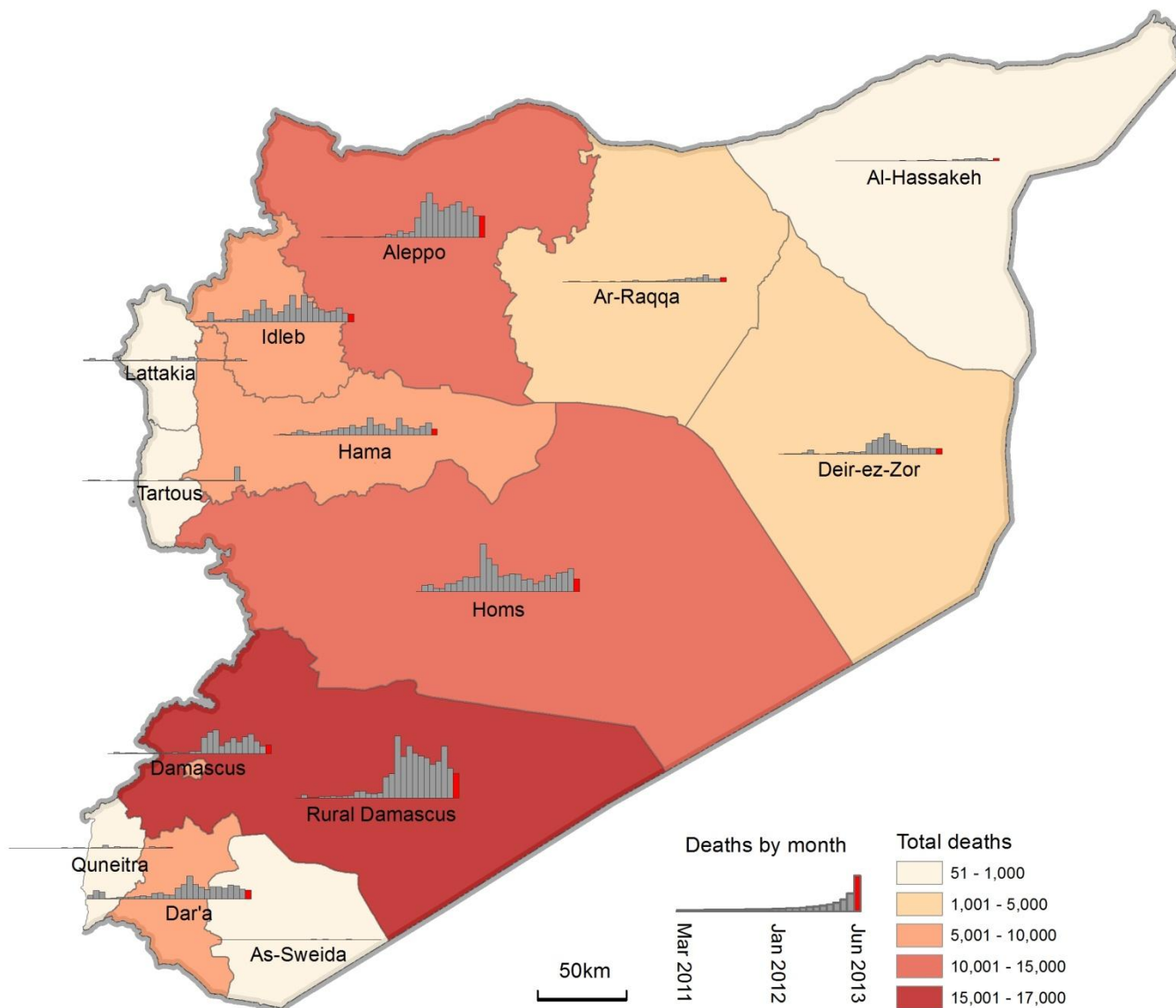
**Number of affected:** around 2,500,000 children (SHARP 2013/06/07)



at least 22% of schools could not be used for education purposes. The vast majority of the identified affected schools were located in the conflict areas of Idleb, Aleppo, Dar'a, and Rural Damascus. As fighting has continued and expanded to different geographic areas since then, it can be assumed that more schools will be unavailable to provide education when the school-holiday ends in September. (UNRWA 2013/07/22, Save the Children 2013/07/12, SHARP 2013/06/07)

- In addition to schools, other educational assets have been damaged or destroyed, including warehouses and school buses. At least 222 teachers have been killed and others have fled, been injured, kidnapped, arrested or threatened. Save the Children documented over 2,500 attacks on education the education sector in 2012, including violence, torture and intimidation of children and teachers and shelling and bombing of schools. (Save the Children 2013/07/12, UNRWA 2013/07/22)
- Financial difficulties and security concerns have led many parents to keep their children, particularly girls, at home and a large number of children have been displaced. The drop-out rate in April was estimated at 46%. Thus, almost half of all schoolchildren are not attending schools. Available data shows wide variations in attendance rates between governorates, with 100% attendance rates in Lattakia and as low as 6% in Aleppo. (UNRWA 2013/07/22, SHARP 2013/06/07)
- The 6 public and 15 private universities in Syria have been heavily affected as well. Students can no longer access the compounds due to insecurity. Many university facilities have been damaged or destroyed. In January, an attack hit Aleppo University, killing at least 82 people and damaging a large part of the infrastructure. In addition, universities are forced to increase the tuition fees due to inflation, forcing out many students unable to afford the higher cost. (Al-Monitor 2013/07/11, Eqtsad 2013/07/14)

## Estimated deaths by governorate - March 2011 to June 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.










## 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

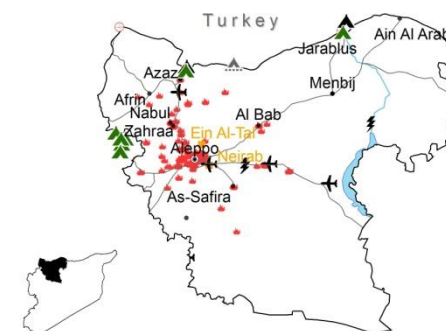
	Information available	Limited to no information available
Protection		
Livelihoods and food security		
Health		
Shelter		
WASH		
Education		

### Map symbols

	Refugee camp		Conflict incidence
	Under construction (Refugee camp)		Airports
	IDP Camp		Power plants
	Official border crossing		Major roads
	Limited access (Official border crossing)		

## Aleppo

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. During the heavy fighting since February 2012, opposition forces gained control over the northern area between Aleppo city and the Turkish border, including the two 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, and in July Kurdish fighters expelled Islamist from several villages around the majority Kurdish town of Cobany. ([Aljazeera 2013/05/03](#), [Aljazeera 2013/05/08](#), [Al-akhbar 2013/05/10](#), [Al-akhbar 2013/05/11](#), [Aljazeera 2013/05/22](#), [SANA 2013/05/16](#))



### Besieged areas:

- **Western Aleppo city:** An estimated 2 million people face major shortages of essential items in western areas of Aleppo city, since opposition groups are preventing food and medical products from entering GoS controlled areas. While armed groups have been blocking roads leading into western Aleppo for months, the capture of the southern entrance to Aleppo – the highway between Aleppo and Hamah - on 3 July have left the opposition groups in control of all supply routes. ([Al-Jazeera 2013/07/10](#), [Assafir 2013/07/08](#), [AlertNet 2013/07/09](#), [AFP 2013/07/10](#), [NGO 2013/07](#))
- **Nabal and Zahraa:** Since July 2012, opposition forces have imposed sieges on the towns of Nabal and Zahraa. Access for approximately 70,000 people to food, fuel, and medical supplies is extremely limited. In June, it was reported that as a result of the tight siege, the population, especially women and children, began to suffer from malnutrition. The wounded and sick cannot receive medical treatment. People attempting to leave the villages are often kidnapped, held for ransom or killed. ([Col 2013/06/04](#), [Daily Star 2013/07/02](#), [Daily Star 2013/07/07](#), [Al-Akhbar 2013/07/12](#), [NY Times 2013/07/10](#), [Al-Akhbar 2013/07/16](#), [HRW 2013/07/15](#))
- **Aleppo prison:** Opposition groups have besieged a prison with an estimated 4,000 prisoners and there is reportedly an acute shortage of water, medicines and food inside the compound. SARC has been allowed to provide relief to the prisoners. ([Syria Deeply 2013/07/04](#), [Assafir 2013/07/12](#), [Daily Star 2013/07/15](#))

Access to areas under siege in Aleppo city is extremely limited and distributions of supplies in these areas have largely put on hold. UNICEF field missions to Aleppo have been suspended. ([AlertNet 2013/07/09](#), [UNICEF 2013/07/12](#))

**Water and electricity:** In the areas of Aleppo city under GoS control and parts of the old city, electricity is generally available for 8 hours a day and water is available for around 6 hours every 2-3 days. In other parts of the old city and areas under control of

opposition groups, the electricity and water infrastructure has been severely damaged and water and electricity is only sporadically available. (NGO 2013/07, OCHA 2013/07/18)

**Food:** Fighting is increasingly occurring around the key supply routes, hampering the transport of goods to and within the governorate. The international road between Aleppo and



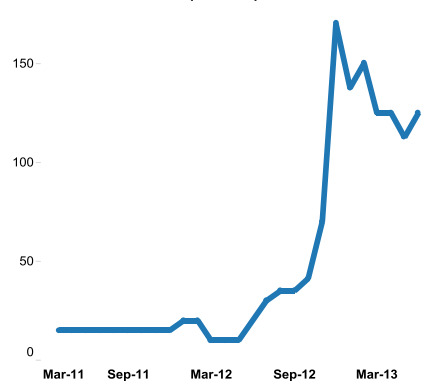
**Information Gaps**

Lattakia has been cut after a main bridge was destroyed. The Aleppo-Damascus highway, a vital road supplying western Aleppo city with basic commodities, has been closed due to heavy fighting. As a result, a significant increase in prices of fuel and vegetables coming from other governorates has been noted. Fighting on the Aleppo-Azaz highway is on-going, hampering the import of goods from Turkey. (WFP/FAO 2013/07/5, Assafir 2013/07/08, Assafir 2013/07/10, Al-Monitor 2013/07/15)

The blockade on western neighbourhoods of Aleppo city is causing localised food shortages, resulting in increased prices for staple products such as bread, grains and vegetables. Only the products such as bulgur wheat and rice are still regularly available. Food items are reportedly cheaper in opposition-controlled areas. (WFP 2013/06/17, AlertNet 2013/07/09, UNICEF 2013/07/12, Daily Star 2013/07/10, AFP 2013/07/10)

**Prices:** The prices of staple goods in Aleppo are far higher than in other governorates. While in most parts of the country, the price of bread has been relatively stable since the start of the year, in Aleppo the prices are highly volatile, with prices differing significantly between month and locations. The high volatility is attributable to the sharp reduction in milling capacities and to wheat supply and transport disruptions in many locations. (WFP/FAO 2013/07/5, WFP VAM)

Average price of bag of bread in Aleppo shops (in SYP)



The price of diesel in Aleppo has increased by 600% since the start of the crisis, compared to a 20% increase in Damascus. (WFP/FAO 2013/07/5)

**Protection:** Hard-line factions reportedly issued a decree banning women from wearing immodest clothing. Another report states that a Judicial Committee imposed a prison sentence on those not fasting during Ramadan. It is unclear whether these reports are localised issues or part of a general trend. (Daily Star 2013/07/02, Assafir 2013/07/11)

Mobility is severely hampered in Aleppo city, both due to the besiegement of western neighbourhoods, a large number of checkpoints, and a lack of fuel and public transport. (OCHA 2013/07/16)

As a result of the opposition blockade on Government-controlled areas in Aleppo city, some people have moved to opposition-controlled areas, despite the serious risks involved with crossing to the eastern side of the city. Kidnappings at the Boston Al

Qasr checkpoint, the only crossing between Government and opposition controlled areas, have been reported. (NGO 2013/07, PI 2013/07/16, PI 2013/07/05)

Residents of Aleppo city staged a protest against the besiegement. Gunfire was used to disperse the demonstration. (BBC 2013/007/2013)

**Displacement:** There are 2 IDP camps identified in Aleppo governorate, Bal Al Salameh camp (~2,000 IDPs) and Jarablus camp (~1,000 IDPs). The priorities identified in Bal Al Salameh camp are food, sanitation and health, while key informants in Jarablus camp indicated that there is a need for water, food and education. (ACU 2013/06/16)

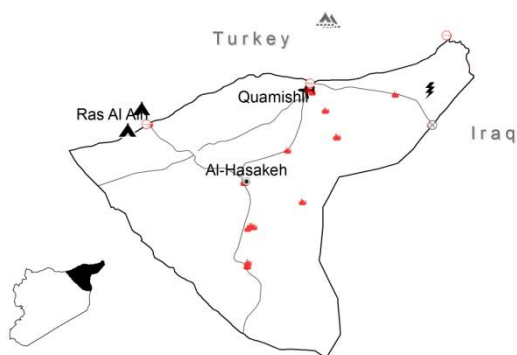
IDPs in Aleppo city primarily live in schools, universities and public gardens. 6 collective centres are reportedly in place. (PI 2013/07/16, PI 2013/07/05)

**Education:** The Ministry of Education reports that 500 schools (out of over 3,300 schools before the crisis) have been damaged in the governorate. In March, attendance rates were as low as 6%. (UNRWA 2013/07/22, UNICEF 2013/03)

**Palestinian refugee camps:** Ein El Tal remains empty of refugees except a small number that visit to retrieve belongings. Armed opposition groups continue to control the area. Neirab Camp and surrounding areas remain relatively calm and the camp is accessible. (UNRWA 2013/07/15)

## Al-Hasakeh

- ✦ A large part of Al-Hasakeh is under Kurdish control and there are strong linkages between the Kurdish population in the governorate and the Kurdish communities in neighbouring Iraq. The governorate is Syria's main oil producing and grain growing region. In July 2012, YPG (The Kurdish Popular Protection Units) 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 border towns of Ras Al Ain and Qamishli. Opposition groups, including Jabhat Al Nursa, have taken control of different villages. ([Daily Star 2013/07/08](#), [Guardian 2013/07/10](#))
- ✦ **Protection:** Since May 2013, the only official crossing from Al-Hasakeh to Iraq has been closed. As a result, hundreds of people are stranded on the Syrian side of the border crossing. ([HRW 2013/07/01](#))
- ✦ Jabhat Al Nursa is reportedly able to provide services and law and order to the citizens residing in areas under their control. However, some reports indicate that they are exercising considerable pressure to abide by religious traditions such as Ramadan. ([Guardian 2013/07/10](#), [Assafir 2013/07/18](#))
- ✦ At the end of June, YPG forces reportedly shot at demonstrators in Amuda, killing at least 6 civilians. ([Al-Monitor 2013/07/02](#))
- ✦ **Access:** Humanitarian access has been particularly difficult in Al-Hasakeh. Insecurity and checkpoints is hampering transport from Damascus to Al-Hasakeh, while the border crossing from Kurdistan is closed. ([WFP 2013/07/01](#), [PI 2013/06/23](#))
- ✦ **Health:** There is an acute shortage of medicine. In the past, a part of the medicines was imported from the Kurdistan region; however the main crossing is currently closed. Patients cannot visit health centres in Aleppo or Damascus for this purpose because of insecurity. ([PI 2013/06/23](#))
- ✦ **Fuel:** Although the governorate harbours most of Syria's gas reserves, gas shortages have been reported. The main gas plant, Jabsa, is currently controlled by armed groups and not functioning. ([Al-Monitor 2013/07/02](#))
- ✦ **Food:** Although markets are reportedly fully functional, reduced transport between Damascus and Al-Hasakeh due to insecurity is causing a shortage in foodstuffs and an increase in prices. As fewer goods are arriving from Aleppo and Damascus, the governorate is increasingly relying on goods from Turkey. ([Al-Akhbar 2013/07/12](#), [PI 2013/06/21](#))



- ✦ **Agriculture:** Despite above average rains, the impact of the conflict on agricultural production in the governorate has been severe:
- In normal years, irrigation accounts for approximately 40% of the total area planted with wheat in Al-Hasakeh. Damage to irrigation infrastructure has led to a reduction of the area planted, and only 10% of the planned 250,000 ha of irrigated wheat was actually achieved. Most farmers produced their wheat as a rain fed rather than an irrigated crop, which results in a lower harvest.
  - In 2013, only an estimated 13,000 ha of cotton will be cultivated, compared to 57,000 ha between 2008 and 2012.
  - Traditionally, the GoS purchases a large proportion of the wheat produced in the governorate. However, of the 40 collection centres owned by the GoS only 6 are still operational. ([FAO/WFP 2013/07/05](#))
- ✦ **Livelihoods:** As a result of the high production costs and limited returns, an estimated 20% fewer farmers were engaged in wheat production in the governorate during the 2012/2013 season. Only about half the normal number of agricultural wage workers was hired.
- ✦ The border closure with **KRG (Kurdistan Regional Government)** has led to an increase in unemployment as it is common for people to move across the border to work. ([Al-Akhbar 2013/07/12](#))
- ✦ People currently rely on expatriates' remittances, and almost every family has a member working in Iraqi Kurdistan, Turkey or other countries. New professions are now active such as smuggling and the sale of Turkish and American goods smuggled from Iraq, including cigarettes, weapons and mobile phones. ([PI 2013/06/23](#))
- ✦ **WASH:** Due to cuts in water supply, an increasing reliance on wells and natural sources has been reported. Pollution due to oil-refinement is common. ([PI 2013/06/21](#))
- ✦ Those living on the top floors of buildings in Qamishli and Al-Hasakeh no longer receive water due to the low water pressure. ([PI 2013/06/21](#), [PI 2013/07/09](#))
- ✦ **Education:** 195 of the 2,200 schools have been damaged in the governorate. ([UNRWA 2013/07/22](#))

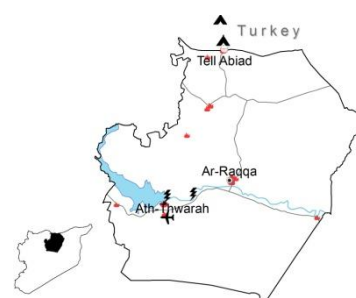
### Information Gaps





## Ar-Raqqa

➤ **Operational constraints:** Cross-border humanitarian access via Jarablus (Aleppo governorate) and, to an extent, Tell Abiad in view of the recent clashes, may still be possible for INGOs although access is easier for Syrian NGOs. According to a key informant, the ISIS in Jarablus recently made it clear that they do not want “foreigners” in Syria. (PI 2013/07/21 Ar-Raqqa City Council & Relief Office 2013/07/24 PI 2013/07/26)



➤ In addition to SARC, the ACU, and a limited number of INGOs along the border, only a handful of national NGOs (mainly funded by the Syrian diaspora) currently operate in the governorate, including Jama'iyat al-Berr wa Khadmat al-Ijtima'iyyah (Birr Society), Tajammu' Ahrar ar-Raqqa fil Kuwait (The Society of the Liberated in Kuwait), Tajammu' al-Moghtaribin fi Raqqa (The Syrian Diaspora Society in Raqqa), Jama'iyat al-Sham al-Islami (Islamic Sham Society). Except for the provincial capital, these NGOs are able to access most locations such as Tell Abiad, Maadan and Tabqa. (Ar-Raqqa City Council & Relief Office 2013/07/24)

➤ Access from Homs is unpredictable given the multiple opposition groups controlling checkpoints along the road from As Salamiyeh (Hama). (Ar-Raqqa City Council & Relief Office 2013/07/24)

➤ Earlier this month, a warehouse in Tell Abiad managed by the ACU was broken into, and approximately USD 500,000 worth of food and hygiene parcels were taken. (ACU 2013/07/22)

➤ **Displacement:** An unverified number of IDPs have recently fled the fighting in Deir-ez-Zor for Ar-Raqqa. (OCHA 2013/07/05 OCHA 2013/07/6-19)

➤ **Health:** Nutrition-associated problems are a growing risk particularly among babies. There is a severe shortage of powdered formula for those aged up to 1 year. Where available, families often spend entire salaries on baby formula. Where breastfeeding is not possible, substitutes have included cow's milk and even yoghurt mixed with water. (Ar-Raqqa City Council & Relief Office 2013/07/24)

### Information Gaps



➤ Ar-Raqqa National Hospital (*Mashfa ar-Raqqa al-Watani*), the only hospital-sized health facility left in the city, is operating beyond its limits. There are far more cases requiring medical attention than there are trained personnel. Most doctors have left either because they could emigrate or they were not receiving their salaries; reportedly only 4 out of 30 surgeons remain. In addition, the hospital now serves patients originating from neighbouring governorates, Aleppo and Homs. (Ar-Raqqa City Council & Relief Office 2013/07/24)

➤ Ar-Raqqa National Hospital is short of essential medical supplies including insulin for diabetics, blood transfusion packets, antibiotics and salt and sugar serums. Critically, only 1 medical ventilator of the estimated 7 or so reportedly functions. (Ar-Raqqa City Council & Relief Office 2013/07/24)

➤ **Livelihoods and food security:** The governorate's service sectors are largely functioning as before, and most government employees continue to draw their salaries although salaries for at least 2,000 jobs in key sectors including health and water have reportedly been discontinued. (Assafir 2013/07/02, Ar-Raqqa City Council & Relief Office 2013/07/24)

➤ The impact of the crisis on the governorate's most important economic sector, agriculture, in addition to a multi-year drought and Government neglect, has encouraged greater migration of rural inhabitants to cities such as Aleppo and Damascus. Other problems faced by farmers include financial difficulties with marketing produce (transportation costs etc) such as wheat and beetroot. (Assafir 2013/07/02)

➤ This year's wheat yield was better than in 2012 on account of good rains (with the exception of the Bir Elhasham agricultural region). However, the GoS is no longer able to implement its usual practice of purchasing wheat in bulk (mainly from the country's 'breadbasket' governorates including Ar-Raqqa and at a higher price than local market rates) for a number of reasons, including damaged Government reception centres for wheat. Thus demand is no longer commensurate with supply, leaving much of the wheat in storage. The milling of wheat into wheat flour is also a problem. Before the crisis, the main mill for wheat from much of Syria's north was in Aleppo. Currently, this task has been reassigned to the main mill in Ar-Raqqa. As a stopgap measure, local NGOs and SARC assist by having wheat milled in Turkey. (Ar-Raqqa City Council & Relief Office 2013/07/24)

➤ IDPs generally cope by managing small stores and businesses (groceries etc.). One source thought that IDPs lived better than their hosts, given that many not only receive humanitarian aid but continue drawing salaries from the government. (Ar-Raqqa City Council & Relief Office 2013/07/24)

➤ According to a July UN report, crop and food security throughout Syria will continue to deteriorate in the coming 12 months. The average monthly price of wheat flour has also doubled between May 2011 and May 2013 in several of the locations assessed. (FAO/WFP 2013/07/05)

➤ **WASH:** Water networks and equipment lack maintenance and are reported to be operating at 30% capacity in Ar-Raqqa city. There is an urgent need for water purification material. While Ar-Raqqa city is still supplied with electricity, sometimes for 18-20 hours a day, Tell Abiad and the rural areas of the governorate reportedly receive much less, often fewer than 8 hours per day; affecting, among other things, water and irrigation pumps. (Ar-Raqqa City Council & Relief Office 2013/07/24)

➤ **Shelter:** Many IDPs reportedly prefer sheltering outside built-up areas, where rent is lower and space is more available. IDPs have occupied 6 schools in the provincial capital as shelters but may be relocated to public buildings before the school term starts. (Ar-Raqqa City Council & Relief Office 2013/07/24, OCHA 2013/07/05)

➤ **Education:** There has been a reported lack of school equipment such as furniture and chalk/marker boards. According to a source, around 5-10% of school infrastructure in the governorate has been damaged by shelling. (Ar-Raqqa City Council & Relief Office 2013/07/24)

## As-Sweida

- No fighting has been reported in As-Sweida for over a year. Mainly inhabited by Druze communities, it is one of the least directly affected governorates in Syria.
- **Operational constraints:** In mid-June, cable damage in Rural Damascus and Dar'a left As-Sweida entirely without Internet. Currently ADSL and broadband are still unavailable. ([Al Watan 2013/06/26](#), [SecDev 2013/07/26](#))
- Fighting on the Homs-Damascus highway is wont to disrupt service delivery and aid. ([WFP 2013/05/17](#))
- **WASH:** Agricultural land in Kawm Al Hasa region near the city of As-Sweida has been polluted by sewage water being diverted to the land as the authorities have no other way of disposing of it. Planting and ploughing processes have been halted. ([Tishreen 2013/07/13](#))
- **Livelihoods and food security:** One effect of the loss of Internet was that the banks were unable to provide services and workers have been unable to withdraw their salaries. ([Al Watan 2013/06/26](#))
- The prices of many basic foodstuffs, including tomatoes and meat, have doubled since the crisis began. ([Tishreen 2013/07/17](#))

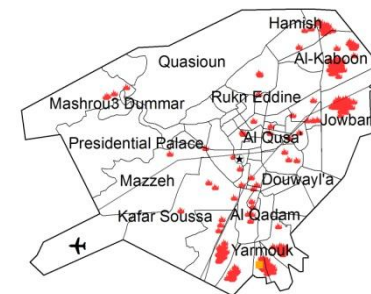


### Information Gaps



## Damascus city

- After months of relative calm, Syria's army launched a fierce assault at the start of February 2013 in Eastern and Southern suburbs of Damascus, where opposition groups have secured enclaves. Analysts assume that the GoS is focusing a large part of its resources to secure an area of control in a radius of about eight kilometres around Damascus city. Although heavy fighting has been limited to the outskirts of the city, opposition groups have increasingly used guerrilla attacks against security forces inside the city, including suicide and car bombs. ([AFP 2013/02/22](#), [AFP 2013/02/23](#), [UNRWA 2013/02/22](#), [AFP 2013/02/21](#), [AlertNet 2013/01/21](#), [AFP 2013/01/17](#), [AFP 2013/01/13](#))
- **Besieged areas:**
  - **Yarmouk camp:** The Palestinian camp has been under siege since late 2012 from SAF who control the northern entrance (which links the camp to the other neighbourhoods of Damascus city) and heavily restrict entry of foodstuffs, medicines, fuel and spare parts. Exit and entry for civilians is limited. ([Al-Akhbar 2013/07/13](#), [UNRWA 2013/07/15](#))
  - **Qaboun and Barzeh:** Since early 2012, SAF have besieged opposition-controlled suburbs such as Qaboun and Barzeh: an estimated 1 million people reside in these areas. Electricity, water, fuel and food are scarce and there is only limited humanitarian access. Checkpoints and GoS snipers reportedly hamper movement of civilians. ([HRW 2013/07/15](#), [Al Jazeera 2013/07/15](#), [Eqtsad 2013/07/13](#), [AFP 2013/07/14](#))
- **Access:** A proliferation of additional checkpoints around the city is slowing down food distributions both within Damascus and to other governorates. ([WFP 2013/07/16](#))
- **Electricity:** Although electricity supply is reportedly constant, fighting around power plants is sometimes leading to power cuts lasting multiple days. Around 30% of the electricity consumed in Damascus city is supplied by the power plant in the heavily contested area of Qaboun. ([Eqtsad 2013/07/07](#), [PI 2013/07/19](#))
- **Livelihoods:** It is increasingly difficult to withdraw money from banks, with some ATMs no longer functioning with long queues for the functioning ATMs. ([Daily Star 2013/07/16](#))
- **Health:** Although the health infrastructure in Damascus city is the least affected of the country (with all 8 hospitals functioning as of April), a lack of medicine and supplies limits operations. The Al-Mowasat Public Hospital for instance, is only able to function 2 days a week and reports a lack of materials needed for dialysis.



### Information Gaps



🚩 **Displacement:** Displaced people are arriving in increasing numbers. As the tourism sector has largely collapsed, many hotels are accommodating the displaced at reduced room rates. ([Al-Akhbar 2013/07/09](#), [NGO 2013/07/19](#))

🚩 **WASH:** The main water source in Damascus governorate, Al Faija spring, has been damaged due to shelling. However, in the city centre, access to water does not appear to be of concern. Drinking water is available daily for more than 7 hours (from 2 pm - until 5 am), similar to the situation prior to the crisis. ([NGO 2013/07/19](#), [PI 2013/06/22](#))

🚩 ([Syrian Medical Committee 2013/07/10](#))

🚩 **Food:** Dairy and various kinds of fruits and vegetables are available in all areas of Damascus city centre, albeit at high prices (caused by the high costs of transport from the rural areas to Damascus city). ([NGO 2013/07/19](#))

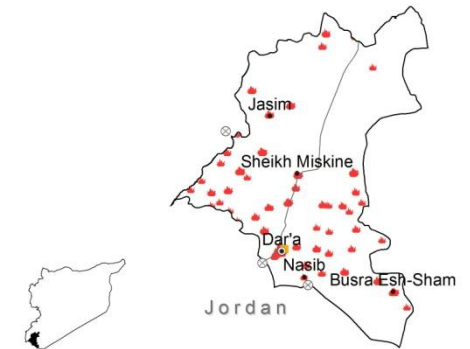
🚩 **Education:** 181 schools out of around 600 schools have been damaged in Damascus, presumably primarily in the outskirts of the city, where most of the fighting is taking place. ([UNRWA 2013/07/22](#))

🚩 **Palestinian camp:**

- Heavy clashes between pro-GoS and opposition groups reignited in Yarmouk camp on 20 July. Fewer than 30% of camp residents remain (approximately 20,000 Palestinian Refugees). UNRWA facilities have been unable to operate since January 2013 and health centres remain closed. Access to basic goods is compromised due to the GoS siege and as result severe shortages of food stuffs, fuel and specifically medical supplies has been reported. Electricity supply has been cut off since the end of April. ([Jafra Foundation for Relief and Youth Development 2013/07/30](#), [AFP 2013/07/23](#), [UNRWA 2013/07/15](#), [Al-Akhbar 2013/07/13](#))
- Al-'Aidoon camp in Barzeh, north of Damascus is reportedly divided into two parts. One part is exposed to heavy shelling and as a result, all residents have fled. Overall, some 3,800 individuals left the camp. Within the other part, some families have remained. ([Jafra Foundation for Relief and Youth Development 2013/07/30](#))

## Dar'a

🚩 The first uprising in Syria began in Dar'a in March 2011. Home to primarily Sunni Muslims, 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 (Occupied Palestine), Dar'a is traditionally one of the most militarised regions in Syria. With parts of the governorate under opposition control, the government is continuing its offensive in Dar'a to gain strategic transit routes and border crossings.



🚩 **Operational constraints:** Access between Dar'a and Damascus remains limited due to fighting, numerous checkpoints and bureaucratic delays, which continue to hamper the delivery of basic supplies and assistance. Road access between Dar'a and Jordan was reported to be open since 11 July, although tight Government of Jordan (GoJ) border restrictions have limited supplies entering from Jordan. ([UNRWA 2013/07/23](#), [OCHA 2013/07/15](#))

🚩 The GoS is reportedly in control of the main road between Dar'a and Jordan. The road is reportedly open since 11 June although there are reports of sporadic shelling and frequent checkpoints. ([UNRWA 2013/07/23](#))

🚩 **Displacement:** The current displacement pattern in Dar'a is characterised by frequent but relatively short-term periods of displacement to host communities and public facilities. IDPs are reportedly able to return home for short 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, which remain under opposition control. ([PI 2013/07/25](#), [UNHCR 2013/07/16](#), [WP 2013/07/23](#))

🚩 Increasing numbers of Syrians trying to leave the country are trapped at the border due to the GoJ's unofficial restrictions on refugees entering Jordan. Over one-third of Dar'a residents have registered as refugees in Jordan. ([WP 2013/07/23](#))

🚩 **Livelihoods and Food Security:** There is no food price monitoring in Dar'a and bread prices are one of the most volatile in the country. The cost of 1 kg of meat starts at SYP 900 (USD 4.5 at USD1=SYP200); however, there is concern over the lack of quality control and health inspectors. ([WP 2013/07/23](#), [Tishreen 2013/07/13](#))

🚩 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](#))

🚩 A national crop and food security assessment omitted Dar'a governorate - due to access difficulties caused by the current situation. ([WFP 2013/07/05](#))

🚩 **Health:** There is a major gap in basic data from Dar'a reported in WHO/MoH's weekly disease incidence reports, indicating a major disruption of communication between local health officials and Damascus. ([WHO 2013/07/09](#))

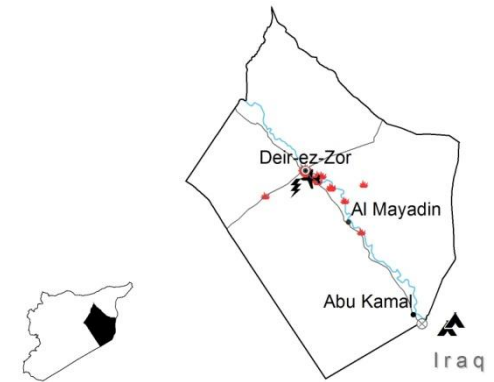
- The health situation reportedly deteriorated further in Dar'a in early July due to a lack of medicine and supplies. ([OCHA 2013/07/15](#))
- **Education:** Schools in Dar'a have suffered some of the worst damages in the country, with an estimated 300 schools damaged out of 600 at a cost of SYP 356 million (USD 1.8 million at USD 1=SYP 200) since the beginning of the crisis. ([UNRWA 2013/07/22](#))
- **Shelter:** Schools, mosques, shops and other public facilities are reportedly at capacity in sheltering IDPs. The beginning of the school year in September will likely lead to additional displacement and a significant demand for alternative shelter, which could result in the establishment of informal settlements. ([WP 2013/07/23](#), [PI 2013/07/25](#))
- **Situation in Palestinian refugee camps:** Intensive fighting and shelling in early July subsided at the end of the month but intermittent hostilities continue in Dar'a camp. Since mid-July, 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 2013/07/23](#))

#### Information Gaps



## Deir-ez-Zor

- Social structures in the governorate are primarily tribal and traditionally, the GoS has less of a support base in Deir-ez-Zor. The region is remote and receives little media coverage. The governorate borders Iraq and smuggling of goods is common. The oil and gas-rich province of Deir-ez-Zor is home to tribes whose ties extend across the border into Iraq. Opposition groups are in control of a large swathes of territory stretching from the provincial capital city Deir-ez-Zor to the Iraqi border, making it the largest area in Syria outside GoS control. GoS forces still control 3 neighbourhoods in western Deir-ez-Zor, including the military airport and key intelligence and security bases. ([AFP 2013/02/19](#), [AFP 2013/02/10](#), [UNICEF 2012/12/07](#), [AFP 2012/11/25](#), [AFP 2012/11/20](#), [AFP 2012/12/03](#))
- **Protection:** There are significant protection issues in the governorate, including kidnapping, robbery and summary executions. ([SANA 2013/07/15](#), [PI 2013/07/04](#))
- **WASH:** Pollution of water sources by crude oil continues to be observed. Local water boards are unable to treat water due to the lack of treatment materials. ([PI 2013/07/04](#), [J-RANS II 2013/05/22](#))
- **Health:** Medicines are only available at high prices, and there is a shortage of drugs for chronic diseases including diabetes. ([PI 2013/07/04](#))
- Primitive means of oil refining are assumed to cause visible illnesses in several areas of Deir-ez-Zor governorate, such as skin infections, skin cancer and birth defects. One case of congenital malformation has been registered in the town of Al-Shuhail, and the cause was recognized as manual oil refinement. ([Syria NewsDesk 2013/07/05](#))
- **Education:** 49 schools out of 1089 have been reportedly damaged. ([UNRWA 2013/07/22](#))

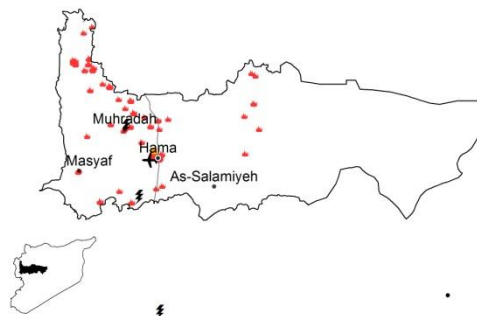


#### Information Gaps



## Hama

- Hama has endured heavy shelling and clashes as the army and opposition forces compete for control of the region. Fighting is ongoing in many of the villages, several of which have been under opposition control for many months. The north of Hama is of particular strategic importance as the main road linking Aleppo to Damascus runs through it.
- **Operational constraints:** The heavy fighting seriously impedes aid delivery to many areas of the region.
- **Livelihoods and Food Security:** The prices of many basic foodstuffs have increased considerably, most by at least 20% in the last week of June alone. ([Tishreen 2013/06/30](#))
- **WASH:** Water shortages have affected large areas of Hama for months. Due to the security situation, many waste treatment plants have ceased to function, disrupting sanitation to cities and villages. ([Al Watan 2013/06/26](#), [UNICEF 2013/05/30](#))
- **Shelter and NFI:** Frequent attacks have left electricity networks severely damaged resulting in lengthy power cuts. ([Tishreen 2013/07/18](#))
- **Education:** 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 around 3,050 displaced Palestinians in Hama camp, mostly having come from Yarmouk and Ein El Tal. ([UNRWA 2013/07/22](#))

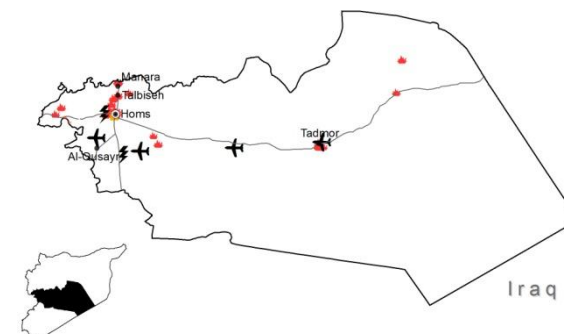


### Information Gaps



## Homs

- Since the battle for Qusair that ended in June, the pattern of fighting suggests that GoS troops are pushing to regain the centre and isolate the north of the governorate so as to cut the supply line between Hama and Homs. ([AFP 201/06/29](#))
- Homs city is now largely under the control of GoS forces, aside from areas within the Old City held by the opposition. The areas still under opposition control are under siege and experience heavy shelling and rocket fire. In the end of July, the GoS forces were able to retain the contested district of Khaldiyyeh.
- Brokered amnesties and ceasefires have taken place in the governorate whereby opposition fighters have surrendered their arms to GoS forces. In Tall Kalakh, for example, a deal was reached through local elders that allowed opposition fighters to hand the area over to the GoS troops without armed conflict and with the promise of no reprisals. There have, however, been reports of the massacre of a group sent to mediate between warring sides and mediators have expressed that the more hard-line factions are not willing to negotiate.
- **Besieged areas:** 14 neighbourhoods in Homs city are under siege as are Talbiseh and Ar-Rastan. Around 800 families are trapped in the Homs city sieges and do not have access to food or medical assistance. Electricity is cut in besieged areas and most rely on generators for a few hours a night to pump water. ([Al Akhbar 2013/07/01](#), [Eqtsad 2013/06/29](#))
- **Palestinian refugee camp:** There are 6,420 displaced Palestinians in Homs camp, having fled from Aleppo, Damascus, and the Homs countryside. Shells have hit the camp, damaging housing and disrupting services provision. ([UNRWA 2013/07/22](#))
- **Operational constraints:** WFP aid convoys have to pass through over 50 checkpoints to reach some areas, despite their close proximity to their offices. ([WFP 2013/07/10](#))
- Access to Ar-Rastan has remained challenging. Interagency convoys have difficulty in receiving the necessary approvals from the Government. ([WFP 2013/07/26](#))
- **Displacement:** Homs has experienced widespread displacement. The Old City in Homs, for example, used to be home to 400,000 people. Now, many people previously living in the Old City have moved to the Al Waer district; its population has increased from 150,000 before the crisis to 700,000. In Qusair, previously home to 30,000 – 40,000 people, only 20-40 families allegedly remain and much of the infrastructure has been reduced to rubble. ([The Independent 2013/06/25](#), [WFP 2013/07/01](#))



Al Zara village is under siege, and 15,000 Turkman residents are thought to be trapped there, along with 1,000 IDPs from Al Hoson Castle, which is under occupation. (Al Akhbar 2013/07/06)



**Shelter:** Many people in need in Homs are taking refuge in schools, where GoS forces are distributing food, water and basic essentials. (The Independent 2013/06/25)

Some previous residents of Qusair are returning to the town, despite around 80% of some districts being destroyed. Electricity and water are gradually being restored. (Al Akhbar 2013/07/01)

**Protection:** Unexploded ordnance from the battle in Qusair is a hazard for the few returnees. At least one person has already been killed. (Al Akhbar 2013/07/03)

All property records for Homs were destroyed in a fire at the office of the city's land registry and residents fear they will no longer be able to enforce a claim to their land and homes. (Guardian 2013/07/22)

**Health:** 6 of the GoS' 13 public hospitals in the governorate are not functioning. (UNRWA 2013/06/30)

There is a severe shortage of medical supplies, particularly in besieged areas. With the increased shelling, there are higher incidents of casualties and supplies have been under further pressure. (AFP 2013/07/10)

**WASH:** The sewage treatment plant in Homs intermittently ceases to function due to security incidents in the areas around it and the frequent disruptions in electricity provision. (Tishreen 2013/07/21)

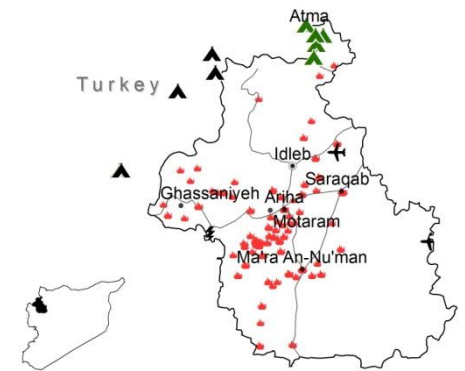
**Livelihoods and food security:** There is a critical lack of food in the besieged areas, where supplies have not been able to enter for over 12 months in some areas. The people who remain have relied on food found in abandoned homes and on what the opposition forces can provide. (Eqtisad 2013/06/29)

**Education:** Many schools in Homs are being used as IDP shelters and both GoS and opposition forces have used them for military purposes also. 210 schools have been damaged during the conflict, out of 1,330 in total. (UNRWA 2013/06/30)

**Palestinian refugee camp:** Al-Aeideen camp has seen an influx of Palestinians from other parts of the country, including 400 families from other Palestinian camps. The main needs in the camp reportedly include cash assistance, psychosocial support, income opportunities and medicines, including medicines for chronic conditions. (Jafra Foundation for Relief and Youth Development 2013/07/30)

## Idleb

The governorate has seen heavy fighting since March 2012 and over 120 opposition armed groups are currently active. These groups have taken control of the major part of Idleb countryside, while the GoS continues to control the main cities, including Idleb city. In addition, the GoS is in control of the main roads in the governorate, which connect Idleb to Hama, Tartous and Lattakia. (Al Jazeera 2013/07/19)



**Besieged areas:** Since the end of June, opposition groups blocked food and other basic supplies from entering the city of Idleb, in an attempt to force the civilians to leave the city. An estimated 400,000 people face severe shortages. Civilians are reportedly not able to move, as there is heavy fighting on-going in and around the city. As a result, prices for staple goods and fuel have increased. By mid-July, the siege is reportedly less strict and goods are able to move into the city centre, albeit in limited amounts. (OCHA 2013/07/29, Daily Star 2013/07/03, Daily Star 2013/07/06, Eqtisad 2013/06/30, Daily Star 2013/07/03, Daily Star 2013/07/06)

During the last week of June, an UN inter-agency convoy intended for Idleb was diverted to Hama, due to security constraints. (OCHA 2013/07/01)

**Food:** The governorate is highly dependent on imports from Turkey and is therefore particularly affected by the depreciation of the Syrian pound. (Daily Star 2013/07/03, Eqtisad 2013/06/30)



**Protection:** At the start of July, fighters from the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) brigade reportedly shot demonstrators in the city of Dana, during protests against the armed group that controls the city and uses it as their main operating base. (PI 2013/07/19)

Smuggling of goods across the Turkish border is common: in July, clashes between the Turkish border patrol and smugglers occurred on multiple occasions, killing at least 1. (Eqtisad 2013/07/23)

**WASH:** Water is available on average for 5-6 hours daily in the city of Idleb and is supplied through the main water network. A growing dependency on wells and buying water has been reported. (PI 2013/07/19)

**Education:** As many as 772 schools have been damaged in the governorate, out of 1,217 in total. (UNRWA 2013/07/22)

## Lattakia

➤ The Governorate of Lattakia is the ancestral home 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.

➤ **Livelihoods:** a source reports that the GoS has hired more people in the governorate, to make up for the loss of income in the agricultural and industrial sector. ([Al-Akhbar 2013/07/03](#))

➤ **Food:** markets in Lattakia are operating normally, however, there have been significant price increases for staple foods such as bread, partially due to the increased demand caused by the massive inflow of IDPs. ([FAO/WFP 2013/07/05](#), [Tishreen 2013/07/17](#))

➤ As it is difficult for vegetable producers to transport their produce to other governorates, the local market witnessed an increase in supply and a consequent decrease in the price of vegetables by 5-20%. Nevertheless, prices are still far above pre-crisis levels, with a kilo of tomatoes for instance at SYP 120, from SYP 40 at the start of 2011. ([Tishreen 2013/07/07](#), [Al-Akhbar 2013/07/03](#))

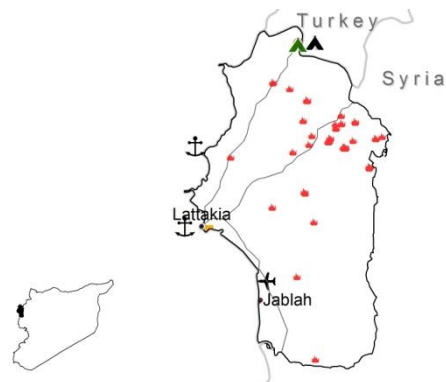
➤ **Protection:** In some villages under control of Islamic opposition groups, there are unconfirmed reports of Alawite communities being forced to leave. ([Guardian 2013/07/22](#))

➤ Clashes were reported between the FSA and forces of an opposition group (Islamic state in Syria and Iraq), after FSA commander Kamal Hammami was killed in the mountains of Lattakia. ([Assafir 2013/07/12](#))

➤ In some areas, including Al Ramel and Raml districts, residents are unable to move out of their neighbourhood through GoS checkpoints without providing proof that their electricity and water bills have been paid. ([Assafir 2013/07/12](#))

➤ **Education:** 97 schools have reportedly been damaged. ([UNRWA 2013/07/22](#))

➤ **Palestinian refugee camp:** Lattakia camp has received over 4,000 Palestinians who fled from Yarmouk and Ein El Tal. The situation in the camp has remained relatively calm and all facilities appear to be functioning. ([UNRWA 2013/07/08](#))



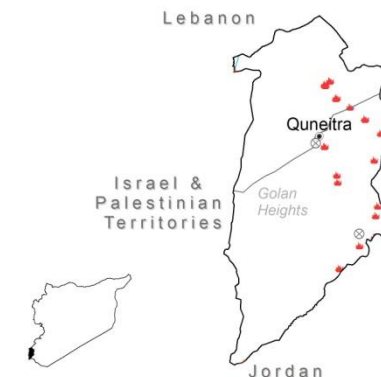
## Quneitra

➤ GoS troops and opposition forces continue to engage in conflict in Quneitra in a battle that has broken out repeatedly over the last several months. The area is particularly delicate given its proximity to the Israeli occupied Golan Heights. Shells from Syria landed within the occupied territory on 14 and 16 July and opposition forces have exchanged fire with Israeli troops on at least one occasion, adding to the volatility of the situation. ([Al Akhbar 2013/07/17](#), [Assafir 2013/07/17](#))

➤ **Displacement:** The renewed fighting has led to increased population displacement. As of 8 July, 3,300 households have been displaced within the governorate as a result of the clashes and shelling. ([Tishreen 2013/07/08](#))

➤ **Health:** The only hospital in Quneitra is suffering from a significant shortage of medical personnel and equipment. ([Tishreen 2013/07/13](#))

➤ **Education:** 107 out of 279 schools have been damaged during the conflict. ([UNRWA 2013/06/30](#))



### Information Gaps

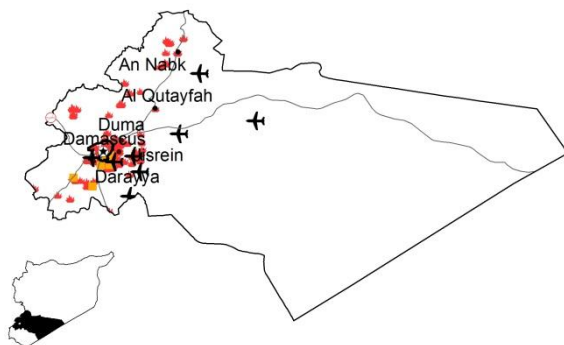


### Information Gaps



## Rural Damascus

GoS forces are pushing to gain ground in Rural Damascus. Severe clashes and shelling characterise the areas surrounding the capital city. Incidents of shootings of civilians, hostage taking and car bombs add to the violence of the fighting and shelling. Many areas are hotly contested and their populations have limited or no access to water, food and electricity. Opposition fighters are thought to deliver good to some areas through networks of underground tunnels that are often attacked by GoS forces.



### Besieged areas:

- o **Eastern Ghouta:** In Eastern Ghouta, for example, GoS forces are preventing food from entering the district. ([Eqtsad 2013/07/07](#))
  - o **Madamiyet Elsham:** In July, access was granted to Madamiyet Elsham, whose 25,000 citizens have not received aid for many months, yet 2 WFP missions to deliver aid were unsuccessful due to ongoing clashes. ([WFP 2013/07/01](#))
- Operational constraints: Large parts of conflict-affected areas are exceedingly difficult to access for security reasons. ([USAID 2013/07/03](#))
- Due to the sieges, aid organisations were for months not granted access to several areas in Rural Damascus. ([Al Jazeera 2013/06/28](#))
- Protection:** Snipers pose a serious threat to anyone trying to enter or leave Damascus by the key northern gate. All vehicles are targeted, civilian or otherwise. ([Assafir 2013/07/01](#))
- A group of female detainees, including some pregnant and elderly women, have been held in Adra prison for 4-6 months without trial. ([Syria News Desk 2013/07/01](#))
- Livelihoods and Food Security:** Severe fuel shortages hamper transport and some forms of employment. ([Tishreen 2013/07/02](#))
- The price of flour has increased significantly due to the transport difficulties and high cost of fuel. Yeast now has to be imported from Lebanon. Much of the wheat storage facilities in the governorate have been damaged in the fighting and agricultural activities have been severely disrupted. Many factories have also been destroyed and production completely halted. ([Tishreen 2013/07/02](#))
- WASH:** Damage to WASH infrastructure is particularly severe in Rural Damascus and cannot be repaired due to the ongoing conflict. In Western Ghouta, for example, 1 district is without a drinking water network and the population now relies on monthly water truck deliveries. ([Tishreen 2013/07/11](#))

- **Health:** According to the Rural Damascus Health Department, 67 hospitals and health centres (32%) have stopped functioning in the governorate, 9 centres are partially operational and 131 are functioning normally. In opposition-controlled areas, there is an increased lack of medical supplies. ([Sana 2013/07/10](#), [Eqtsad 2013/06/30](#))
- **Education:** 210 schools have been damaged during the conflict, out of 1157 in total. ([UNRWA 2013/06/30](#))
- **Situation in Palestinian refugee camps:** There has been sporadic shelling and clashes in and around many of the refugee camps, particularly Jobar, Qaboun and Barzeh.

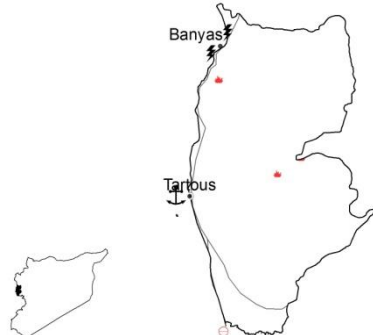
### Information Gaps





## Tartous

Violence of a sectarian nature has been witnessed in Tartous. After killings in Banias and Bayda in May, the deaths of 13 members of one family were reported on 21 July shortly after pro-Government forces clashed with opposition fighters close to the family's home. Fears of further sectarian conflict are heightened. 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. ([Foreign Affairs 2012/07/18](#), [NYT 2012/12/22](#))



**Operational constraints:** Any clashes on the main route between Tartous and Damascus significantly disrupt the movement of vital goods, including aid, between the capital and Tartous. Clashes on the northern highway leaving Damascus are a common occurrence.

**Displacement:** Tartous governorate continues to receive high numbers of IDPs, many of whom reside in unfinished buildings and inadequate shelter. Tartous city in particular is struggling to cope with the ever increasing number of IDPs. ([UNICEF 2013/07/12](#))

**Livelihoods and food security:** The prices of many basic commodities, including rice, eggs and drinking water, have increased by an average of 50-60% for foodstuffs and by 150% for bottled water. The price of meat increased by 300%. ([Tishreen 2013/06/30](#), [Al Watan 2013/06/29](#))



The fuel crisis in the governorate is increasingly severe. This is in part due to the influx of IDP cars; 25,000 to 30,000 of which have come to the governorate, mostly from Damascus and Aleppo. ([Tishreen 2013/07/02](#))

**Health:** Supplies of medicines and drugs, both imported and locally manufactured, are rapidly decreasing and thereby affecting the functioning of hospitals and medical centres. This is partly due to the destruction and closure of several pharmaceutical laboratories, reportedly by opposition groups. 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:** 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 – June 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
- **Scenarios** February 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 August 2013  
*The RAS report will be updated on a monthly basis*
- **Scenarios** September 2013
- **Thematic report: Relief actors in Syria** TBC

## Map data sources

Administration: OCHA Common Operational Datasets. Oil and Gas: Lynx Information Systems Ltd. IDP camps: ACU. Refugee camps: USAID, State Department. 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 Syrian Government

**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](mailto: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).