



REPORT ON THE WILDFIRES IN THE SYRIAN COASTAL REGION

July 13-2025

Since the beginning of July, the Syrian coastal region has been witnessing a series of devastating wildfires. According to the Syrian Civil Defense, more than 16,000 hectares of forested areas have been affected.

Despite significant firefighting efforts, supported by neighboring countries—Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, and Qatar—the situation remains challenging. Strong winds, mountainous terrain, difficult access routes, and the presence of unexploded ordnance have severely hampered firefighting operations.

Chronology of Key Events

Thursday, July 3

Wildfires erupted in the villages of Al-Atira, Al-Rihaniyah, Shalaf, and Zanzouf in the mountains of Latakia. Syrian Civil Defense and forest firefighting units responded immediately.

Friday, July 4

Fires spread rapidly in Qastal Maaf near Ras Al-Basit due to high temperatures and strong winds. Firefighting teams from several Syrian provinces were mobilized. A new fire also broke out in Wadi Jahannam, near Qadmous in Tartus.

Saturday, July 5

Fires reached the forests of Tafahiya, Al-Rawda, Al-Midan, and Rabia in rural Latakia. Explosions from landmines near Tafahiya endangered firefighters. Turkey began coordinated firefighting efforts by sending ground crews, equipment, and two helicopters. Wadi Jahannam fire was successfully contained.

Sunday, July 6

Fires extended to Bayt Fares, Al-Midan, Al-Dar Al-Kabira, and Al-Furnlaq. A large fire in Furo/Al-Ghab Plain (rural Hama) was brought under control. Jordan deployed civil defense teams and Turkey provided air support around Birka–Qastal Maaf.



Monday, July 7

Fires reached Jabal Al-Turkman and approached Al-Ghassaniya, prompting evacuation. Fire suppression continued in Sheikh Hassan and the valleys of Al-Basit. Lebanon joined the aerial firefighting efforts.

Tuesday, July 8

Firefighting teams managed to stop the fire's spread in Al-Ghassaniya and continued operations in other areas. Unexploded ordnance continued to threaten responders. Joint operations rooms coordinated regional efforts.

Wednesday, July 9

Fires intensified in Burj Zahia, Sheikh Hassan, Burj Al-Nisr, and Al-Furnlaq. Heavy machinery was used to open paths and lay hoses to reach remote hotspots.

Thursday, July 10

A separate large fire broke out in Naba' Al-Tayyib (Shatha Subdistrict, Hama), consuming around 500 dunams of forest. Another fire on Jabal Taqsis destroyed 20 dunams of cypress trees.

Friday, July 11

Fires concentrated in Jabal Al-Nisr, Burj Zahi, Al-Atira, Al-Furnlaq, and the area between Qastal Maaf and Kassab. Strong winds and landmines hindered firefighting. Several hotspots were contained.

Saturday, July 12

Efforts continued to contain fires in Jabal Al-Nisr, Ain Zahia, Al-Birka, and Sheikh Hassan. Qatar joined support efforts, dispatching specialized crews and aircraft.

Sunday, July 13

According to the Civil Defense, firefighting teams have successfully halted the spread of fires across all containment lines. Efforts remain ongoing, with teams working intensively to extinguish remaining active hotspots



Response Summary

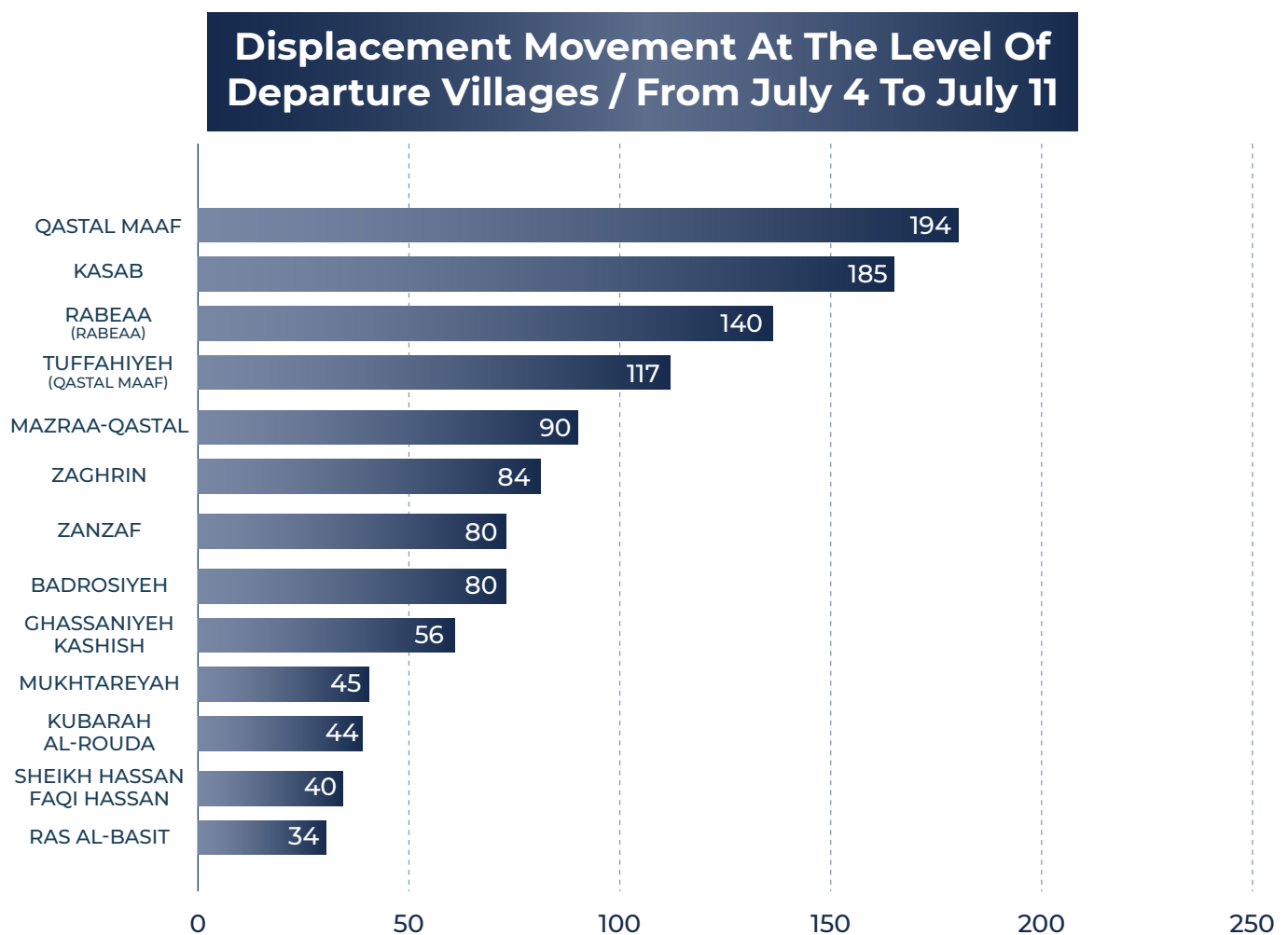
- Personnel Involved: Over 150 firefighting teams from Syrian Civil Defense, forest brigades, government institutions, and volunteers.
- Equipment Deployed: 300+ fire engines, logistics vehicles, and heavy machinery.
- Aerial Support: 16 firefighting aircraft from Syria, Turkey, Jordan, and Lebanon.
- Challenges: Mountainous terrain, strong winds, and unexploded ordnance.



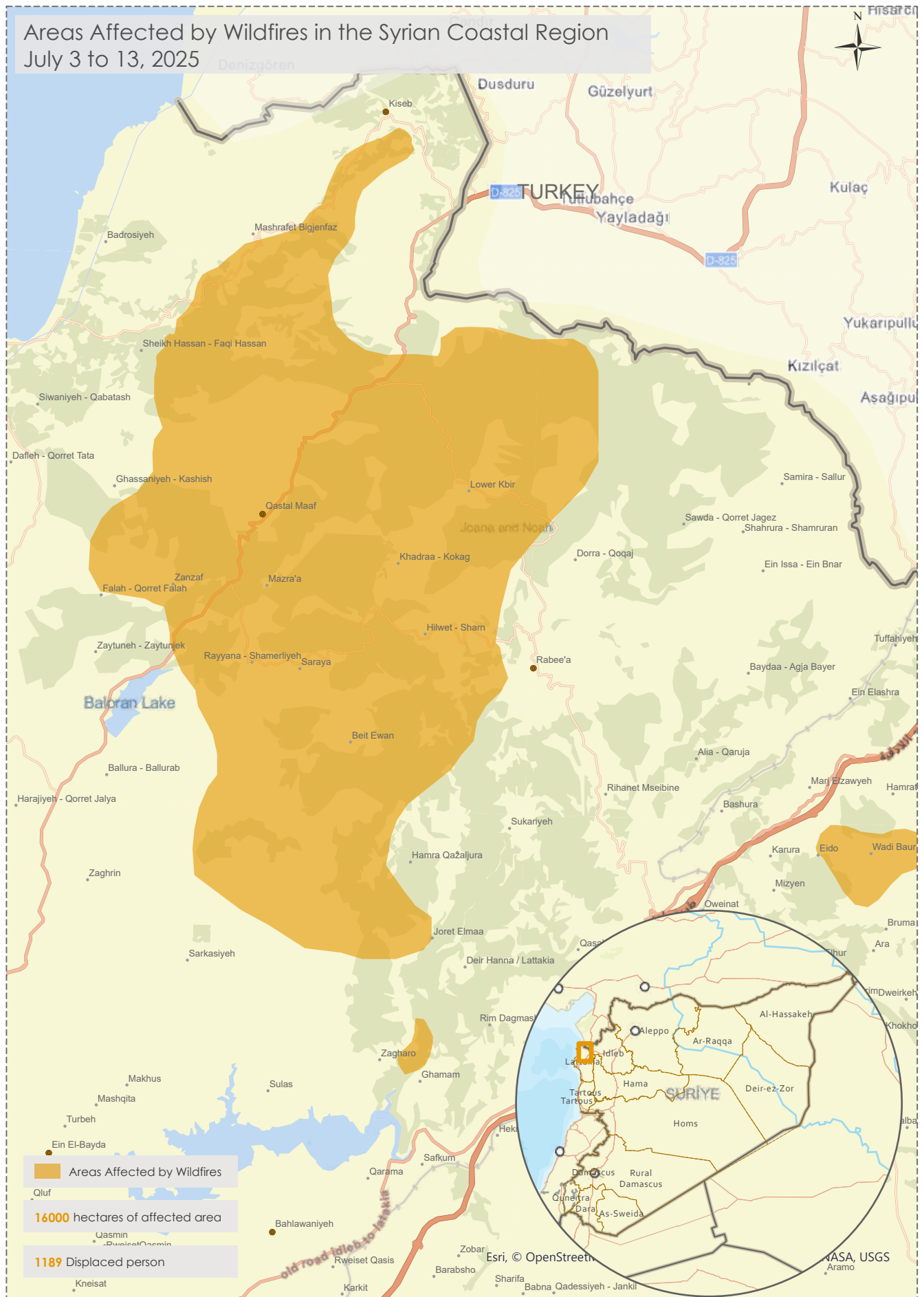
Humanitarian Impact

Fires forced mass evacuations, with approximately 2,760 displacement and return movements recorded in affected villages. While many residents have returned after partial containment, others remain displaced due to ongoing threats.

The chart below illustrates displacement trends (July 11–4), by village of origin.



The map below shows the most affected zones in northern Latakia.



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Mine and UXO Risk Management

- Deploy teams to identify and safely remove unexploded ordnance (UXO).
- Mark and map hazardous zones to prevent injuries.
- Integrate demining with forest recovery projects.

2. Community Engagement and Support

- Provide aid to displaced families.
- Support recovery for farmers and residents who suffered losses.
- Educate communities on fire prevention and UXO risks.

3. Post-Fire Environmental Rehabilitation

- Launch immediate reforestation campaigns in affected areas with native, fire-resilient species.
- Collaborate with environmental organizations for long-term forest restoration plans.

4. Wildlife Protection and Monitoring

- Conduct assessments to evaluate the impact on wildlife populations.

5. Strengthening Firefighting Infrastructure

- Invest in early warning systems .
- Train local brigades, especially in remote areas.
- Create strategic access routes and water points in forests.

6. Policy and Legal Framework Enhancement

- Review forestry and disaster laws for climate resilience.
- Enforce stricter rules on fire-related risk behaviors.