

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)

SYRIA

Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID 2018)

Conflict displacement
Figures analysis



SYRIA - Contextual update

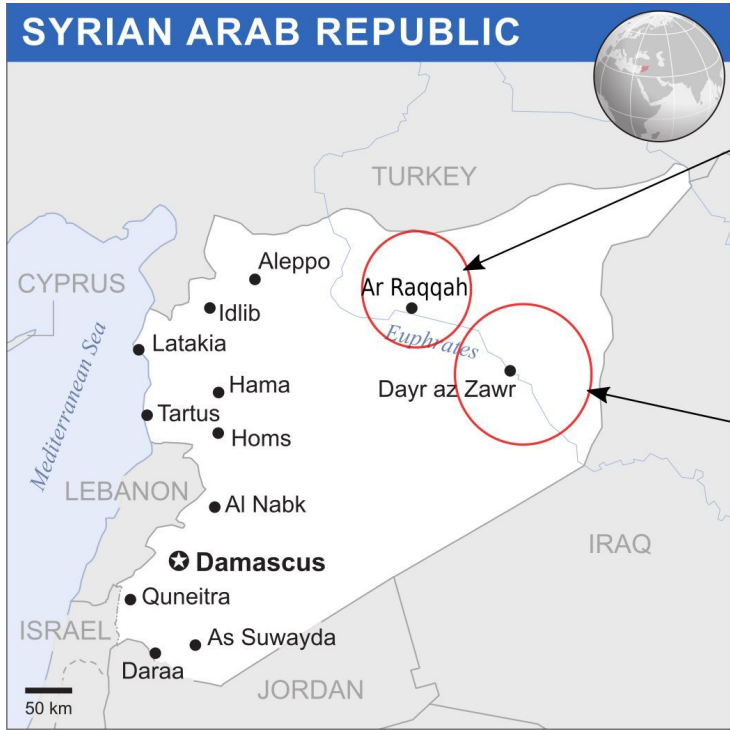
Stock:	6,784,000
New displacements:	2,911,000
Returns:	0
Provisional solutions:	747,000

Internal displacement increased in 2017 despite the Astana agreement under which the Syrian, Russian, Iranian and Turkish governments committed to establishing four de-escalation zones with the aim of reducing the violence and creating safe areas. Several large offensives displaced hundreds of thousands of people, many of them not for the first time.

The retaking of Raqqa was one of the most significant events. The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and their allies recaptured the governorate from ISIL in September after several months of intense fighting, during which nearly the entire population of Raqqa city fled. Fighting then escalated in Deir ez Zor as SDF from one side and the Syrian army from the other ousted ISIL from that governorate. The two offensives between them triggered 800,000 new displacements in the last four months of the year.

Fighting also continued along frontlines in Aleppo and Idlib governorates, with significant displacement reported through the year, and heavy fighting was reported in Hama, where tens of thousands of people were displaced by escalating clashes between non-state armed groups and the Syrian army in northern and western parts of the governorate. Fighting also intensified in and around the besieged area of eastern Ghouta in Rural Damascus, displacing tens of thousands more.

SYRIA - Major displacement events in 2017



More than 500,000 new displacements were recorded in Raqqa, mostly because of the Syrian army and the Syrian Democratic Forces offensive against ISIL which took place in the first half of the year.
Location: Raqqa
Sources: IDP Task Force, CCCM Cluster, NPM

More than 800,000 people were displaced from and within Deir ez Zor, mostly due to the offensive led by the Syrian army and the Syrian Democratic Forces against ISIL which was launched in September 2017.
Location: Deir ez Zor
Sources: IDP Task Force, CCCM Cluster, NPM

Sources: Displacement data (IDMC); map (OCHA, Reliefweb) created in Sep 2013.
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations and IDMC.

SYRIA - Stock: 6,784,000 IDPs

This corresponds to the total number of people living in internal displacement as of the end of 2017



Sources and methodologies

We use Needs and Population Monitoring (NPM) data to produce our stock estimate. NPM carries out successive rounds of primary data collection at the community level, using direct observations and face-to-face interviews with key informants (KIs). To verify the data, it cross-checks the information and uses random samples and, if necessary, field teams are consulted.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

Data collection based on KI interviews carries limitations of its own. The vast majority of the KIs are people who would be expected to have good knowledge of the communities they live in, but they can only share their best estimates. This means population figures are subject to an undefined margin of error.

IDMC figure, methodology and rationale

We used the total number of IDPs and added the number of people affected by shelter damage, because the latter refers to people displaced within their own community who are not picked up in the former. We also added a small caseload of people who tried to return but ended up living either with host families or in formal or informal settlements, or in collective shelters.

Significant methodological and contextual changes from last year

Despite the large number of new displacements, the stock figure increased only slightly because an important proportion of the total involved the repeated movement of people already registered as IDPs.

SYRIA - New displacements: 2,911,000



Sources and methodologies

We used three sources to produce our estimate: NPM, the CCCM cluster and the IDP Task Force. For details about NPM, see the previous page. The CCCM cluster has a collaborative approach that combines submissions of new IDP arrivals from member agencies and a network of KIs. The dataset includes triangulated and verified information from 38 partners. The IDP Task Force compiles verified data from OCHA Syria and Jordan, the CCCM cluster and NPM. OCHA uses a simple tracking form and flows of IDPs are calculated by comparing current data with the previous month. The task force consolidates all the above mentioned datasets. If it obtains data for the same period and location from NPM and the CCCM cluster, it gives priority to the latter. If it obtains overlapping data from OCHA Jordan and NPM, it determines the reliability of the OCHA data before deciding which to prioritise.

Main caveats and monitoring challenges

The data sources were not able to provide complete coverage in their December 2017 assessments because data-collecting agencies covered some governorates only partially and others not at all. The task force's decisions about which data to prioritise also seem arbitrary and in case of discrepancies its verification process is weak.

IDMC figure, methodology and rationale

We used the task force's data for January to November 2017, adding the number of people affected by shelter damage in locations where it used NPM data. For December, when coverage decreased, we used November data to extrapolate for those governorates that were not covered at all in the December assessment. The only governorates assessed in December were Hasakeh, Aleppo, Dar'a, Hama, Idlib, Quneitra and Rural Damascus. For these, we used the December figures, and did not use the November data to extrapolate estimates for districts and communities not covered in December. We also added a small caseload of people who tried to return but ended up living either with host families or in formal or informal settlements or collective shelters.

Significant methodological and contextual changes from last year

The figure is significantly higher than last year's due to the availability of new data sources and increased coverage. Our data for last year only covered opposition and Kurdish-controlled areas.

SYRIA - Returns: 0

This corresponds to the number of people for whom sufficient evidence exists to indicate their return to their habitual place of residence



We did not record any returns in Syria in 2017. We reported most return movements as “provisional solutions” since they cannot be considered durable yet.

SYRIA - Provisional solutions: 747,000

This corresponds to people who have tried to return, but who we consider not to have achieved a durable solution



Challenges in accounting for returns

NPM reports on people returning to different types of shelter. Based on discussions with partners, we decided not to report on any returns and include the vast majority of those returning to their own houses, rented accommodation and abandoned buildings under the provisional solutions category. Returns in Syria are almost inevitably unsustainable due to the ongoing conflict, disruption to services and widespread destruction, meaning that few, if any, of the conditions contained in IASC's framework on durable solutions will have been met.