



SEE THE CRISIS CHANGE THE OUTCOME

SYRIA

Type of crisis: **CONFLICT, DISPLACEMENT** SEVERE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

CRISIS ANALYSIS

POLITICS AND SECURITY

OVERVIEW Latest update: 26/09/2017

The Syrian Arab Army (SAA), the Free Syrian Army (FSA), Kurdish armed groups that are part of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) – including the People's Protection Unit (YPG) – and the Islamic State (IS) are fighting for control of territory throughout Syria. Smaller opposition armed groups that are not aligned with major coalitions control smaller areas of territory. The FSA mainly holds territory in the southwest and northwest. International involvement in the conflict includes Russia and Iran supporting the Syrian government, Turkey-backed FSA factions, as well as the international coalition against IS, led by the US. The US also supports ground troops such as the SDF with airstrikes. <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-raqqa-idUSKBN12Y0V8> Since April 2017, there has been direct confrontation between the US and the Syrian government in form of airstrikes. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/06/world/middleeast/us-said-to-weigh-military-responses-to-syrian-chemical-attack.html>

At the end of July, Russian defense officials and representatives of Syrian opposition groups agreed on a ceasefire in northern Homs governorate. <https://www.voanews.com/a/new-cease-fire-central-syria-holds-observers-report/3971518.html> On 9 July, a ceasefire began in southern Syria (large parts of the governorates of As-Sweida, Quneitra and Dara), brokered by the United States, Russia, and Jordan. The ceasefire has been largely respected as of mid-July. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=69989>

The seventh round of UN-mediated Geneva talks were held in July. Very little progress has been made in any round. <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/07/ends-syria-breakthrough-170715133937590.html> <http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/syria-sides-meet-again-geneva-expectations-low-654621052>

On 6 May 2017, a six-month renewable truce was agreed between Russia, Iran, and Turkey, mainly covering areas controlled by opposition armed groups. The final de-escalation zones were decided in September, covering, fully or partly, Eastern Ghouta and the provinces of Idlib, Homs, Latakia, Aleppo and Hama. Full implementation is yet to be achieved, but the process is advancing. <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/09/final-de-escalation-zones-agreed-astana-170915102811730.html> In de-escalation zones, opposition and government forces are expected to halt hostilities, including airstrikes, for six months. Russia will continue to fly over the areas but refrain from conducting air raids. The Syrian government is to allow "unhindered" humanitarian aid into rebel-held areas, and public services are to be restored where they have been cut off. <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/syria-de-escalation-zones-explained-170506050208636.html> IS and Jabhat Fateh al Sham are excluded from the truce. <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/syrians-de-escalation-plan-war-170507083015783.html> A similar truce occurred between late December 2016 and May 2017. The Astana talks have increasingly overshadowed the Geneva talks, although Russia, Turkey and Iran failed to finalise agreement in July. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-talks-idUSKBN19Q1P8>

The conflict has killed around 350,000 people since it began in 2011, including 100,000 civilians. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=73329> 2,700 people were killed in August 2017. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=73329> <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=67439> <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=65659> <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=61942> <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=60158> Civilians have been subject to direct and indiscriminate attacks, including the use of barrel bombs and other explosives in populated areas since fighting began. <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/01/10/30912/> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/10/usa-must-come-clean-about-civilian-deaths-caused-by-coalition-air-strikes-in-syria/> <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55437&Cr=Syria&Cr1=#.WBdXYNUrKWl>

STAKEHOLDERS Latest update: 26/09/2017

For a more in-depth analysis of stakeholders, please check the [Country Profile section \(https://www.acaps.org/country/syria/country-profile#datacard-3416\)](https://www.acaps.org/country/syria/country-profile#datacard-3416)

The Syrian Arab Army (SAA) aims to regain territory taken by various armed groups since the conflict broke out in 2011, and to strengthen President Assad's position. They launched a number of offensives and advanced in many areas in 2016. At end 2016, they control western parts of Syria bordering the Mediterranean Sea and Lebanon, including Damascus, Tartous, and most of Latakia, in addition to areas in Al Hasakeh, Aleppo, Sweida, Dara'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, and Idlib governorates. <https://d3svb6mundity5.cloudfront.net/dashboard/index.html> The Lebanese Hezbollah is fighting alongside the SAA. <https://southfront.org/hezbollah-fighters-reinforce-syrian-army-in-northern-hama/>

Free Syrian Army (FSA) is a coalition of dozens of armed groups, with the common objective to oust Assad. This is not a homogeneous group, with some factions seeking a secular state, while others are rooted in Sunni Islam. This has caused infighting. <http://syriadirect.org/news/rebel-factions-merge-with-larger-islamist-coalitions-in-response-to-infighting/> <http://news.trust.org/item/20170122075815-j3cbo>

Ahrar al Sham (also known as the Islamic Movement of the Free Men of the Levant) is a coalition of Salafist armed groups. They are ideologically close to the Muslim Brotherhood. <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/al-qaeda-latest-rebranding-hayat-tahrir-al-sham> Their main objective is the creation of an Islamist government in Syria, to replace al Assad's government. They often fight alongside the FSA. <http://web.stanford.edu/group/mappingmilitants/cgi-bin/groups/view/523>

Hayat Tahrir al Sham is an Islamist coalition including Jabhat Fatah al Sham, formerly known as Jabhat al Nusra. It formally split from al Qaeda in 2016. It has operations in Idlib, Aleppo, Quneitra and Dara. It counts around 31,000 fighters. <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/al-qaeda-latest-rebranding-hayat-tahrir-al-sham> In September, it suffered multiple defections. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=74228>

Islamic State (IS) aims to build a caliphate based in, but not limited to, Iraq and Syria. IS has between 15,000 and 20,000 troops in Syria and Iraq, about two-thirds of whom are foreign fighters. Ar Raqqa governorate, IS's former stronghold in Syria, had been held by IS since October 2014, but was almost entirely lost to the SDF and government forces in September. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=74820> <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/09/raqqa-dead-bodies-normal-170923070320617.html> IS holds territory in al Deir-ez-Zor and Homs governorates. https://1.bp.blogspot.com/-49Ai2qPCLSq/V5qSs8e8HqI/AAAAAAAAHPg/sVEBmUnkTkp33KwUs4-RHFUOcc-NhJEACLcB/s1600/14%2BJUL%2B-%2B28%2BJUL%2BRussian%2BAirstrikes_low-01.png IS is not part of any international negotiation.

People's Protection Units (YPG): The YPG is a Kurdish armed group, and the main force in the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). They seek to create an autonomous region in northern Syria, which would include parts of Aleppo, ar Raqqa and al-Hasakeh governorates, and possibly reaching to the Mediterranean Sea. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/may/06/syria-kurds-raqqa-mediterranean> It is excluded from the current truce. It is unclear if other members of the SDF are also excluded.

Kurdish groups have been in de facto control of Kurdish zones in large areas of the northern parts of al Hasakeh, ar Raqqa, and Aleppo governorates since mid-2012. In mid-March 2016, they declared a federal region in northern Syria, reuniting three Kurdish zones in the area. <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/03/syria-civil-war-kurds-declare-federal-system-north-160317111902534.html>

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF): The SDF is a multiethnic coalition of armed groups, led by the YPG. <http://carnegieendowment.org/sad/a/?fa=62404> The SDF has about 50,000 fighters. <http://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/syria/03032017> On 6 November, the SDF launched an offensive to oust IS from ar Raqqa, and have been steadily advancing since. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37889133> They besieged the city in late June and control it almost entirely as of September. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=74820> <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/09/raqqa-dead-bodies-normal-170923070320617.html>

Other armed groups are predominantly fighting to overthrow the Assad government, although the groups differ in their views of a new state. Islamist groups seek to establish a state based on Sharia law, while other groups are secular. A number of political and military alliances have been formed. <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/161116%20syria%20flash%20update%20cccm%20snfi%20protection.pdf>

International intervention: Russia and Iran are the main countries backing the Syrian government. Russia launched an air campaign on 30 September 2015. <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/01/russia-scales-military-presence-syria-170106094404964.html> Iran has deployed ground troops since 2016. <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-iran-idUSKBN13H16J>

Turkey supports the FSA against the SDF and IS, mainly in Idlib and Aleppo governorates in northern Syria. In late 2016, the Turkish army crossed to Syria and took Jarabulus and nearby villages in Aleppo governorate from IS, and aim at preventing SDF control of the areas along its borders. <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/25/world/middleeast/turkey-syria-isis.html> <http://www.voanews.com/a/syria-turkey-raqqa/3606894.html>

The US leads an international coalition to combat IS, set up in 2014. It has launched many airstrikes in IS-held territories since then. There are about 1,000 US ground troops to provide support to the SDF in their operation against IS in ar Raqqa. https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/09/world/middleeast/us-troops-syria.html?_r=0 <http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/more-us-boots-ground-syria-1668733013> <https://www.state.gov/s/secure/> Since April, tensions have increased between US and Russia/pro-government forces.

Syria has been a stage for the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah since the beginning of Hezbollah's intervention in Syrian conflict. Israel has conducted airstrikes on Syrian government and Hezbollah positions in the Golan Heights, Quneitra governorate. The latest episodes occurred at the end of June, in March, April, and June-July. <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/03/netanyahu-strikes-syria-targeted-hezbollah-arms-170318035135150.html> <http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/israel-targets-syria-second-day-after-stray-fire-hits-golan-1877244995>

In March, China deployed troops to Syria to train members of the Syrian army and offer advice on medicine and logistics. This was the first time China has sent troops to the Middle East for any reason other than to protect ongoing commercial projects. <http://www.middleeasteye.net/columns/dragon-and-lion-syrian-chinese-relations-blossom-57414512>

CONFLICT DEVELOPMENTS Latest update: 18/09/2017

On 15 September, Iran, Russia, and Turkey agreed on the final de-escalation zones in Syria. The zones will include, fully or partly, Eastern Ghouta and the provinces of Idlib, Homs, Latakia, Aleppo, and Hama. <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/09/final-de-escalation-zones-agreed-astana-170915102811730.html> On 9 July, the US and Russia brokered a ceasefire in southern Syria. <http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/syria-side-s-meet-again-geneva-expectations-low-654621052> A truce, brokered by Russia and Turkey, has been in place between the government and opposition armed groups since 30 December 2016. The truce excluded armed groups IS, Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, and the YPG-led SDF, and fighting in areas controlled by those groups has not decreased. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38492939> On 6 May, Iran, Russia, and Turkey agreed on "de-escalation zones", but talks in July did not achieve any final agreement. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-talks-idUSKBN19Q1P8> Despite local violations, there has been a general decrease in violence in the areas where all stakeholders are included in the truce. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=66538>

Aleppo: Pro-government forces drove IS out of the governorate at the end of June. <http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/syria-war-quits-aleppo-and-launches-counter-attack-raqqa-1109201865> Tensions are rising between the SDF and pro-Turkish forces in northern Aleppo governorate. Shelling has been reported repeatedly. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=73853> <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=71158> <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=71853> Protests against SDF forces have been reported. As of end August, airstrikes and shelling by pro-government forces were reported in southern Aleppo governorate, after advancements by HTS. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=72966> <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=72858>

ar Raqqa: The SDF launched an offensive on Raqqa in November 2016, backed by US airstrikes, and has been advancing ever since, despite occasional setbacks. <http://syriadirect.org/news/islamic-state-resists-pushes-back-against-sdf-advances-in-southern-raqqa-city/> <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=72015> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37894817> The IS-held part of Raqqa city is currently besieged. SDF has breached the old city walls and entered the city on 6 June. <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/07/sdf-breaches-raqqa-city-wall-170704032339291.html> <http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/battle-raqa-us-backed-sdf-enters-city-884044920> https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/file/s/ar-raqqa_update_feb_2017.pdf Since 11 July, the city is militarily surrounded by the SDF, and as of 6 August, SDF has taken control of over half of it. <http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syria-crisis-north-east-syria-situation-report-no-12-1-14-july-2017> <http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/syria-army-advances-against-approaches-deir-izzor-says-monitor-74499097> Around 2,000 IS fighters are estimated to be still inside Raqqa. <http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/thousands-militants-left-raqqa-syrian-government-bombs-hama-1569458603>

At the end of July, Syrian government forces and allies have recaptured territory from IS in the countryside southeast of its stronghold Raqqa, following airstrikes in the area. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-raqqa-idUSKBN1A80DE> They advanced into the governorate as part of an offensive to reach the oil-rich province of Deir-az-Zor, clashing with SDF south of Raqqa. <http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/syrian-troops-advance-raqqa-province-towards-deir-izzor-957189748>

Dara'a: Dara'a is included in the ceasefire agreed by the US and Russia in early July. As of 28 July, the ceasefire was generally holding in the area, with limited violations. <http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/amid-ceasefire-rescuers-clear-unexploded-bombs-syrias-deraa-1903864411> Since 3 June, the FSA and pro-government forces had been fighting the largest battle in Dara'a city since 2015, which led to at least 17,000 displaced in the first five days. <http://syriadirect.org/news/thousands-of-civilians-fleeing-home-some-for-the-3rd-time-as-daraa-city-fighting-spurs-mass-displacement/>

Idlib: Fighting has decreased in Idlib since the beginning of the ceasefire in areas where it applies. In September, Russia, Iran and Turkey have planned to post observers on the edge of the de-escalation zone in Idlib governorate, which is largely controlled by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS). As a result, Turkey has moved 80 military vehicles close to the border with Idlib. <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/09/large-convoy-turkish-troops-gathers-syria-border-170917121843145.html> <http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/russia-turkey-and-iran-agree-syria-de-escalation-zone-422731842> HTS has gained control of Idlib city at the end of July. Protests have been held against their presence. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=71751> <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/161116%20syria%20flash%20update%20cccm%20snfi%20protection.pdf> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/01/syrian-opposition-factions-join-ahrar-al-sham-170126133928474.html> Public resentment and demonstrations have been reported after civilians were killed by Turkish border guards who want to prevent people from crossing. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=72987>

Hama: Government forces are advancing in IS-controlled areas in east Hama governorate, supported by airstrikes. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=71036> <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=72031> They have besieged the Uqayribat area in the countryside east of Hama, which is connected to another conflict area between the government and IS in northeastern Homs. The government has made significant gains, but also suffered setbacks, gaining and losing territory multiple times. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=73910> <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=73446> <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=74215> Pro-government forces have regained most of the territory lost in northern Hama governorate during a March 2017 offensive by opposition groups, mainly from Tahrir al-Sham.

Homs: IS seized many territories in northwestern Homs governorate from the Syrian government in December 2016, including Palmyra. Clashes are ongoing in the area between IS and the pro-government forces. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=72922> <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=69689> <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=72183> As of 10 September, clashes are concentrated in northeastern Homs, an area bordering Hama governorate. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=73914> Pro-government forces have taken al Sukhna in early August, the last town held by IS in the governorate. Sukhna is on the main desert highway between Palmyra and the government's besieged enclave at Deir-az-Zor, about 130km to the east. De-mining operations are ongoing. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=71689> <http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/syria-army-advances-against-approaches-deir-izzor-says-monitor-74499097> <http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/syrian-army-allies-reach-last-held-town-homs-province-hezbollah-says-75173777> Pro-government forces are attempting to encircle IS by advancing through both Hama and Homs. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=72183> Russian defense officials and representatives of Syrian opposition groups agreed on a ceasefire in northern Homs at the end of July. <https://www.voanews.com/a/new-cease-fire-central-syria-holds-observers-report/3971518.html> However, it has been difficult to hold. A contentious issue is the release of 7,000 opposition members detained by pro-government forces. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=72323> <http://syriadirect.org/news/north-homs-negotiators-say-they-will-not-give-up-on-prisoner-release-in-ceasefire-talks/>

Damascus/Rural Damascus: Government forces regained control of the Be'er al Qasab area at the end of June, three months after losing it to FSA factions. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=68483> A government offensive is currently ongoing in southeastern Rural Damascus, along the Jordan border, forcing residents of Hadalat IDP camp to flee in mid-August. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=73631> <http://syriadirect.org/news/already-displaced-syrians-flee-as-airstrikes-reach-within-100-meters-of-remote-camp/> Hezbollah has launched an offensive against IS in the western Qalamoun mountains in August. <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/08/lebanese-army-begins-offensive-isil-border-170819035851822.html> As of end August, pro-government forces have regained control of the area on the Syrian-Lebanese border, and agreed with IS on an evacuation plan. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=72969> Evacuation has been hampered by US airstrikes. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=73397> <http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/us-led-strike-syria-blocks-fighters-evacuated-lebanon-563256367>

A ceasefire was declared in the government-besieged area of Eastern Ghouta on 22 July, but breaches, including airstrikes, continue to be reported. The ceasefire was brokered by Russia and Egypt. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=72988> <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=70871> <http://syriadirect.org/news/warplanes-hit-east-ghouta-despite-ceasefire/> Since mid-June, government airstrikes had been hitting the opposition-controlled Jobar district in eastern Damascus, and clashes have occurred. Jobar is currently divided between government and opposition forces. It is important to both as the western gate to Eastern Ghouta. A 2km section of a strategic highway connecting Damascus to government military bases on the city's northeastern outskirts also runs through the district. Clashes between the same parties are also occurring in Ein Tarma area of Eastern Ghouta. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=71839> <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=69670> <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=69476> <http://syriadirect.org/news/regime-bombards-damascus-district-in-attempt-to-pry-eastern-neighborhood-from-rebel-forces/>

Deir-ez-Zor: In early September, pro-government forces have advanced into IS-controlled territory in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, breaking the siege of Deir-ez-Zor city. IS had been sieging areas of Deir-ez-Zor city controlled by government forces since 2015. [?](http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=73956) (<http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=73956>) [?](http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=67406) (<http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=67406>) Their advances continue. [?](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/09/assad-forces-advance-isil-central-syria-170915153845236.html) (<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/09/assad-forces-advance-isil-central-syria-170915153845236.html>) They have also recaptured an oil field close to the city. [?](http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/us-backed-sdf-launches-operation-syrias-deir-ezzor-459191308) (<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/us-backed-sdf-launches-operation-syrias-deir-ezzor-459191308>) The SDF have also clashed against IS in northwestern areas of the governorate, where they are conducting a separate operation. [?](http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/us-backed-sdf-launches-operation-syrias-deir-ezzor-459191308) (<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/us-backed-sdf-launches-operation-syrias-deir-ezzor-459191308>) The SDF has accused the Russian airforce of targeting its positions in Deir-ez-Zor. [?](http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/us-backed-force-says-hit-russia-government-strikes-east-syria-1490296164) (<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/us-backed-force-says-hit-russia-government-strikes-east-syria-1490296164>)

Quneitra/Golan Heights: Fighting between pro-government and Islamist opposition forces was intensifying at the end of June. The escalation is the result of an offensive by HTS and allied armed groups to try to take al-Baath city, which is under government control. [?](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/06/fighting-intensifies-syrian-golan-heights-170626033648183.html) (<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/06/fighting-intensifies-syrian-golan-heights-170626033648183.html>) The governorate is included in the ceasefire brokered by the US and Russia which came into effect on 9 July; sporadic clashes have occurred since the ceasefire. [?](http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/amid-ceasefire-rescuers-clear-unexploded-bombs-syrias-deraa-1903864411) (<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/amid-ceasefire-rescuers-clear-unexploded-bombs-syrias-deraa-1903864411>) [?](http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=71399) (<http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=71399>) [?](http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/government-forces-launch-south-syria-attack-despite-ceasefire-says-monitor-1085815270) (<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/government-forces-launch-south-syria-attack-despite-ceasefire-says-monitor-1085815270>) Israeli airstrikes on government positions occurred between end June and early July. [?](http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=69416) (<http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=69416>)

As Sweida: Conflict is escalating in eastern Sweida governorate, a desert area, between pro-government and FSA forces. The governorate is part of the ceasefire brokered by the US and Russia in early July. However, breaches have been reported. The government launched an attack on alleged IS positions. [?](http://syriadirect.org/news/syrian-army-launches-new-campaign-just-east-of-southern-ceasefire-zone/) (<http://syriadirect.org/news/syrian-army-launches-new-campaign-just-east-of-southern-ceasefire-zone/>) [?](http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/government-forces-launch-south-syria-attack-despite-ceasefire-says-monitor-1085815270) (<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/government-forces-launch-south-syria-attack-despite-ceasefire-says-monitor-1085815270>) On 10 July, the SAA launched an offensive on eastern side of the governorate, seizing villages from the FSA. The area of clashes just outside the ceasefire area convened by the brokers of the ceasefire, which includes most of Sweida. [?](https://www.yahoo.com/news/syrian-army-militias-attack-rebels-southeast-desert-143024745.html) (<https://www.yahoo.com/news/syrian-army-militias-attack-rebels-southeast-desert-143024745.html>)

Al Hasakeh: As of early September, the SDF is preparing a major offensive in IS-controlled areas in the southeast of al Hasakeh towards Deir-ez-Zor. [?](http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=73856) (<http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=73856>)

Map

Raqqa control map, as of 10 September

https://www.acaps.org/sites/acaps/files/datacards/maps/17091_raqqa_control_map.jpg

Source: Al Jazeera, LiveUAMap 16/09/2017

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

OVERVIEW Latest update: 15/08/2017

Humanitarian access to populations affected by the conflict continues to be hampered by insecurity, as well as by physical and bureaucratic constraints. 4.72 million people live in hard-to-reach areas – including 624,500 in besieged areas as of April 2017. The number of people in besieged areas has decreased by close to 20,000 between January and April 2017, primarily due to evacuation. [?](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/acc-11_syr_overview_besieged_apr_en_20170427.pdf) (https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/acc-11_syr_overview_besieged_apr_en_20170427.pdf) [?](http://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/syr_wos_operational_plan_hrp_2017.pdf) (http://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/syr_wos_operational_plan_hrp_2017.pdf)

Throughout the conflict, at least 155 aid workers - including 62 in 2016 alone - and 770 health workers have been killed. The most recent incident was in August in Sarmin, Idlib governorate, where seven White Helmets workers were killed by unidentified attackers. [?](http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/seven-white-helmets-members-shot-dead-northwestern-syria-1482497348) (<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/seven-white-helmets-members-shot-dead-northwestern-syria-1482497348>) [?](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Syria%20Suffering%206%20Years%20on%2015%20March%202017.pdf) (<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Syria%20Suffering%206%20Years%20on%2015%20March%202017.pdf>) [?](http://www.ngosafety.org/keydata-dashboard/) (<http://www.ngosafety.org/keydata-dashboard/>)

ACCESS OF RELIEF ACTORS TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS Latest update: 18/09/2017

Insecurity due to conflict is impacting access across most of Syria. Pro-government forces as well as opposition armed groups systematically block access for humanitarian organisations in many areas. [?](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/2017_syria_hno_2.pdf) (https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/2017_syria_hno_2.pdf) Parties to the conflict have systematically refused to allow the transportation of certain goods, such as medicines and surgical supplies, as well as food, by the UN and other humanitarian organisations. [?](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/2017_syria_hno_2.pdf) (https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/2017_syria_hno_2.pdf) This has caused an increase in needs, as well as a decrease in the local capacity to address them. Access to areas controlled by IS is highly restricted by the policies of the group towards humanitarian workers, as well as insecurity. [?](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/2017_syria_hno_2.pdf) (https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/2017_syria_hno_2.pdf) [?](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Sitrep_Template_EN.pdf) (http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Sitrep_Template_EN.pdf) Attacks on aid workers are widespread. Although Syria has fewer incidents recorded than either South Sudan or Afghanistan, attacks in Syria have been more lethal, resulting in more aid workers killed per incident. This is because the most common mean of attack in Syria is aerial bombardment. [?](https://aidworkersecurity.org/sites/default/files/AWSR2017.pdf) (<https://aidworkersecurity.org/sites/default/files/AWSR2017.pdf>)

In Idlib, unreliable tracking of forced evacuations make the delivery of aid challenging. http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/snf_factsheet_may2017.pdf) As of end-July, clashes continue to undermine the delivery of humanitarian assistance through the Bab Al-Hawa border crossing between Turkey and Syria, which has remained closed since 19 July, with no UN cross-border shipments having taken place since then. <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/170726%20syria%20flash%20update%20cccm%20snfi%20protection.pdf>)

In Aleppo city, some areas remain challenging for aid organisations, despite the clashes having ended in December 2016. The UN only had conditional access to areas controlled by the SDF in April (as shown in the map below), with no improvement reported since then. <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Aleppo%20SitRep%2023%20April.pdf>)

The crackdown on NGOs in Turkey since the coup attempt in July 2016 prevents some NGOs from delivering cross-border operations from Turkey into Syria - which used to be an important part of their activities in northern Syria. <https://www.newsdeeply.com/syria/community/2017/03/10/mercy-corps-forced-to-shut-down-cross-border-aid-from-turkey-to-syria>)

ACCESS OF AFFECTED POPULATIONS TO ASSISTANCE Latest update: 26/09/2017

At least 540,000, and possibly more than 821,000 people are living in besieged areas. These are among the 4.54 million people living in hard-to-reach areas. According to OCHA, a hard-to-reach area is one where aid is delivered irregularly, thereby preventing sustained humanitarian programming, whereas a besieged area is where access for any form of aid is severely restricted by surrounding combatants. http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/2017_Syria_hno_161205.pdf) https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/acc-11_syr_overview_of_hard_to_reach_areas_and_besieged_locations_june_en_20170801.pdf) <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/pax-tsi-report-syria-siege-watch-7.pdf>) The cumulative OCHA figure for besieged and hard-to-reach areas was last updated at the end of June, whereas the breakdown per areas is from the end of April.

Hama: 8,000-10,000 people from Uqaybat, a pastoral region held by IS, have been trapped since the area was besieged by pro-government forces in August. Food and water were scarce as of 20 September. <http://syriadirect.org/news/thousands-of-displaced-syrians-%E2%80%98exposed-to-the-elements%E2%80%99-in-desert-awaiting-evacuation-from-embattled-islamic-state-territory/>) <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170920-report-8000-civilians-trapped-for-38-days-near-hama-syria/>)

ar Raqqa: After large areas of Raqqa city were declared cleared of IS presence except for some pockets in the city centre and a few other neighbourhoods, it is unclear how many civilians remain in the city and to what extent they have freedom of movement. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=74820>) <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/09/raqqa-dead-bodies-normal-170923070320617.html>) The latest available figure showed around 15,000 people still trapped inside. <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/NES%20Sit%20Rep%20August%20monthly%20no%2015%20final.pdf>)

Deir-ez-Zor: A first aid convoy has entered Deir-ez-Zor city on 9 September, after three years. <https://media.ifrc.org/ifrc/2017/09/11/first-convoy-relief-3-years-reaches-residents-deir-alzour/>) Road access to Deir-ez-Zor city has been reopened, areas that were previously only reachable by airdrops. <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/NES%20Sit%20Rep%20August%20monthly%20no%2015%20final.pdf>) 72,000 people had been under IS siege in the western part of Deir-ez-Zor city since July 2014. <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/pax-tsi-report-syria-siege-watch-7.pdf>)

Damascus/Rural Damascus: 477,400 people were living in besieged areas in Damascus and Rural Damascus in April 2017 – a decrease from 482,000 in January 2017. https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/syr_overview_besieged_en_as_of_26_jan_2017.pdf) https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/acc-11_syr_overview_besieged_as_nov_2016_161113_update_16112016_23112016.pdf)

Around 400,000 people in eastern Ghouta are besieged, according to the latest available figure from OCHA. https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/syr_overview_besieged_en_as_of_26_jan_2017.pdf) However, estimates from independent observers in July indicate a figure of almost 426,000. <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/pax-tsi-report-syria-siege-watch-7.pdf>) Aid is allowed in irregularly. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=65726>) Moreover, access to eastern Ghouta in general decreased in March 2017, due to increased intensity of clashes. http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/170326%20Eastern%20Ghouta%20flash%20update_FINAL.pdf)

Yarmouk camp remained under siege as of 30 August, partly by pro-government forces, and partly by Islamist armed groups. <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=57442#.WcAESCiGPIU>) https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/acc-11_syr_overview_besieged_apr_en_20170427.pdf)

Idlib: Foah and Kafraya remain besieged as 30 August, following evacuation of thousands of the 18,800 that were living in the area in January. <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=57442#.WcAESCiGPIU>) https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/acc-11_syr_overview_besieged_apr_en_20170427.pdf)

Map

Besieged and hard-to-reach areas in Syria as of 30 June

https://www.acaps.org/sites/acaps/files/datacards/maps/170630_besieged_and_hard_to_reach_areas_in_syria.png)

Source: OCHA 30/06/2017

SECURITY AND PHYSICAL CONSTRAINTS Latest update: 26/09/2017

Constantly shifting frontlines in areas unaffected by the truce make it difficult for humanitarian organisations to plan operations. Elsewhere, the truce is fragile, and the high risk of clashes impacts on humanitarian operations. Unexploded ordnance (UXO) and other explosive hazards are present in many areas, such as eastern Aleppo city, Sukhna in Homs governorate and Raqqa governorate. http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Sitrep_no_10_Aleppo_27%20December.pdf <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Raqqa%20Monthly%20Sit%20Rep%20May%202017%20v3.pdf> <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=71689> Reports of IED incidents have emerged in southern Syria as well. <http://syriadirect.org/news/ied-attack-kills-journalist-in-southern-syria-for-second-time-in-a-week/>

Siege is used as a war tactic by all actors in the conflict. https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/2017_syria_hno_2_pdf Parties to the conflict also continue to target public infrastructure and facilities, including water supply and electricity. <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/01/wadi-barada-water-supply-sabotage-war-crime-170106043532989.html> All bridges crossing the Euphrates River have been destroyed by airstrikes from the US coalition. This has cut off some regions from the rest of the country, including al Jazira in ar Raqqa governorate. <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/02/syria-offensive-raqqa-170204111401116.html> https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/ar-raqqa_update_feb_2017.pdf In Idlib, roads were heavily damaged in bombing in May. <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Status-of-Service-Provision-in-Idlib-City-ACU-IMU-EN.pdf>

Fuel shortages in Syria have driven a large increase in fuel prices. This increases the cost of transportation. Certain services, such as public transport, have been partially or wholly suspended in some areas, even where there are no ongoing clashes. <http://syriadirect.org/news/most-public-transport-in-latakia-suspended-amidst-fuel-shortage-2-bus-lines-reinstated-after-outcry/>

Roads in present or past conflict areas are often contaminated with IEDs - especially areas previously held by IS. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=61118> https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/flash_update_eastern_aleppo_countryside_20170305.pdf

BORDER CROSSINGS

As of September, Turkey has been constructing a wall along its border with Idlib governorate. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=74678> Most border crossings between Turkey and Syria, as well as between Iraq and Syria, are closed. http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/syr_humsnap_a4l_31jan_2017_170206_en.pdf Cross-border assistance from Turkey remains restricted. http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ar_raqqa_sit_rep_july_no_13.pdf Turkish troops have reportedly shot almost 300 Syrians trying to cross the border as of August. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=71788>

Al-Yaroubieh crossing from Iraq is closed as of August, preventing UN cross-border assistance from Iraq. http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ar_raqqa_sit_rep_july_no_13.pdf

A large part of the Syria–Jordan border is closed, and many displaced Syrians are stranded. <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ep/wfp289077.pdf> https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/cnv_syr_xb_jordan_feb2017_170315_en.pdf

Two of the five border crossing points between Syria and Lebanon are closed. http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/syr_humsnap_a4l_31jan_2017_170206_en.pdf

DISPLACEMENT

OVERVIEW Latest update: 22/08/2017

There are 6.3 million IDPs in Syria. http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/syr_humsnap_a4l_november_2016_161109_en.pdf More than five million Syrians are registered as refugees in neighbouring countries, an increase of 300,000 since the beginning of 2016. The number continues to increase in 2017, but more slowly than in previous years. <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php> <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php> 1.3 million displacements occurred during the first 6 months of 2017; among these, many people who have been displaced multiple times. https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/2017_syria_pmr_summary.pdf Forced displacement has been reported many times since the beginning of the crisis.

IDPS Latest update: 29/09/2017

There are 6.3 million IDPs in Syria, including 2.8 million children, with the largest numbers reported in Rural Damascus and Aleppo governorates (see table below). http://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/syr_wos_operational_plan_hrp_2017.pdf http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/syr_humsnap_a4l_31jan_2017_170206_en.pdf

One million IDPs live in camps. They are considered to be highly vulnerable, as most move into camps after having exhausted all shelter options. http://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/syr_wos_operational_plan_hrp_2017.pdf

Between September 2016 and September 2017, almost 950,000 displacements were reported from affected areas of northern Syria, including Aleppo (334,000), ar Raqqa (306,000), Hama (144,000), Idlib (47,000), Homs (36,000), Deir-Ez-Zor (28,000), Al-Hassakeh (12,000), and Latakia (2,000) governorates. This includes around 36,700 new displacements recorded in September, with the majority (19,500) from Hama governorate. The numbers are likely to include secondary displacement. Almost 38,000 displacements were reported from affected

areas in the south of the country, including Damascus, Rural Damascus, Sweida and Dara. This includes around 380 in August. [? \(https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/170928%20syria%20flash%20update%20cccm%20snfi%20protection.pdf\)](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/170928%20syria%20flash%20update%20cccm%20snfi%20protection.pdf)

ar Raqqa: Around 263,000 people were displaced between 1 April and 5 September. The situation remains highly fluid, with displacement and returns reported in various locations. [? \(http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/170914%20syria%20flash%20update%20cccm%20snfi%20protection.pdf\)](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/170914%20syria%20flash%20update%20cccm%20snfi%20protection.pdf) Displacement out of Raqqa city is generally difficult to track. [? \(http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/raqqa_weekly_sit_rep_9-v1_10-20_june.pdf\)](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/raqqa_weekly_sit_rep_9-v1_10-20_june.pdf) 340,000 could be displaced in the coming months as the SDF advances. [? \(http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/170524%20syria%20flash%20update%20cccm%20snfi%20protection.pdf\)](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/170524%20syria%20flash%20update%20cccm%20snfi%20protection.pdf) Most of the displacements linked to SDF's advance have been temporary, with people able to return to their homes within days. [? \(https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/raqqa_update_dec-jan_2017_0.pdf\)](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/raqqa_update_dec-jan_2017_0.pdf)

Hama: Displacement has been recorded since March as pro-government forces have advanced. [? \(http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syria-flash-update-recent-events-1-june-2017\)](http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syria-flash-update-recent-events-1-june-2017) [? \(http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/170614%20syria%20flash%20update%20cccm%20snfi%20protection.pdf\)](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/170614%20syria%20flash%20update%20cccm%20snfi%20protection.pdf) In September, new displacements were reported from the Uqayribat area, besieged by the government, in the eastern countryside, and from northern Hama into Idlib governorate as a result of an offensive by HTS on government positions. [? \(https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/170928%20syria%20flash%20update%20cccm%20snfi%20protection.pdf\)](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/170928%20syria%20flash%20update%20cccm%20snfi%20protection.pdf) [? \(http://syriadirect.org/news/thousands-of-idlib-residents-wait-in-makeshift-camps-as-fighting-clears-out-%E2%80%98entire-villages%E2%80%99/\)](http://syriadirect.org/news/thousands-of-idlib-residents-wait-in-makeshift-camps-as-fighting-clears-out-%E2%80%98entire-villages%E2%80%99/) [? \(http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=75025\)](http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=75025) Targeting of IDPs, resulting in casualties and injuries, was reported in September. [? \(http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=75025\)](http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=75025)

al Hasakeh: An influx of IDPs from Deir-ez-Zor city have reportedly fled to al Hasakeh governorate following airstrikes targeting IS. There is no information on their number, location or needs. [? \(http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/170712%20syria%20flash%20update%20cccm%20snfi%20protection.pdf\)](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/170712%20syria%20flash%20update%20cccm%20snfi%20protection.pdf)

Deir-ez-Zor: With pro-government forces and the SDF advancing in Deir-ez-Zor, displacements are increasing in this area. Numbers are, however, not very large due to the low population density in the governorate. [? \(http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/NES%20Sit%20Rep%20August%20monthly%20no%2015%20final.pdf\)](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/NES%20Sit%20Rep%20August%20monthly%20no%2015%20final.pdf) [? \(http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/170914%20syria%20flash%20update%20cccm%20snfi%20protection.pdf\)](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/170914%20syria%20flash%20update%20cccm%20snfi%20protection.pdf) [? \(http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=74218\)](http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=74218)

NUMBER OF IDPS PER GOVERNORATE (Total number as per the HNO 2017)

| Governorate | Number of IDPs |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Rural Damascus | 1,383,000 |
| Aleppo | 1,002,000 |
| Idlib | 908,900 |
| Damascus | 651,000 |
| Homs | 476,700 |
| Lattakia | 388,500 |
| Dara | 329,900 |
| Hama | 261,400 |
| al Hasakeh | 232,000 |
| Tartous | 217,600 |
| ar Raqqa | 193,800 |
| Deir-ez-Zor | 181,900 |
| As-Sweida | 51,800 |
| Quneitra | 47,500 |
| Source: OCHA 31/01/2017 | |

NUMBER OF REGISTERED DISPLACEMENTS RECORDED BY CCCM CLUSTER IN LAST 12 MONTHS - BY GOVERNORATE OF ORIGIN, as of 5 September

| Governorate | Displacements |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Aleppo | 334,000 |
| ar Raqqa | 306,000 |
| Hama | 144,000 |
| Idlib | 47,000 |
| Southwestern Syria (Damascus, Rural Damascus, Sweida and Dara) | 38,000 |
| Homs | 36,000 |
| Deir-Ez-Zor | 28,000 |
| al Hasakeh | 12,000 |
| Lattakia | 1,500 |
| Source: UNHCR 28/09/2017 | |

Around 500,000 refugees are located in Syria as, including 438,000 long-term Palestinian refugees. Around 59,000 non-Palestinian refugees and asylum seekers are in Syria. [?](https://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/syria-palestine-refugees-humanitarian-snapshot-august-2017) [?](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNHCR%20Fact%20Sheet%20September%202017%20Eng.pdf)

Palestinian refugees in Syria (PRS): There are 438,000 Palestine refugees living in Syria, as opposed to 560,000 individuals registered with UNRWA in Syria. Approximately 254,000 have been displaced at least once within Syria. [?](https://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/content/resources/syria_humanitarian_snapshot_april_2017.pdf) [?](https://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/syria-palestine-refugees-humanitarian-snapshot-august-2017) Many Palestinian camps are or were in contested areas, leaving them exposed to violence. [?](https://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/content/resources/2016_syria_emergency_appeal_progress_report.pdf) [?](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/2017_syria_hno_2.pdf)

Iraqi refugees: Around 25,000 Iraqi refugees are living in Syria. [?](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/2017_syria_hno_2.pdf) 21,300 Iraqis have been registered in al Hol camp in al Hasakeh between mid-October 2016 and mid-July as a result of the military offensive in Mosul. [?](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/20170721%20UNHCR%20Iraq%20Flash%20Update.pdf) There are likely more arrivals in al Hasakeh governorate who are unregistered.

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES Latest update: 26/09/2017

More than five million Syrians are registered as refugees in neighbouring countries, comprising 80% of all Syrian refugees worldwide since 2011. [?](http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php) Increased restriction of movement – both within Syria and in neighbouring countries – has prevented many Syrians from leaving the country since the beginning of 2016. [?](http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php) [?](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/MMP_Monthly%20Summary_January.pdf)

Since the war began, almost 900,000 Syrian asylum seekers have been registered in Europe, with more than 500,000 registering in 2015. [?](http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean/country.php?id=83)

Turkey: More than three million registered Syrian refugees, including at least 200,000 arrivals in 2017 (as of July) and 280,000 in 2016. [?](http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=224) Despite increasing security measures along the border, Syrian refugees continue to be granted asylum in Turkey. At least 233 Syrian refugees have been killed by Turkish border guards while trying to cross into Turkey since 2016, including 36 children. [?](http://www.syria4hr.com/en/?p=69984)

Lebanon: About 1.5 million Syrian refugees are in Lebanon, of which one million are registered by the UNHCR. [?](http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php) [?](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNICEF%20Syria%20Crisis%20Situation%20Report%20C%20January%202017.pdf) This represents about 24% of the total population in Lebanon. [?](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/syr_humsn_ap_a4l_31dec_2016_170104_en.pdf)

Jordan: 661,000 Syrian refugees are officially registered, and estimates believe there could be as many as 1.4 million Syrian refugees in total in Jordan. [?](http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=107) [?](http://news.trust.org/item/20170222000704-e7h5t/) The number has been relatively stable since June 2016, with few new arrivals due to restriction of borders. [?](http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=107)

There are sporadic returns from Jordan to Syria. The data is limited, and due to conflicting numbers, it is very difficult to provide an accurate estimate. Most of them have gone to Dara governorate. [?](http://english.enabbaladi.net/archives/2017/01/jordan-accused-expelling-refugees-back-syria-ejection-campaign/)

85,000 Syrians are stranded in makeshift settlements at the *berm*, a sand mound marking the border. [?](http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/group/public/documents/ep/wfp289077.pdf) Access to the *berm* is very limited, as the government of Jordan has sealed off a large part of the border on security grounds. [?](http://wfp.21/11/2016) There are no toilets, water, or electricity; water delivery is below humanitarian standards. [?](http://ercc.portal.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ECHO-Flash) [?](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/07/syrian-refugees-suffering-jordan-border-160721024521992.html)

About 40% of children Syrian refugees living in camps in Jordan are anaemic, due to poor nutrition. [?](http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=5eb1a46c176e09c237df0913f&id=f353d9ed06&e=2d3fbcf058)

Iraq: 244,000 Syrian refugees, a decrease of around 10,000 since the beginning of 2016. They are mostly located in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). [?](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/IraqSyrianRefugees3RPStatsandLocations31August2017UNHCRIMunitErbilKR-I.pdf)

Northern Africa: 150,000 Syrian refugees in Northern Africa (Egypt, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco), with the number stable since the beginning of 2016. Of those, 122,000 are in Egypt. [?](http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php) [?](http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php) [?](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Syria_ConflictWithoutBorders_Displacement_2017Feb09_HIU_U1524.pdf)

RETURNEES Latest update: 18/09/2017

Between January and July 2017, almost 603,000 displaced Syrians returned home according to reports from IOM. Of these, 93% were IDPs and the rest were refugees, with the highest number coming from Turkey, followed by Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. An estimated 67% of the returnees returned to Aleppo governorate, equating to 405,000 individuals. A further 28,000 went to Idlib governorate, 75,000 to Hama governorate, 45,000 to Ar-Raqqa governorate, 21,000 to Rural Damascus and 28,000 to other governorates. The total figure by end of July this year was already close to the almost 686,000 returns identified in the whole of 2016. [?](http://www.iom.int/news/over-600000-displaced-syrians-returned-home-first-7-months-2017) In September, at least 6,500 returns from Jordan into Dara'a governorate were reported. [?](http://syriadirect.org/news/%E2%80%98thousands%E2%80%99-of-syrian-refugees-return-from-jordan-to-southern-syria-as-ceasefire-enters-third-month/) The main factors behind returns are the wish to seek out family members, to check on property, economic challenges in host countries, including limited job

opportunities, and a real or perceived improvement in security and/or economic conditions in parts of the country. Returnees face challenges in accessing livelihoods, health, water, education, and other basic services. <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/briefing/2017/6/595612454/unhcr-seeing-significant-returns-internally-displaced-amid-syrias-continuing.html> <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/58330> <http://www.iom.int/news/over-600000-displaced-syrians-returned-home-first-7-months-2017>

According to UNHCR surveys conducted between February and April 2017, 76% of Syrian refugees would consider return after 2017 if there was a significant improvement in conditions in return areas. Likely return areas are Aleppo, Homs, Dara'a, and Rural Damascus, where 63% of refugees come from. Significant numbers also originate from Hassakeh (8.7%), Damascus (7.3%); Idlib (7.3%) and Hama (5.6%). <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/58330>

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

OVERVIEW Latest update: 26/09/2017

6.9 million people are food insecure in Syria. An additional 3.1 million people are estimated at risk of becoming food insecure. http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ep/wfp272609.pdf?_ga=2.92672216.437824163.1502888667-1062697817.1489142665 Food security is a major concern in besieged areas as availability is limited due to food delivery restrictions, prices are increasingly high, and livelihoods have significantly broken down. <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp290080.pdf> <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6445e.pdf>

FOOD AVAILABILITY Latest update: 26/09/2017

Food availability is often limited in besieged and hard-to-reach areas. Negative coping mechanisms - both food and livelihoods-based - have been reported across the country. http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/reach_syr_factsheet_hsos_governorate_factsheet_may2017_3.pdf They include the reduction in the number of meals (50% of households) or the restriction of consumption by adults so children can eat (30% of households). https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/SYR_8.pdf IDPs are most vulnerable. <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/wfp291990.pdf> Only a bare minimum of food is sporadically available for purchase from traders at inflated prices both in rural Deir-ez-Zor and Raqqa city. <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WFP-0000022175.pdf>

As of September, food assistance is urgently needed in Maadan/Sabka IDP sites in Ar Raqqa governorate, where markets are not functioning, IDPs are eating only one meal per day and the security situation has prevented food distributions. https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/reach_syr_factsheets_raqqa_hasakeh_site_profiles_round3.pdf Between 8,000 and 10,000 displaced civilians are facing food shortages in Wadi Al-Atheeb area, east of Hama, following a siege imposed on this area in August. <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170920-report-8000-civilians-trapped-for-38-days-near-hama-syria/>

In August, severe food shortages and inflated prices deteriorated conditions for trapped civilians. <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/NES%20Sit%20Rep%20August%20monthly%20no%2015%20final.pdf> In Raqqa city, food markets are reportedly only functioning in two neighbourhoods and residents are relying primarily on food stored previously. http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/reach_syr_ar-raqqa_city_situation_overview_iv_17_august_2017_1.pdf The availability of core food items has been decreasing since July. Lentils, cooking oil, meat, chicken and cucumbers are unavailable, while prices of available items continue to increase. Access to the only functioning bakery is restrained by indiscriminate airstrikes. <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/NES%20Sit%20Rep%20August%20monthly%20no%2015%20final.pdf> Skipping meals and reducing portion sizes are reported coping mechanisms. http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/reach_syr_situation_overview_ar_raqqa_city_rapid_needs_assessment_june_2017.pdf <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Raqqa%20weekly%20Sit%20Rep%208-v2FINAL.pdf> http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/reach_syr_ar-raqqa_city_situation_overview_ii_7_july_2017.pdf Although food is frequently available to purchase from basic markets within or near sites, many IDPs in Raqqa still struggle to access enough food for their needs, as it is unaffordable. http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/reach_syr_factsheets_raqqa_site_profiles_round2.pdf

Cereal production has improved this year compared to a record low production of last year. Wheat production in 2017 is estimated at 1.8 million tonnes – 12% more than last year's record but still more than 50% less than the pre-crisis ten-year average. http://www.fao.org/fileadmn/user_upload/emergencies/docs/FAOSyria_SitReport-JULY2017.pdf <http://rfsan.info/storage/app/uploads/public/599/980/ed7/599980ed7e4cf196317971.pdf> Completion of harvests has also improved availability of stubble grazing for livestock, although the price of fodder remained high. <http://rfsan.info/storage/app/uploads/public/599/980/ed7/599980ed7e4cf196317971.pdf> Production has been affected by drought, as well as the lack, or high price, of agricultural inputs (such as seeds, fertiliser, and fuel); damage to agricultural machinery, irrigation systems, and storage facilities from conflict; disruptions in electricity supply; and destruction of standing crops. https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/SYR_8.pdf <http://news.trust.org/item/20160426060323-7qbl9/?source=hpOtherNews3> <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/SituationReportSyriacrisis-June2016-2.pdf>

FOOD ACCESS Latest update: 18/09/2017

A decline in prices of some food items, especially vegetables, was reported across Syria in August and July, continuing an April-June trend resulting from an improved security situation in several locations and a slow resumption of market activities. Some items such as oil, sugar, ghee, and tea, however, did not experience any notable changes in northern and southern areas of the country. [?](http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/syr_situation_overview_market_monitoring_exercise_july_2017.pdf) [?](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WFP-000022400.pdf) As the siege in Deir-ez-Zor city comes to an end, food supply to the besieged area is expected to increase, pushing down food prices across multiple food commodities. [?](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WFP-000022400.pdf)

In besieged Eastern Ghouta, the establishment of a de-escalation zone together with seasonal factors have improved access to sufficient diverse and nutritious food of adequate quality. Conversely, food access for many households has deteriorated in Raqqa city and rural Deir-ez-Zor, where conflict is ongoing. [?](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/NES%20Sit%20Rep%20August%20monthly%20no%2015%20final.pdf)

Low access to disposable income and reduction in purchasing power continues to affect the food security of crisis-affected people throughout the country. [?](http://www.fao.org/emergencies/resources/documents/resources-detail/en/c/884455/) [?](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/wfp291990.pdf)

LIVELIHOODS Latest update: 26/09/2017

After close to seven years of war, gross domestic product has contracted by more than two-thirds. [?](http://www.inss.org.il/index.aspx?id=4538&articleid=12274) [?](http://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/fsla_2016_syr_20102016.pdf) The crisis and associated sanctions have disrupted trade and markets. Oil production is currently at its lowest in years and phosphate exports halted. [?](http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/today-we-import-all-our-needs-syrian-ministers-paint-stark-economic-outlook-1989674248) In some besieged locations, such as Eastern Ghouta and northern Homs, thousands of people cannot access their land, and fuel shortages hinder activities. Irrigation systems are often damaged. [?](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/fss_wos_myrr_2016.pdf) [?](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/emergencies/docs/Sitrep%20Syria%20-%20September_FINAL.pdf) Administrative tariffs imposed on farmers living in opposition-held areas as well as fuel shortages threaten these farmers' livelihoods. [?](http://syriadirect.org/news/quneitra-farmers-lose-sole-income-as-regime-tariffs-upend-fragile-agricultural-balance-%E2%80%98haven%E2%80%99t-even-begun-to-harvest%E2%80%99/)

The unemployment rate is estimated at about 50%, up from about 10 percent at the beginning of the conflict. Precise statistics are missing. [?](http://www.fao.org/giews/countrybrief/country.jsp?code=SY)

An estimated USD 16 billion worth of agricultural production and assets has been damaged and destroyed since the beginning of the war, according to FAO. The governorates with the largest losses were Al-Hasakeh, ar Raqqa, Rural Damascus, Deir-ez-Zor, Dara, and Idlib. [?](http://www.fao.org/emergencies/resources/documents/resources-detail/en/c/884455/) Livestock numbers have decreased sharply since 2011, while the price of animal feed has increased by 168%. [?](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/SituationReportSyriacrisis-June2016-2.pdf) [?](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/emergencies/docs/Sitrep%20Syria%20-%20September_FINAL.pdf)

Map

Loss of crops per governorate since the beginning of the conflict

https://www.acaps.org/sites/acaps/files/datacards/maps/170401_livelihoods.png

Source: FAO 01/04/2017

HEALTH

OVERVIEW Latest update: 26/09/2017

12.8 million people are in need of health assistance as of March 2017, compared to 11.5 million at the end of 2015. [?](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Syria%20Fact%20sheet%20March%202017%20Eng.pdf) [?](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/2016_hno_syrian_arab_republic.pdf) As of August, healthcare remained a priority need in a majority of IDP camps and informal settlements in ar Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh governorates. [?](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/reach_syr_factsheets_raqqa_hasakeh_site_profiles_round3.pdf) 287,000 people displaced in 47 different types of IDP settlements (transit camps, informal sites, host communities) in the governorate require sustained coverage by health services [?](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/reach_syr_factsheets_raqqa_hasakeh_site_profiles_round3.pdf)

HEALTHCARE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESS Latest update: 28/09/2017

Healthcare access is limited in most of Syria due to shortages of health workers and medicines. <http://news.trust.org/item/20170316135303-0jirg/> Insecurity and a lack of electricity and water supply aggravate the situation. <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Microsoft%20Word%20-%20Health%20Cluster%20Bulletin%20Apr%20v2.pdf> Less than half of the health facilities open before the conflict are fully functional. <http://news.trust.org/item/20170315131923-svav2/> <http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=5eb1a46c176e09c237df0913f&id=f353d9ed06&e=2d3fbcf058> https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/2017_syria_hno_2.pdf However, at the end of June, an increased number of health facilities were reported as functional by WHO compared to March. In June, 403 health facilities were assessed by WHO, of which 77% (309) were reported fully functioning compared to 74% in March, 17% (69) were partially functioning, and 6% (25) were out of service. The majority were intact. https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/herams_2stquarter_2017_final.pdf At least 50% of all doctors and 70% of physicians have fled Syria since 2011. <http://news.trust.org/item/20170316135303-0jirg/> <http://syriadirect.org/news/damascus-orthopedics-resident-describes-overcrowding-medicine-shortages-and-the-power-of-wasta/> Health workers remaining in Syria are subject to killing, imprisonment, abduction and torture. At least 770 health workers have been killed since 2011. <http://news.trust.org/item/20170314233634-kt9aw/> <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Syria%20Suffering%206%20Years%20On%2015%20March%202017.pdf> A lack of medical staff continues to be a problem in 2017, especially for smaller health facilities. https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/herams_2stquarter_2017_final.pdf Healthcare access is particularly bad in besieged areas, where medicine supplies are often prevented from passing. <http://news.trust.org/item/20170316135303-0jirg/>

Medicine is either unavailable or expensive: up to four times the pre-2011 prices. <http://syriadirect.org/news/empty-shelves-at-tartus-pharmacies-as-war-cripples-syrias-pharmaceutical-industry/> <http://syriadirect.org/news/as-humanitarian-provisions-in-sanctions-fail-to-function-syria%E2%80%99s-cancer-patients-face-treatment-crisis/> Deaths from treatable forms of cancer, kidney disease and diabetes have resulted from the general lack of access to medicines. <http://news.trust.org/item/20170315131923-svav2/> <http://physiciansforhumanrights.org/assets/multimedia/phr-access-denied.pdf> Corruption is an aggravating factor. There is a lack of equity in access to health services, with doctors coerced into privileging patients who have powerful connections, at the expense of people with more urgent health needs. The problem has continued to worsen with the scarcity of resources and people increasingly desperate to get healthcare and more prone to use corruption to obtain it. <http://syriadirect.org/news/damascus-orthopedics-resident-describes-overcrowding-medicine-shortages-and-the-power-of-wasta/>

Raqqa: In September, continuous fighting in the city resulted in severe medicine shortages and lack of healthcare. After the national hospital was rendered inoperable in an airstrike and the obstetrics hospital ceased operations due to military activity in the area, only one pharmacy continues to provide basic medicines. Reaching the few operational trauma units is becoming difficult due to the lack of fuel to operate vehicles as well as large amounts of debris blocking the majority of roads. Reports indicate that wounded civilians were dying due to lack of healthcare and basic commodities. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=74262> <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/NES%20Sit%20Rep%20August%20monthly%20no%2015%20final.pdf> Mobile clinics and medicine are needed for vulnerable groups, such as pregnant women and war-wounded. http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/reach_syr_factsheets_raqqa_site_profiles_round2.pdf

Healthcare access is identified as a problem in camps hosting IDPs. <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/NES%20Sit%20Rep%20August%20monthly%20no%2015%20final.pdf> Nearly all IDPs must travel significant distances, which is dangerous and expensive, in order to access medical services. https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/reach_syr_factsheets_raqqa_hasakeh_site_profiles_round3.pdf Large numbers of civilians have fled to the town of Tabqa, northwest of ar-Raqqa city, where the only hospital is closed and ambulance services for injured people are limited. Other hospitals in the area lack power supplies and face critical shortages in essential medicines and supplies. <http://www.emro.who.int/syria-news/urgent-funding-needed-to-ensure-life-saving-health-care-services-in-north-east-syria.html>

Idlib: In September there was a spike in the targeting of medical facilities in Idlib. On 19 September three hospitals were bombed and put out of service within a few hours. <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/massive-spike-violence-leaves-3-hospitals-bombed-4-hours> Two of those hospitals were targeted again on 22 and 26 September, causing them to halt services indefinitely. <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/phr-documents-worst-string-hospital-attacks-syria-april> Overall as of September 19, three hospitals, three ambulance centres and three White Helmets facilities were destroyed. In August there was one verified attack. https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/health_cluster_turkey_hub-monthly_report-mvh-august-2017.pdf There has since been no new information about the functioning medical facilities in Idlib.

Deir-ez-Zor: On 26 August, an airstrike reportedly destroyed Ashara bridge in al Ashara city south of Deir-ez-Zor city. This has resulted in difficulties to transport emergency medical cases. <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/NES%20Sit%20Rep%20August%20monthly%20no%2015%20final.pdf>

Rural Damascus: The government siege in Eastern Ghouta, Rural Damascus, prevents medicines from reaching the area, affecting the availability and price of medicines. <http://syriadirect.org/news/%E2%80%98we-can%E2%80%99t-do-anything%E2%80%99-life-saving-cancer-drugs-running-out-in-east-ghouta-endangering-nearly-600-patients/> <http://www.msf.org/en/article/syria-msf-condemns-incursion-armed-men-supported-hospitals-east-ghouta> Cancer patients in the area have had little access to chemotherapy in 2017. Drugs were running out as of July 2017, causing a deterioration in the health of more than 500 people. <http://syriadirect.org/news/%E2%80%98we-can%E2%80%99t-do-anything%E2%80%99-life-saving-cancer-drugs-running-out-in-east-ghouta-endangering-nearly-600-patients/> Diagnosis is almost impossible in the area, as the siege prevents biopsies from reaching examination centres, located outside the besieged area. <http://syriadirect.org/news/east-ghouta-cancer-center-rolls-back-chemotherapy-services-as-siege-tightens/>

ATTACKS ON HEALTH CENTRES

Health facilities have been constantly attacked by all conflict parties - mostly by airstrikes - decreasing healthcare availability. <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/03.01.17%20-%20USG%20Syria%20Complex%20Emergency%20Fact%20Sheet%20%232.pdf> https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/health_cluster_bulletin_nov_dec_fin_17_jan.pdf In September, violence against medical facilities continued to be reported, with three hospitals, three ambulance centres, and three White Helmets facilities out of service. <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/massive-spike-violence-leaves-3-hospitals-bombed-4-hours> This continues the trend from August when 12 incidents of violence against healthcare workers and facilities were reported. Of these, three have been verified and nine are still being verified as seven of them are in besieged or hard to reach areas. Among the verified attacks, four incidents were identified on specialised surgery and maternity hospitals. https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/health_cluster_turkey_hub-mr_mvh-july-2017_1.pdf Trauma remains a leading cause of mortality and morbidity in Syria, with 30% of trauma survivors having permanent disabilities requiring integrated long-term rehabilitation care. https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/humanitarian_dashboard_-_mar2017_170611_.pdf Since

June 2015, 173 ambulances have been either damaged or destroyed. [\[? \(http://www.insecurityinsight.org/aidindanger/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/WHD-2017-Ambulances.pdf?mc_cid=11d4c4644f&mc_eid=ab91e71a1b\)\]](http://www.insecurityinsight.org/aidindanger/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/WHD-2017-Ambulances.pdf?mc_cid=11d4c4644f&mc_eid=ab91e71a1b)

OUTBREAKS Latest update: 26/09/2017

Vaccination coverage is 41% – half of what it was in 2011. 700,000 children under five have not received vaccines as a result of the conflict. [\[? \(https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/health_cluster_bulletin_nov_dec_fin_17_jan.pdf\)\]](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/health_cluster_bulletin_nov_dec_fin_17_jan.pdf) [\[? \(http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=5eb1a46c176e09c237df0913f&id=f353d9ed06&e=2d3fbcf058\)\]](http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=5eb1a46c176e09c237df0913f&id=f353d9ed06&e=2d3fbcf058)

In June, an outbreak of a type of polio, the vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2), was confirmed in Mayadeen district, Deir-ez-Zor governorate and Raqqa district, Raqqa governorate. As of 19 September, 40 cases have been confirmed: 34 in Mayadeen district, one in Deir-ez-Zor district, and one from Tadmour district, all in Deir-ez-Zor governorate; three from Boukamal district in Homs governorate; one in Tal Abyad district in Raqqa governorate. [\[? \(https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WHO_UNICEF_Situation_Report_14_cVDPV2_outbreak_Syria_19.9.2017.pdf\)\]](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/WHO_UNICEF_Situation_Report_14_cVDPV2_outbreak_Syria_19.9.2017.pdf) It is the first outbreak in Syria in three years. Circulating vaccine-derived polio viruses are extremely rare forms of the polio virus that can emerge in under-immunised populations. Response is planned but access is compromised, because IS control the majority of Deir-ez-Zor's territory and large swathes of Tal Abyad district. Vaccination campaigns were conducted as recently as 2016, yet coverage was limited. [\[? \(http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/polio-returns-syria-after-three-years-2045879167\)\]](http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/polio-returns-syria-after-three-years-2045879167) [\[? \(https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-polio-idUSKBN19B1V8\)\]](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-polio-idUSKBN19B1V8) [\[? \(http://polioeradication.org/polio-today/polio-now/this-week/\)\]](http://polioeradication.org/polio-today/polio-now/this-week/) [\[? \(http://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/syria/WHO_UNICEF_Situation_Report_7_cVDPV2_outbreak_Syria_1.8.17.pdf?ua=1\)\]](http://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/syria/WHO_UNICEF_Situation_Report_7_cVDPV2_outbreak_Syria_1.8.17.pdf?ua=1)

At least, 750 suspected measles cases were reported from April to June. [\[? \(http://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/syria/EWARS_Week_-19-Bulletin_2017.pdf?ua=1\)\]](http://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/syria/EWARS_Week_-19-Bulletin_2017.pdf?ua=1) [\[? \(http://syriadirect.org/news/measles-spreads-through-rebel-held-south-syria-after-two-years-without-vaccinations/\)\]](http://syriadirect.org/news/measles-spreads-through-rebel-held-south-syria-after-two-years-without-vaccinations/)

The lack of safe drinking water in many besieged and hard-to-reach areas is increasing the risk of waterborne diseases. [\[? \(http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNICEF%20Syria%20Crisis%20Situation%20Report_October%202016.pdf\)\]](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNICEF%20Syria%20Crisis%20Situation%20Report_October%202016.pdf) In Raqqa city, waterborne diseases were reported to be on the rise in early July, due to lack of water and damage to sanitation facilities. [\[? \(http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/reach_syr_ar-raqqa_city_situation_overview_ii_7_july_2017.pdf\)\]](http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/reach_syr_ar-raqqa_city_situation_overview_ii_7_july_2017.pdf)

MENTAL HEALTH Latest update: 12/07/2017

One third of Syrian refugees report symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Conflict and torture from authorities are cited as the most common causes for PTSD. [\[? \(http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/europe-central-asia/sweden/refugees-battle-mental-health-problems-in-sweden-73709/\)\]](http://www.ifrc.org/en/news-and-media/news-stories/europe-central-asia/sweden/refugees-battle-mental-health-problems-in-sweden-73709/) The rate of PTSD is even higher among children, where it can reach up to 80%. Depression is also widespread. [\[? \(http://www.unhcr.org/58e5077e4.html\)\]](http://www.unhcr.org/58e5077e4.html) [\[? \(https://i.stci.uk/sites/default/files/Invisible%20Wounds%20March%202017.pdf\)\]](https://i.stci.uk/sites/default/files/Invisible%20Wounds%20March%202017.pdf)

As of the end of 2016, one in five people in Syria needed treatment for mental health conditions. These needs are not addressed adequately, as less than 20% of hospitals in Syria provide mental health services. [\[? \(https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/2017_syria_hno_2.pdf\)\]](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/2017_syria_hno_2.pdf)

NUTRITION

OVERVIEW Latest update: 22/08/2017

A total of 4.4 million children and pregnant and lactating women were in need of nutrition support as of the end of 2016, compared to 3.1 million as of the end of 2015. [\[? \(https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/2017_syria_hno_2.pdf\)\]](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/2017_syria_hno_2.pdf) [\[? \(https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/2016_hno_syrian_arab_republic.pdf\)\]](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/2016_hno_syrian_arab_republic.pdf) The rates of SAM and GAM across the country remain unclear. The results of a screening of 379,000 children under-five carried out between March and June in health clinics across 13 governorates indicated an increase in the malnutrition caseload since the previous quarter. [\[? \(http://rfsan.info/storage/app/uploads/public/599/980/ed7/599980ed7e4cf196317971.pdf\)\]](http://rfsan.info/storage/app/uploads/public/599/980/ed7/599980ed7e4cf196317971.pdf)

WASH

OVERVIEW Latest update: 26/09/2017

8.2 million people are in need of WASH. https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/humanitarian_dashboard_-_mar2017_170611_.pdf Two thirds of the population have no consistent access to safe water. https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/2017_syria_pmr_summary.pdf As of July, water and sanitation remain priority needs in a majority of IDP camps and informal settlements in ar Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh governorates. https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/reach_syr_factsheets_raqqa_hasakeh_site_profiles_round3.pdf In Deir-ez-Zor governorate, water was obtained through a combination of the main network and through water trucking as of May, which has become more expensive due to the airstrikes. Negative coping mechanisms include relying on unsafe water from wells and rivers, which results in spreading water-borne diseases. <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/NES%20Sit%20Rep%20August%20monthly%20no%2015%20final.pdf> Many communities face sanitation issues due to a lack of sufficient and consistent waste management. Besieged Joura and Qosour neighbourhoods of Deir-ez-Zor city were of specific concern. http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/syr_deir_ez_zor_governorate_profile_may_2017_final_0.pdf

Water has been used systematically as a weapon of war by almost all parties. <http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=5eb1a46c176e09c237df0913f&id=f353d9ed06&e=2d3fbcf058>

WATER Latest update: 26/09/2017

8.2 million people are in need of WASH throughout Syria. Among the causes are damages to water supply infrastructure. https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/2017_syria_hno_2.pdf Two-thirds of people in Syria do not have regular access to tap water. The average household spends 25% of its income on water. <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Syria%20Suffering%206%20Years%20On%2015%20March%202017.pdf>

Trucking was the main source of water in Idlib, Quneitra, Hama, Dara'a governorates, according to an April assessment. http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/reach_syr_factsheet_hsos_governorate_factsheet_may2017_3.pdf <http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=5eb1a46c176e09c237df0913f&id=f353d9ed06&e=2d3fbcf058> Access to water (for all purposes including drinking) was a major issue for the majority of the remaining population in ar Raqqa city as of the end of August. The water network is no longer functioning and residents are relying on recently drilled boreholes and other non-safe water sources. Similar conditions have been reported from rural Deir-ez-Zor. <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/NES%20Sit%20Rep%20August%20monthly%20no%2015%20final.pdf> Access to clean drinking water remains a serious concern across IDP hosting sites too, particularly in the Maadan/Sabka and Raqqa countryside areas, where water quality is low and frequently causes diarrhoea or rashes. https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/reach_syr_factsheets_raqqa_hasakeh_site_profiles_round3.pdf

Different areas of the country present similar problems, often related to damage or destruction to supply systems and insufficient electricity. https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/ar-raqqa_monthly_sit_rep_may_2017_0.pdf <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Aleppo%20SitRep%2023%20April.pdf> Negative coping mechanisms like modifying hygiene practices and reducing drinking water consumption have been reported. People are resorting to untreated water from unsafe sources, such as rivers, makeshift wells, and boreholes. Fetching water from rivers can expose civilians to cross-fire and IED/UXOs. http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/syr_deir_ez_zor_governorate_profile_may_2017_final_0.pdf <http://syriadirect.org/news/idlib-farmers-dig-thousands-of-makeshift-wells-%E2%80%998depleting-ground-water-supplies%E2%80%99/> https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/north_east_syria_weekly_sit_rep_1_1_30june2017.pdf

Scabies, diarrhoea, and other waterborne diseases have been reported across Syria. http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/raqqa_weekly_sit_rep_9-v1_10-20_june.pdf

SANITATION Latest update: 26/09/2017

Poor sanitation is a concern across the country. It is likely to be an aggravating factor in several current outbreaks, including polio in Deir-ez-Zor, Homs, and Raqqa governorates. The situation in Raqqa governorate is critical both in Raqqa city, where sewage systems have been destroyed, organised waste disposal is lacking and the presence of pests has been reported, and in IDP camps, where open defecation is also a concern. It is most frequently practiced at overcrowded tent sites and collective shelters with limited numbers of functioning latrines. http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/reach_syr_factsheets_raqqa_hasakeh_site_profiles_round3.pdf A similar situation has been reported also in Deir-ez-Zor. <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/NES%20Sit%20Rep%20August%20monthly%20no%2015%20final.pdf>

HYGIENE Latest update: 11/09/2017

In July, prices for hygiene items, such as sanitary pads, increased by 13% and 17% in northeastern and northwestern Syria, respectively. http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/syr_situation_overview_market_monitoring_exercise_july_2017.pdf

SHELTER AND NFIS

OVERVIEW Latest update: 26/09/2017

4.3 million people are in need of shelter assistance throughout Syria. [\[? \(https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNHCR%20Fact%20Sheet%20September%202017%20Eng.pdf\)\]](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNHCR%20Fact%20Sheet%20September%202017%20Eng.pdf) Of these, 1.9 million people are in acute and immediate need of life-sustaining shelter assistance. 5.8 million people are in need of NFIs. [\[? \(https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNHCR%20Fact%20Sheet%20September%202017%20Eng.pdf\)\]](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNHCR%20Fact%20Sheet%20September%202017%20Eng.pdf) [\[? \(https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/2017_syria_pmr_summary.pdf\)\]](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/2017_syria_pmr_summary.pdf) [\[? \(https://www.sheltercluster.org/sites/default/files/docs/1703_shelter_monthly_march_2017_v2_final.pdf\)\]](https://www.sheltercluster.org/sites/default/files/docs/1703_shelter_monthly_march_2017_v2_final.pdf) As of July, NFIs remained a priority need in a majority of IDP camps and informal settlements in ar Raqqa governorate. [\[? \(https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/reach_syr_factsheets_raqqa_hasakeh_site_profiles_round3.pdf\)\]](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/reach_syr_factsheets_raqqa_hasakeh_site_profiles_round3.pdf) [\[? \(http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/reach_syr_raqqa_camps_and_sites_profiles_july_2017_v5.pdf\)\]](http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/reach_syr_raqqa_camps_and_sites_profiles_july_2017_v5.pdf)

SHELTER Latest update: 15/08/2017

Over 800,000 houses have been partially or severely damaged in the conflict, and 400,000 have been destroyed. [\[? \(http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Shelter%20Sector%20August.pdf\)\]](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Shelter%20Sector%20August.pdf)

Limited information is available on the shelter conditions and needs of the 6.3 million IDPs. Only 5% live in communal shelters; the majority seek shelter in rented accommodation or with family members, which are often overcrowded. Many IDPs live in damaged houses. [\[? \(http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Sitrep_no.10_Aleppo_27%20December.pdf\)\]](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Sitrep_no.10_Aleppo_27%20December.pdf) In ar Raqqa and al Hasakeh governorates, shelter conditions for IDPs are inadequate except for the three managed camps and the collective centres, in which IDPs shelter in buildings. In certain locations, IDPs have built makeshift shelters that are insecure and expose residents to scorpions and snakes. [\[? \(http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/reach_syr_factsheets_raqqa_site_profiles_round2.pdf\)\]](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/reach_syr_factsheets_raqqa_site_profiles_round2.pdf)

According to anecdotal evidence collected at the end of July, conflict-related damage to shelters was increasing in Raqqa city. [\[? \(http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/reach_syr_ar_raqqa_city_situation_overview_iii_28_july_2017.pdf\)\]](http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/reach_syr_ar_raqqa_city_situation_overview_iii_28_july_2017.pdf)

Collective shelters are often overcrowded. Continued displacement has increased the number of IDPs seeking shelter. In most cases, available shelters are not enough to accommodate all new arrivals. Shelter needs are high in eastern Aleppo city, where most of the buildings were severely damaged by the clashes in 2016. [\[? \(http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syria-shelter-monthly-april-2017-issue-no-06-enar\)\]](http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syria-shelter-monthly-april-2017-issue-no-06-enar)

NFIS Latest update: 11/09/2017

An estimated 5.3 million people are in need of NFI support.

Poverty, reduced or non-availability of goods and basic services, and repeated displacement due to conflict are the main drivers. [\[? \(http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/syr_deir_ez_zor_governorate_profile_may_2017_final_0.pdf\)\]](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/syr_deir_ez_zor_governorate_profile_may_2017_final_0.pdf) In July, a sharp increase (30-33%) in the cost of fuel was reported in northeastern and southern Syria. In the northwest, the price of fuel declined slightly (5%). [\[? \(http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/syr_situation_overview_market_monitoring_exercise_july_2017.pdf\)\]](http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/syr_situation_overview_market_monitoring_exercise_july_2017.pdf)

No electricity is available in several areas of the country. Reports from IS-controlled Raqqa city highlight a lack of access to electricity and fuel for generators. Residents are increasingly relying on car batteries or going without electricity entirely. Looting of cables and transformers has also affected access to electricity. [\[? \(http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/reach_syr_ar-raqqa_city_situation_overview_ii_7_july_2017.pdf\)\]](http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/reach_syr_ar-raqqa_city_situation_overview_ii_7_july_2017.pdf) Electricity produced by generators is reportedly available for 2-6 hours per day. [\[? \(http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/reach_syr_ar-raqqa_city_situation_overview_iv_17_august_2017_1.pdf\)\]](http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/reach_syr_ar-raqqa_city_situation_overview_iv_17_august_2017_1.pdf)

After pro-government forces seized territory that cuts through a smuggling route delivering fuel from IS-held Deir-Ez-Zor, fuel shortages have been reported in opposition controlled areas of Dara governorate. [\[? \(http://syriadirect.org/news/rebel-held-daraa-loses-lifeline-after-regime-offensive-cuts-flow-of-smuggled-islamic-state-oil/\)\]](http://syriadirect.org/news/rebel-held-daraa-loses-lifeline-after-regime-offensive-cuts-flow-of-smuggled-islamic-state-oil/) Compared to the last quarter of 2016, fuel prices increased for diesel in Syria by 22.9% in the first four months of 2017. [\[? \(http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/wfp291791_0.pdf\)\]](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/wfp291791_0.pdf) However, in May prices for liquefied petroleum gas decreased by 32% in northwestern Syria, especially in Dana subdistrict of Idlib. [\[? \(http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syria-market-monitoring-exercise-may-2017\)\]](http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syria-market-monitoring-exercise-may-2017)

EDUCATION

OVERVIEW Latest update: 29/08/2017

Due to the conflict, 6.1 million people are in need of education assistance. 1.75 million children are out of school, and 1.35 million are at risk of dropping out. https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/humanitarian_dashboard_jan-dec2016_0.pdf <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Syria%20Suffering%206%20Years%20on%2015%20March%202017.pdf> <http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=5eb1a46c176e09c237df0913f&id=f353d9ed06&e=2d3fbcf058> 150,000 education staff have stopped work due to conflict. <https://i.stci.uk/sites/default/files/Invisible%20Wounds%20March%202017.pdf>

In 2016, 255 children were killed in or near schools in Syria. <http://weshare.unicef.org/Package/2AMZIFDMAU4> At least 87 attacks on schools were recorded: Aleppo, Rural Damascus, and al Hasakeh governorates are most affected. All conflict parties are accused of having hit schools at some point since the beginning of the conflict in 2011. <http://www.qsdrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/127-IHL-and-HR-violations-in-Syria.pdf> <http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=5eb1a46c176e09c237df0913f&id=f353d9ed06&e=2d3fbcf058> <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G17/026/63/PDF/G1702663.pdf?OpenElement> Attacks have also been reported in 2017 in Deir-Ez-Zor governorate. https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/ar_raqqa_sit_rep_august_bi-monthly_no_14.pdf

ACCESS AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT Latest update: 29/08/2017

1.75 million children are out of school, mainly due to security concerns. https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/2017_syria_hno_2.pdf http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ocha_situation_report_10_1aug2016.pdf

Only 50% of schools are functional; ar Raqqa, Aleppo, and Deir-ez-Zor governorates have the lowest percentage of functional schools. As of May, no functioning formal schools were reported in Deir-ez-Zor and most children did not have access to informal learning opportunities, contributing to an estimated 46% of children working. http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/syr_deir_ez_zor_governorate_profile_may_2017_final_0.pdf The number of non-functional schools within IS-held areas is 556, which constitutes 40% of all non-functional schools assessed in May by the Assessment Coordination Unit. The buildings of 17% of non-functional schools were destroyed. Overall, there are 1,252 damaged and 252 destroyed schools. 56% of assessed schools were unable to receive students with special needs. Teachers in 73% of assessed schools have not attended psychological support training. <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Schools-in-Syria-2017-ACU-IMU-EN.pdf>

A lack of staff impacts the quality of education. In Aleppo, for example, the number of school teachers for the academic year 2015/16 had dropped by 68% compared to 2010/11. Idlib witnessed a decrease of 57%, which is impacting the teacher-pupil ratio in schools. The need for textbooks and stationery is urgent. Children in most areas must share a textbook while others have to re-use second-hand textbooks from upper-grade levels. <http://theirworld.org/news/syria-education-struggle-against-school-attacks-lost-teachers-book-shortages>

In Al Hasakeh, teachers have been arrested for protesting against the teaching of Kurdish language in schools. <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=72682>

Critical shortages of both learning materials and safe learning spaces are reported in besieged and hard-to-reach areas. Classes are overcrowded. http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNICEF%20Facts%20and%20Figures_Education_July2016.pdf http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Schools%20D9%90Assessment_EN_270216-.pdf Schools in besieged and hard-to-reach areas have been operating underground. <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/node/129660>

Many schools are inaccessible due to presence of ERW, or are used as temporary IDP shelters. https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/aleppo_sitrep_16_2.pdf http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/menbij-raqqa_mar2017.pdf

PROTECTION

OVERVIEW Latest update: 26/09/2017

13.5 million people are in need of protection assistance, with women, children and elderly people especially vulnerable. Violations include sexual violence, deliberate targeting of civilians and of religious groups, summary executions, forced recruitment, 85,000 enforced disappearances between March 2011 and August 2017, and forced separation. <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/08/30/46089/> <http://www.voanews.com/a/reports-say-islamic-state-kills-villagers-anti-jihadists-eastern-syria/3863472.html> http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/countries/factsheets/syria_en.pdf http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/reach_syr_situation_overview_ar_raqqa_city_rapid_needs_assessment_june_2017.pdf https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/ar_raqqa_sit_rep_august_bi-monthly_no_14.pdf Indiscriminate incendiary weapons and barrel bombs continue to be used in conflict areas. <http://www.qsdrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/127-IHL-and-HR-violations-in-Syria.pdf> <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G17/026/63/PDF/G1702663.pdf?OpenElement> <http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-ara-b-republic/breaking-chemical-weapons-attack-kallaseh-aleppo> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/14/iraq/syria-danqer-us-white-phosphorus> 70% of civilian casualties from explosions were caused by airstrikes in July. This means that state actors continued to be responsible for most civilian casualties from explosive violence in Syria. Of these, at least 23% were reported to have been perpetrated by the US-led coalition. The number of civilian deaths caused by US-led airstrikes has been rising, with more than twice as many in 2017 than in 2016 - demonstrated on the graph below. https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/The_bloody_cost_2017_en.pdf Most civilian casualties occurred in Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor. <https://aoav.org.uk/2017/explosive-violence-july-2017/> Since 2012, the Syrian government has been accused of employing chemical weapons over 200 times. Of these, over 170 times occurred since 2013. <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/08/21/45697/>

Turkish troops have reportedly shot over 300 Syrians trying to cross the border as of August. [?](http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=71788) (<http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=71788>) Episodes continue to occur as of September. [?](http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=74132) (<http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=74132>)

Post-surrender communities are of concern: residents face a range of abusive treatment after pro-government forces reassert control. Humanitarian aid access to many post-surrender communities is restricted, and information flow is challenging. Civilians in Wadi Barada appear to be experiencing the worst treatment, and displacement out of the area is expected to continue, although the official evacuations have ended. [?](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/siege-watch-6-pax-tsi.pdf) (<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/siege-watch-6-pax-tsi.pdf>)

In Raqqa, IDPs encounter physical threats posed by the presence of explosive hazards and risks related to the use of smuggling routes, such as recruitment and sexual violence. Another key concern is freedom of movement. [?](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Raqqa%20Sit%20Rep%2010-%202019-26%20June%20FINAL.pdf) (<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Raqqa%20Sit%20Rep%2010-%202019-26%20June%20FINAL.pdf>) [?](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Raqqa%20Sit%20Rep%2026%20May%20-n6_0.pdf) (http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Raqqa%20Sit%20Rep%2026%20May%20-n6_0.pdf) At the end of June, smuggling fees for leaving Raqqa were increasing. [?](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/north_east_syria_weekly_sit_rep_11_1_30june2017.pdf) (https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/north_east_syria_weekly_sit_rep_11_1_30june2017.pdf) During evacuations, separation from family members, targeting of buses by snipers, and physical violence have all been reported. Bombardment, lack of basic services, and inadequate housing conditions were identified as primary protection risks for those evacuated. [?](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/170614%20syria%20flash%20update%20cccm%20snfi%20protection.pdf) (<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/170614%20syria%20flash%20update%20cccm%20snfi%20protection.pdf>) In Raqqa city, residents reportedly face constant threats to their safety including airstrikes, indirect fire, improvised explosives, mines, and sniper fire. [?](http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/reach_syr_ar-raqqa_city_situation_overview_iv_17_august_2017_1.pdf) (http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/reach_syr_ar-raqqa_city_situation_overview_iv_17_august_2017_1.pdf)

In the Kurdish-controlled areas of northern Syria, reports of discrimination against Arab residents have emerged, including exclusion from the electoral process. [?](http://syriadirect.org/news/%C2%A0-thousands-of-arabs-excluded-from-elections-in-syria%E2%80%99s-kurdish-majority-north/) (<http://syriadirect.org/news/%C2%A0-thousands-of-arabs-excluded-from-elections-in-syria%E2%80%99s-kurdish-majority-north/>) Reports have emerged of protests being quelled through violent means, including in IDP camps where freedom of movement is limited. [?](http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=73639) (<http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=73639>)

Distribution of the civilian casualties caused by the International Coalition, SNHR 25/09/2017

EXECUTION

Executions by different parties to the conflict have been reported as recently as mid-September. [?](http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=74153) (<http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=74153>) [?](http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=73649) (<http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=73649>) [?](http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=71827) (<http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=71827>) [?](http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=74097) (<http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=74097>) 13,000 people were executed by the Syrian government in Saydnaya military prison, near Damascus, between March 2011 and December 2015. Between 10,000 and 20,000 detainees remain in the prison under dire conditions. [?](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde24/5415/2017/en/) (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde24/5415/2017/en/>) IS has executed over 4,800 people within Syria since June 2014, including 64 in April 2017 and 147 in May. [?](http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=67310) (<http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=67310>) [?](http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=65714) (<http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=65714>) [?](http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=65696) (<http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=65696>) [?](http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=64189) (<http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=64189>)

GENDER Latest update: 29/08/2017

Gender-based violence, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) has been systematically committed by all parties to the conflict as an instrument of torture and a tactic of war. [?](http://www.qsdr.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/127-IHL-and-HR-violations-in-Syria.pdf) (<http://www.qsdr.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/127-IHL-and-HR-violations-in-Syria.pdf>) [?](http://www.newsdeeply.com/syria/community/2017/03/14/sexual-violence-used-as-tactic-of-repression-in-syria-report) (<http://www.newsdeeply.com/syria/community/2017/03/14/sexual-violence-used-as-tactic-of-repression-in-syria-report>) Young girls have been coerced into early marriage in exchange for payments to their family. [?](http://syriadirect.org/news/widowed-at-18-teen-says-%E2%80%98marrying-into-the-islamic-state-brought-shame-and-disgrace%E2%80%99/) (<http://syriadirect.org/news/widowed-at-18-teen-says-%E2%80%98marrying-into-the-islamic-state-brought-shame-and-disgrace%E2%80%99/>) [?](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/595846/EPRS_BRI(2016)595846_EN.pdf) ([http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/595846/EPRS_BRI\(2016\)595846_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/595846/EPRS_BRI(2016)595846_EN.pdf))

SGBV against children is rarely reported to authorities due to fear of stigmatisation. [?](http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=5eb1a46c176e09c237df0913f&id=f353d9ed06&e=2d3fbcf058) (<http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=5eb1a46c176e09c237df0913f&id=f353d9ed06&e=2d3fbcf058>) While there are female SDF personnel at mobile front-line checkpoints in ar Raqqa governorate, where identity documents are checked and IDPs are searched for weapons and explosives, gender-sensitive search procedures are not ensured in all checkpoints in the governorate. [?](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Raqqa%20Monthly%20Sit%20Rep%20May%202017%20v3.pdf) (<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Raqqa%20Monthly%20Sit%20Rep%20May%202017%20v3.pdf>)

Male IDPs aged 18-40 are notably underrepresented among the IDP population from Raqqa. Many stay behind due to fear of forced military conscription, arrest and detention at checkpoints by SDF forces, death if caught by IS, or to defend their property from looting and confiscation. [?](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Raqqa%20Sit%20Rep%2010-%202019-26%20June%20FINAL.pdf) (<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Raqqa%20Sit%20Rep%2010-%202019-26%20June%20FINAL.pdf>) [?](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/north_east_syria_weekly_sit_rep_11_1_30june2017.pdf) (https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/north_east_syria_weekly_sit_rep_11_1_30june2017.pdf) In Deir-ez-Zor, IS declared the forceful conscription of all males aged 20 to 30 in early August, as the armed group is losing Raqqa to the SDF and pro-government forces are advancing in Deir-ez-Zor. [?](http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/islamic-state-order-conscriptions-under-30s-deir-ez-zor-37051664) (<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/islamic-state-order-conscriptions-under-30s-deir-ez-zor-37051664>) There were increased attempts to dodge the conscription by fleeing. Almost 500 such cases had been reported as of mid-August. [?](https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/ar_raqqa_sit_rep_august_bi-monthly_no_14.pdf) (https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/ar_raqqa_sit_rep_august_bi-monthly_no_14.pdf)

CHILDREN Latest update: 11/07/2017

Six million children are in need of protection and humanitarian assistance - triple the number in January 2013. [?](http://reliefweb.int/report/syria/n-arab-republic/syria-emergency-shelter-sector-factsheet-june-2016-enar) (<http://reliefweb.int/report/syria/n-arab-republic/syria-emergency-shelter-sector-factsheet-june-2016-enar>) According to UNICEF, at least 430 grave violations against children occurred in the first quarter of 2017, including killing and maiming, recruitment and use of children in fighting, detention, abduction, attacks on schools and hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access. [?](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNICEF%20Syria%20Crisis%20) (<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNICEF%20Syria%20Crisis%20>)

[Humanitarian%20Situation%20Report%20-%20May%202017.pdf](#)) In 2016, at least 650 children were killed - the highest number since 2014. [? \(http://us7.campaign-archive2.com/?u=5eb1a46c176e09c237df0913f&id=f353d9ed06&e=2d3fbcf058\)](#) [? \(http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/unicef-regional-director-geert-cappelaere-statement-security-council\)](#) Children and teenagers are in danger of recruitment into armed groups and government forces, forced marriage, forced labour, and forced participation in illicit activities, including smuggling. [? \(http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Syria%20Suffering%206%20Years%20On%2015%20March%202017.pdf\)](#) [? \(https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/2017_syria_hno_2.pdf\)](#) [? \(http://syriadirect.org/news/widowed-at-18-teen-says-%E2%80%98marrying-into-the-islamic-state-brought-shame-and-disgrace%E2%80%99/\)](#) Family separations are common. [? \(https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/node/146174\)](#) In Dara and Rural Damascus alone, at least 700,000 children are estimated as impacted by conflict. [? \(http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNICEF%20Syria%20Crisis%20Humanitarian%20Situation%20Report%20-%20May%202017.pdf\)](#) Child labour cases are high in conflict-affected areas. [? \(http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/reach_syr_situation_overview_ar_raqqa_city_rapid_needs_assessment_june_2017.pdf\)](#) [? \(http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Aleppo%20SitRep%2023%20April.pdf\)](#)

Around half of teenagers in Syria have turned to drugs to cope with conflict-related stress. [? \(https://i.stci.uk/sites/default/files/Invisible%20Wounds%20March%202017.pdf\)](#)

MINES AND ERW Latest update: 04/09/2017

6.3 million people throughout Syria live in areas heavily exposed to explosive weapons. [? \(http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Syria%20Suffering%206%20Years%20On%2015%20March%202017.pdf\)](#) The clearance of mines is challenging due to insecurity and the absence of qualified mine action operators. [? \(http://www.un.org/qa/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2016/998\)](#)

Mines have reportedly been placed as booby traps in areas currently or previously held by IS. [? \(http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=63814\)](#) This includes escape routes out of Raqqa city and areas of rural Deir-Ez-Zor. [? \(http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=73215\)](#) [? \(https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/ar_raqqa_sit_rep_august_bi-monthly_no_14.pdf\)](#) De-mining operations are ongoing in Sukhna, in Homs governorate, recently retaken by the government. [? \(http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=71689\)](#) In northern Aleppo, mines have been planted in schools and homes, killing civilians weeks after fighting ceased. [? \(https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/flash_update_eastern_aleppo_countryside_20170305.pdf\)](#) [? \(https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/10/26/syria-improvised-mines-kill-injure-hundreds-manbij\)](#)

UXO is still present in Aleppo city, including in schools and residential areas. [? \(http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Aleppo%20SitRep%2023%20April.pdf\)](#)

The presence of mines close to water sources prevents access to water. [? \(https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/jib_al-shaair_camp_flash_update_0.pdf\)](#)

DOCUMENTATION Latest update: 11/07/2017

The loss or lack of documents is a recurrent issue among IDPs from Raqqa, both due to the swift flight from areas of origin, as well as due to the delay in restituting documents after confiscation at checkpoints. [? \(https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/system/files/documents/files/north_east_syria_weekly_sit_rep_11_1_30june2017.pdf\)](#)