

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN SOUTHERN SYRIA (AS-SWEIDA & DAR'A)

26 JULY 2025



Overview

The governorates of **As-Sweida** and **Dar'a**, , are facing a rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation as a result of the military escalation that erupted in mid-July 2025, particularly in As-Sweida . The recent wave of violence has triggered massive internal displacement, alongside a significant collapse in basic services and severe pressure on the health sector.

As of July 21st, a tense ceasefire has been in place across most conflict fronts, although violations continue—particularly in the northern and western countryside of As-Sweida . While humanitarian aid convoys carrying food, medical supplies, flour, and water have been able to access Suwayda (on July 20th) and Dar'a (on July 23rd) via the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), and although several humanitarian partners (including **IRVD**) have initiated responses in medical care, mental health, psychosocial support, protection, and food distribution—urgent needs persist, especially in the areas of health, food security, and shelter.

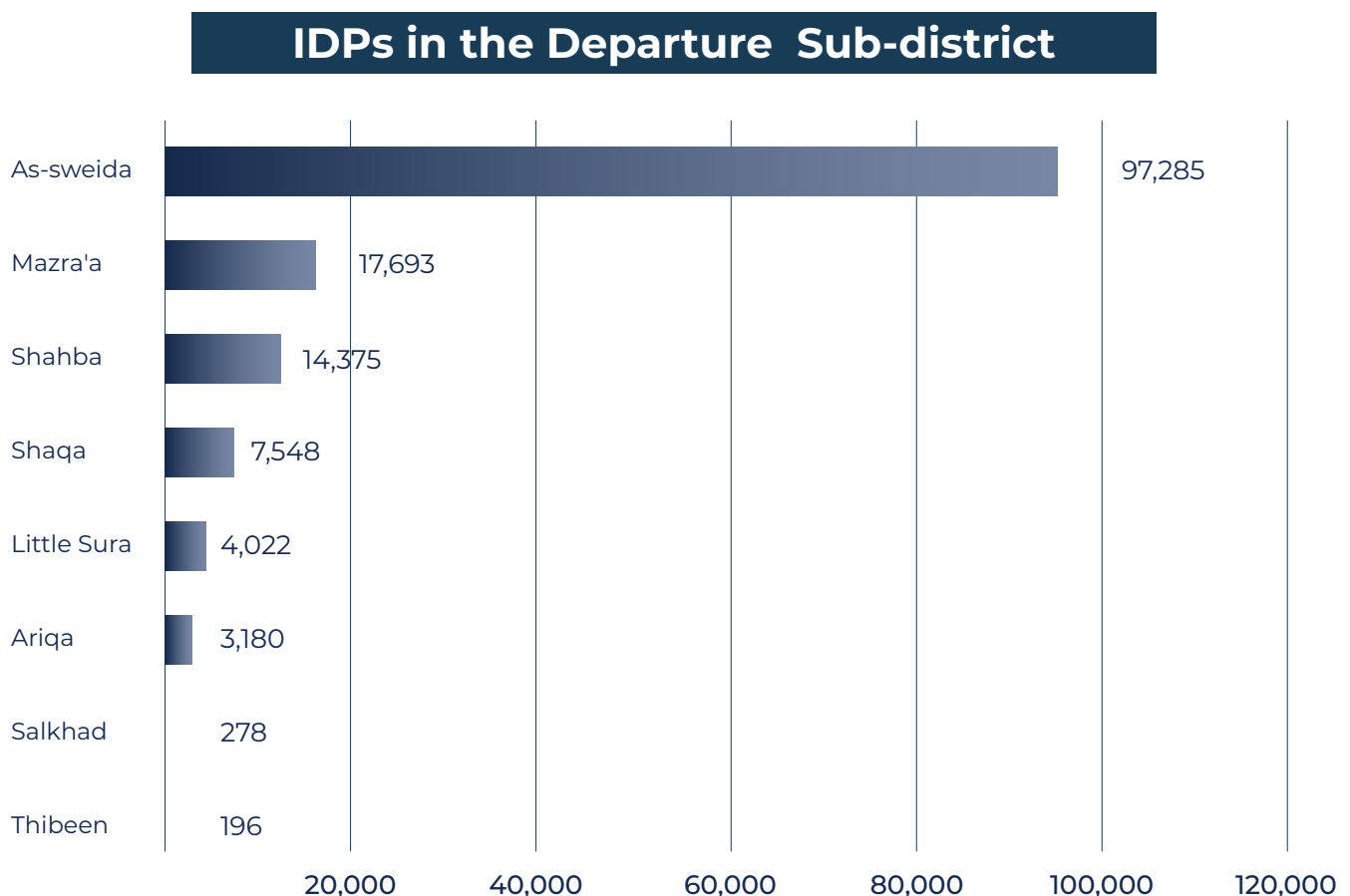


Emergency aid distribution carried out by the IRVD team in Karak, Um Walad, and Al-Massifra reception centers – Daraa 22-20 July 2025

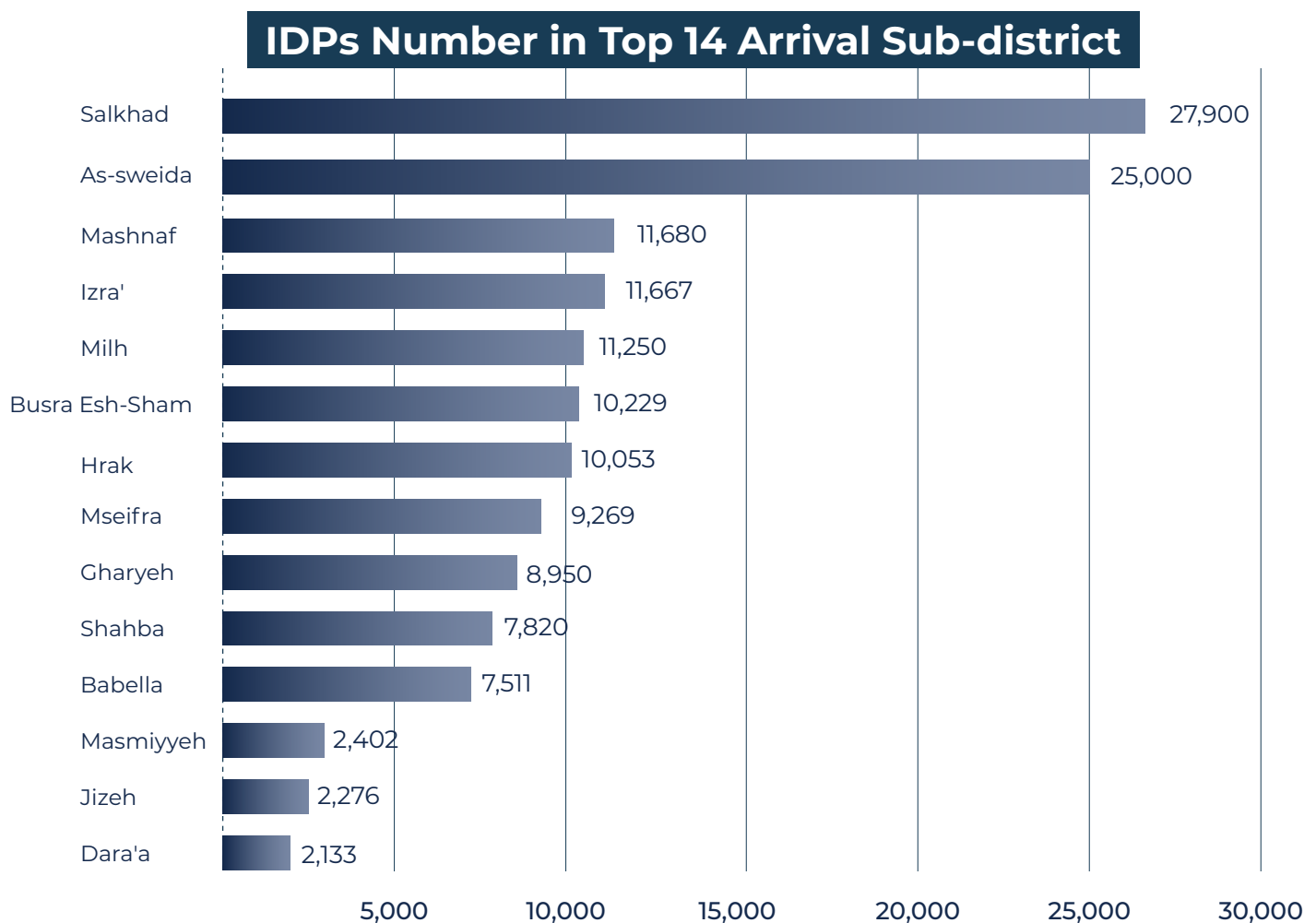
Displacement Figures

From July 13th to 26th, a **total of 154,900 people** have been displaced:

- **As-Sweida Governorate:** ~94,000 IDPs, mostly concentrated in the northern, western, and central sub-districts.
- **Dar'a Governorate:** ~51,700 IDPs, residing with host families, in tents, or within 80 collective shelters:
 - **64 shelters** distributed across **34 communities in Dar'a**, hosting approximately **25,000 individuals**.
 - **16 shelters** located in **Sayyida Zainab (Rural Damascus)**, hosting an estimated **7,000 IDPs**.

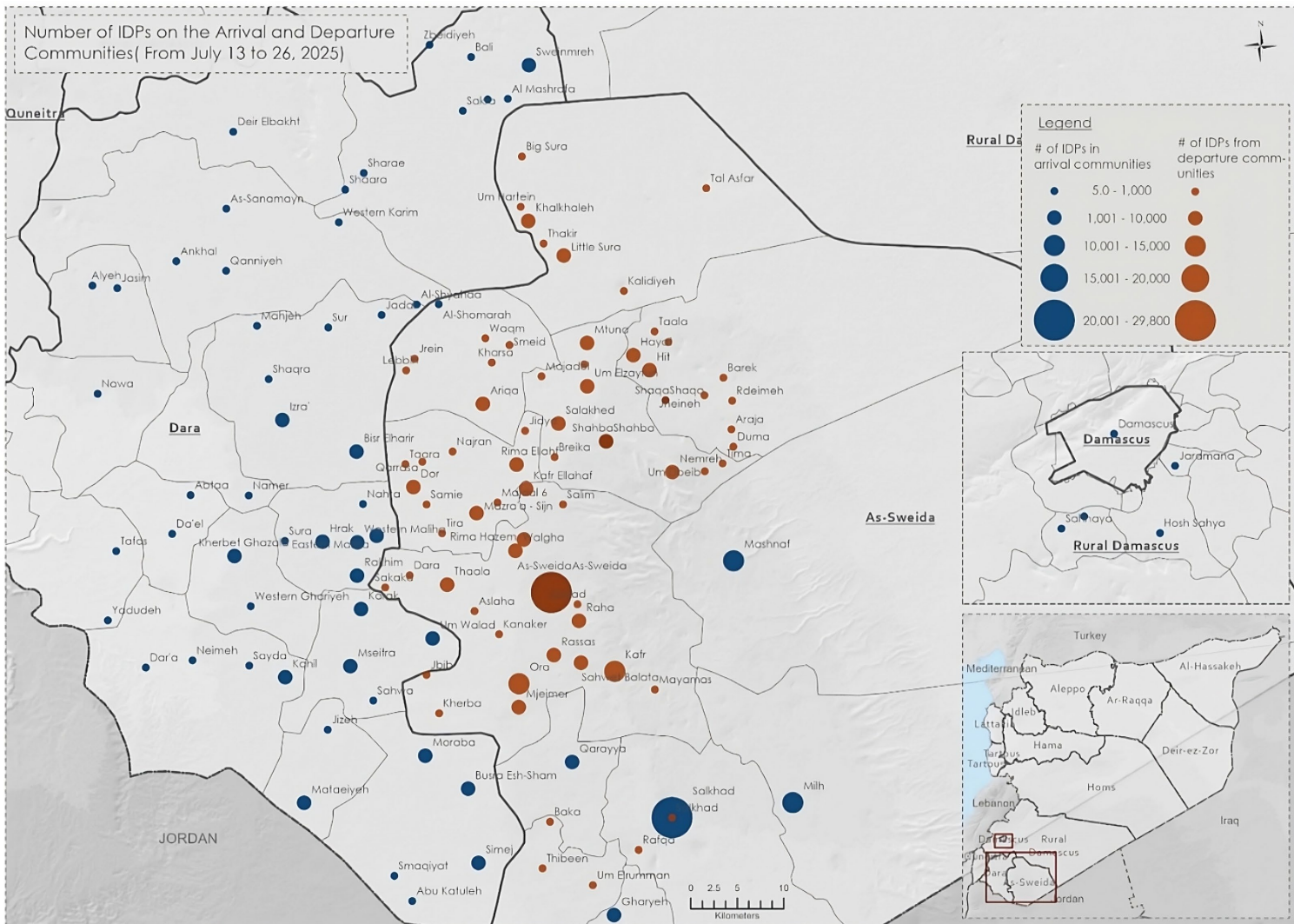


The chart above illustrates the primary sub-districts of origin for IDPs during the latest wave of conflict in As-Sweida Governorate. The overwhelming majority **over 97,000 IDPs** fled from **As-Sweida sub-district**, which has been at the center of the violence. Other significant departure sub-districts include **Mazra'a (17,693)**, **Shahba (14,375)**, and **Shaqa (7,548)**.



The chart above illustrates the distribution of internally displaced persons (IDPs) across the top 14 arrival sub-districts in southern Syria as of July 26. The highest concentrations of IDPs are recorded in Salkhad (27,900) and As-Sweida (25,050), followed by Mashnaf, Izra', and Milh, each hosting more than 11,000 individuals.

The map below illustrates the distribution of IDPs by arrival and departure communities



Needs in Dar'a Collective Shelters

1- Food & Shelter

- Immediate food assistance: regular provision of dry food parcels, cooked meals, canned food, and bread.
- Shelter kits: mattresses, blankets, bedding items especially for newly arrived families.
- Shelter expansion: urgent need to establish new centers due to overcrowding

2- Health & Protection

- Primary healthcare: mobile medical teams, essential medicines, and care for elderly and chronically ill.
- Emergency medications: especially insulin, painkillers, and antibiotics.
- Mental health & psychosocial support services (MHPSS).
- Special needs for women and children:
 - o Infant formula, diapers.
 - o Hygiene kits for women and girls.
 - o Psychosocial counseling services.



IRVD PSS team provides support to IDPs at a reception center in Im Waled community in Dar'a, 22 July 2025

3. Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

- Water tanks: for urgent access to clean water in underserved areas.
- Emergency latrine units: gender-separated, suitable for large populations.
- Hygiene kits: soap, disinfectants, sanitary pads, personal washing supplies.

4. Basic Infrastructure & Services

- Lighting equipment: batteries, solar panels, and LED lamps to address power outages.
- Communal cooking equipment: stoves and gas cylinders.
- Clothing and privacy partitions (especially for tents).
- Waste disposal bins: for public health and hygiene.

Note: Food remains the most universally reported and urgent need across all shelters.



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Needs in As-Sweida Governorate

In contrast to Dar'a, **no formal collective shelters** have been established in As-Sweida . Displaced families are relying on **informal arrangements** such as staying with relatives or squatting in public buildings (schools, unfinished or government structures). These options are often unsafe and lack basic services.

1- Shelter

- No functioning shelter facilities are available.
- There is an urgent need to establish temporary reception centers with basic services, particularly in safer neighborhoods.

2- Food Security

- There is a **severe shortage of basic commodities**, accompanied by a **sharp rise in prices** across As-Suwayda Governorate. In addition, **most bakeries have ceased operations**, leaving thousands without access to bread or daily staples. Without the **immediate delivery of food assistance**, the situation is expected to **further deteriorate** in the coming days, potentially escalating into a full-scale food crisis.

3. Water and Sanitation

- Widespread outages in water supply due to the halt in well operations (linked to power cuts).
- Urgent need to provide water tanks and emergency water trucking.

4- Health Sector

- Despite temporary relief from aid deliveries, medical needs remain high and continue to increase.
- Acute shortages in medicines, especially for chronic illnesses (diabetes, Parkinson's), and a lack of emergency supplies.
- Dialysis patients face a critical situation, as only one dialysis machine operates in Salakhid hospital for multiple patients.

5- Children and Elderly Supplies

- Shortages in infant formula, baby and adult diapers, and age-specific hygiene supplies.
- Increased vulnerability among children and older adults due to poor access to specialized care.

6- Electricity and Energy

- Complete collapse of the power grid has disabled hospitals, schools, and water systems.
- Urgent action is needed to restore electricity or deploy alternative energy sources.

7- Telecommunications

- Weak or non-existent communication networks (mobile/internet) hinder emergency coordination and humanitarian access.



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RECOMMENDATIONS

1- Open Safe Humanitarian Corridors

Establish secure and neutral humanitarian access points for regular delivery of assistance into As-Sweida , particularly into underserved neighborhoods and high-density IDP zones.

2- Scale Up Multi-sectoral Response

Urgently scale up interventions in health, food security, WASH, protection, and shelter, with emphasis on mobile teams.

3- Establish Reception Centers in As-Sweida

Prioritize setting up temporary, fully serviced shelters in As-Sweida for displaced families currently living in unsafe or inadequate locations.