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Protection Association - Alameen

PROTECTION NEEDS AND **SERVICE ENGAGEMENT**

OF DISPLACED AND RETURNEE POPULATIONS



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Table of Contents

Disclaimer	5
Weblinks	5
Methodology	6
KEY FINDINGS	7
HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD	21
CLASSIFICATION OF INTERVIEWED IDPS	24
FACTORS INFLUENCING THE RETURN OF IDPS TO PLACE OF ORIGIN	25
SUPPORT ENCOURAGING HOUSEHOLD TO RETURN	27
RETURN OF IDPS FAMILY MEMBERS AND NEIGHBORS TO PLACE OF ORIGIN	30
IDENTIFYING RETURN OF IDPS FAMILY MEMBERS AND NEIGHBORS	31
INTENT TO RETURN BY RESOLVING KEY OBSTACLES WITHIN SIX MONTHS	32
IMPACT OF UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE ON FAMILY RETURN: PRESENCE IN AREA OF ORIGIN	33
INCIDENTS OF UXO-RELATED ACTIVITY IN AREAS OF ORIGIN OVER PAST SIX MONTHS	34
CHILDREN AFFECTED BY UXO-RELATED INCIDENTS	35
TYPE OF IMPACT ON INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED BY UXO-RELATED:	36
PRESENCE OF PROTECTION CONCERNS PREVENTING THE RETURN OF IDPS	38
TYPE OF PROTECTION CONCERNS PREVENTING THE RETURN OF IDPS	39
DISPLACED INDIVIDUALS RETURNED	43
RETURNEES TYPE OF SHELTER CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY HOUSEHOLD	44
FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO RETURN DECISION	46
URGENT HOUSEHOLD NEEDS FOLLOWING RETURN	48
POST-RETURN CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED BY RETURNEES	50
PERCEPTION OF SAFETY IN AREAS OF RETURN	52
PRESENCE OF PROTECTION RISKS IN RETURN AREAS	53
TYPE OF RISK ASSOCIATED WITH RETURN AREA	54
INCIDENTS OF UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE (UXO) ON RETURN SITES OVER PAST SIX MONTHS	56
CHILDREN AFFECTED BY INCIDENTS OF UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE ON RETURN SITES OVER PAST SIX MONTHS	57
ASSESSMENT OF IMMEDIATE EFFECTS AND LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES ON RETURNEES: IMPACT NATURE ..	58
RETURN OF MINORS WITH THEIR FAMILIES INTO AREAS OF ORIGIN	59
RETURN OF CHILDREN TO EDUCATION FOLLOWING DISPLACEMENT: ENROLLMENT STATUS	60
REASONS FOR NON-ENROLLMENT IN EDUCATION AFTER RETURN	62
THREATS AND HARASSMENT AT RETURN SITES	64
ENGAGEMENT BY PROTECTION SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS	66
PROTECTION NEEDS OF THE FAMILY	67
RECOMMENDATION	69

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Methodology

This assessment aims to provide a robust evidence base on the protection needs, return intentions, and service access of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees across the Syrian Arab Republic. The primary objective is to inform strategic planning, protection-sensitive programming, and durable solutions by offering a comprehensive understanding of the factors shaping return decisions, current vulnerabilities, and engagement with essential services. The findings are intended to support humanitarian actors in aligning their interventions with the evolving needs of displaced and returning populations, while ensuring that protection and dignity remain at the center of the response.

The survey was conducted in early July 2025 and covered all 14 governorates of the Syrian Arab Republic. A total of 4,000 households were interviewed, including approximately 2,500 IDP households and 1,500 returnee households. The sample was designed to be statistically representative of the national displaced population, estimated at 7.4 million IDPs and 1.4 million returnees in 2025. A stratified sampling approach was adopted, with proportional allocation based on recent population estimates and humanitarian presence. Multi-stage cluster sampling was applied to ensure wide geographic and demographic representation, including both IDPs inside the camps and IDPs out of the camps.

In addition to ensuring population group representativeness, the gender of the head of household was integrated as a key consideration. Approximately 20% of surveyed households were female-headed, allowing for the analysis of gendered patterns of vulnerability, protection risks, and service access across both IDP and returnee groups.

Data collection was carried out by trained field teams using a structured household questionnaire developed jointly by the Programmes Department, the IDP Task Force (IDPTF), and the Protection Sector. The tool was designed to capture a range of indicators, including displacement history, return intentions, protection risks, shelter status, access to services, and household-level vulnerabilities. Enumerators were trained on ethical data collection procedures, including informed consent, confidentiality, and appropriate referrals for cases requiring protection intervention. Daily data verification and centralized review were conducted to ensure completeness and accuracy throughout the process.

The data was analyzed using descriptive and disaggregated statistical methods to highlight differences by displacement status, governorate, and gender of head of household. Relationships between protection concerns, service access, and the likelihood of return were also explored. Contextual triangulation with secondary data and partner inputs enhanced the depth and reliability of the findings. Access challenges in areas affected by insecurity or restricted humanitarian presence may have limited physical access to some communities. In such cases, proxy enumeration or remote data collection methods were employed in consultation with local partners.

While every effort was made to ensure full national coverage, these constraints may have introduced minor data gaps. Nonetheless, the sample remains sufficiently robust to provide generalizable insights into the displacement and return landscape across the Syrian Arab Republic.

KEY FINDINGS

- ❖ The demographic profile by gender of the head of household reveals that, at the national level, approximately 80% of households are headed by males, while around 20% are headed by females. This gender distribution remains relatively consistent across most governorates, with notable exceptions in As-Sweida, Damascus, and Quneitra, where nearly all households reported male heads. Some governorates, such as Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hasakeh, and Lattakia, show slightly higher proportions of female-headed households, ranging between 26% and 30%. Population group analysis indicates that internally displaced persons (IDPs) have a slightly higher share of female-headed households (24%) compared to returnees (18%). These findings underscore the continued predominance of male-headed households across Syria, though regional disparities suggest potential vulnerabilities among female-headed households in specific areas. Humanitarian actors should consider these variations when designing protection and livelihood programs, with a focus on strengthening support mechanisms for female-headed households, particularly in displacement-affected communities.
- ❖ The analysis of the classification of interviewed IDPs indicates that the majority approximately 75% reside inside IDP sites, while around 25% live outside such sites. However, this overall distribution masks significant regional disparities. Governorates such as Ar-Raqqa, As-Sweida, Damascus, Dar'a, Quneitra, and Tartous reported nearly universal residence of IDPs within camps or collective sites, with figures reaching close to or exactly 100%. In contrast, Al-Hasakeh presents an opposite pattern, with 94% of IDPs residing outside the sites. Other regions such as Lattakia and Idleb show a more balanced distribution, with 62% and 71% respectively residing inside sites and the remainder outside. Notably, Rural Damascus also reflects a mixed situation, with 70% of IDPs residing in camps and about 30% outside.

- ❖ These variations highlight differing displacement dynamics and local absorption capacities. Given these disparities, humanitarian actors should tailor responses to the living situations of IDPs at the governorate level. In areas with high concentrations in IDP sites, the focus should be on improving camp infrastructure, service delivery, and protection mechanisms. Meanwhile, in locations where a significant portion of IDPs live outside of sites often in urban or rural host communities there is a need to strengthen community-based support, housing assistance, and access to essential services. Strategic planning and flexible programming are essential to ensure that both populations receive equitable and context-appropriate assistance.

- ❖ The factors influencing the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their places of origin reveals several predominant challenges. Destruction or severe damage to housing emerges as the most significant barrier, cited by approximately one quarter of households overall, with this concern reaching 100% in certain governorates such as As-Sweida, Quneitra, and Tartous. Lack of basic services including water, electricity, education, and health and insufficient livelihood opportunities in areas of origin are also prominent impediments, affecting roughly 15–16% of households on average. Other notable obstacles include lack of transportation or financial means to return, presence of explosive ordnance, insecurity or fear of violence, legal or property disputes, social tensions, and restrictions due to area control or accessibility. Regional disparities are evident; for example, Al-Hasakeh reports high levels of social tensions and control by different authorities, while governorates such as Aleppo and Deir-ez-Zor emphasize housing destruction and safety concerns. Additionally, some displaced populations highlight better services or support in their current locations as a factor deterring return. These findings underscore a complex interplay of physical, security, socio-economic, and legal challenges that collectively inhibit sustainable return processes. Given the multifaceted nature of these barriers, humanitarian actors and decision-makers should adopt integrated strategies that prioritize rehabilitation of housing and infrastructure, restoration of basic services, and livelihood support in areas of origin. Addressing legal and property rights, enhancing security measures, and facilitating safe, affordable transportation are equally critical. Tailored interventions responsive to regional specificities will be essential to enable safe and voluntary returns while ensuring durable solutions for displaced populations.

- ❖ The support measures encouraging households to return highlight that shelter repair and housing support are the most frequently identified needs, followed closely by livelihood or income support and restoration of basic services. Clearance of explosive ordnance and transportation assistance also emerged as significant factors, with security guarantees and legal aid for documentation or property cited to a lesser extent. Notable regional differences are evident, with governorates such as Aleppo and Ar-Raqqa emphasizing shelter repair and livelihood support, while Al-Hasakeh prioritizes security guarantees. Other areas like As-Sweida and Quneitra show balanced importance across shelter, services, and security needs. These patterns underline the complex and multifaceted nature of return support, reflecting varying local conditions and challenges. For decision-makers and humanitarian actors, this indicates an urgent need for integrated interventions that combine shelter rehabilitation, economic recovery programs, service restoration, and security measures tailored to regional contexts to effectively facilitate safe and sustainable returns.

- ❖ The analysis of family members and neighbors returning to their places of origin across Syria reveals significant regional disparities. Nationally, approximately 61% of interviewed IDP households reported that family members or neighbors have returned, while around 31% indicated no returns, and 8% were uncertain. Governorates such as Ar-Raqqa, As-Sweida, Quneitra, and Tartous reported near-universal returns, contrasting sharply with areas like Al-Hasakeh and Aleppo, where a majority of interviewed IDPs noted no return activity. Other regions, including Damascus, Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Idleb, Latakia, and rural Damascus, demonstrated varying degrees of return, generally favoring positive trends but with notable minorities reporting no returns or uncertainty. Among internally displaced persons, the pattern closely reflects the national average. These findings underscore the complex and uneven nature of return dynamics across Syria, highlighting the need for tailored humanitarian strategies. Decision-makers and stakeholders should prioritize addressing barriers in low-return areas, support reintegration efforts where returns are occurring, and consider localized security, infrastructure, and livelihood interventions to facilitate sustainable return processes.

- ❖ The analysis of returned individuals across Syria indicates that, on average, about half of household members have returned, with 52% of interviewed IDP households in displacement sites reporting this, while 31% noted the majority of members had returned, and 17% identified only the head of household as returned. Regional differences are notable: governorates like As-Sweida and Quneitra show a high proportion of majority or head-only returns to their area of origin, respectively, whereas areas such as Ar-Raqqa and Homs report a stronger trend of half household members returning. Other governorates, including Aleppo and Deir-ez-Zor, present more varied patterns with a mix of half, majority, and head-only returns. These disparities highlight the complexity of return dynamics across regions, underscoring the need for tailored humanitarian strategies that address specific community compositions and support mechanisms to facilitate fuller family reunifications and sustainable returns. Decision-makers and stakeholders should prioritize interventions that promote comprehensive household returns and strengthen support for those with partial returns, ensuring resources are allocated according to regional needs and family structures.
- ❖ A strong intent to return among IDP households across Syria, with approximately 95% expressing willingness to return within six months if key obstacles are resolved. This positive outlook is consistent across most governorates, with near or full majorities affirming intent to return, such as Aleppo at 97%, Ar-Raqqa and As-Sweida at 100%, and similarly high levels in Damascus, Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Homs, Quneitra, and Tartous. Some variation exists in areas like Al-Hasakeh and Lattakia, where the proportion of households unsure about returning rises to 19% and 23%, respectively. These regional differences highlight areas where uncertainty persists and targeted efforts may be needed to address specific concerns. For humanitarian actors and decision-makers, these results underscore the urgency of removing barriers to return, emphasizing tailored interventions that focus on overcoming obstacles related to security, infrastructure, and basic services. Prioritizing such efforts will support durable returns and improve conditions for displaced populations eager to rebuild their lives.
- ❖ The analysis of the impact of unexploded ordnance (UXO) presence in areas of origin on family return reveals a mixed but critical pattern across Syria. Nationally, about 54% of IDP households reported UXO presence as a barrier to return, while 46% indicated no such presence. Significant regional variations are evident: Aleppo reflects an even split with 54% affirming UXO presence, whereas Al-Hasakeh and Quneitra report overwhelmingly no UXO impact, at 91% and 100% respectively.

Conversely, in Ar-Raqqa and As-Sweida, all interviewed IDP households confirmed the presence of UXO in their areas of origin, posing a major obstacle to the safe return of displaced families. IDPs in Damascus and Rural Damascus reported high percentages (close to 100% and 93%, respectively) indicating no UXO presence in their areas of origin, suggesting safer conditions for return. Other governorates such as Hama, Idleb, and Homs report a majority acknowledging UXO presence, ranging from 61% to 84%, while Dar'a and Deir-ez-Zor display more divided responses. Among internally displaced persons, 54% noted UXO presence as a return obstacle, aligning with the overall findings. These disparities underscore the urgent need for targeted clearance operations, risk education, and safety measures in affected regions to facilitate safe and sustainable returns. Humanitarian actors and decision-makers must prioritize UXO removal and community awareness in high-impact areas to mitigate this critical barrier to family return.

- ❖ The widespread presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO) incidents across Syria over the past six months, with approximately 81% of interviewed IDP households reported the presence of UXO-related incidents in area of origin, while 19% reported no incidents. Significant regional variations emerge, with IDPs in governorates like Aleppo, Dar'a, Hama, Homs, Idleb, rural Damascus, Lattakia, and Tartous reporting high levels of UXO activity in their area of origin often exceeding 80% and Lattakia and Tartous approaching complete prevalence. In contrast, IDPs in Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa report lower or mixed levels, with a majority in Al-Hasakeh indicating no recent UXO activity in their area of origin and around two-thirds of households in Ar-Raqqa reporting none. Notably, As-Sweida stands out with 100% of interviewed IDP households affirming UXO presence in the area of origin. Internally displaced persons' households reflect the national pattern, with 81% acknowledging UXO incidents in their areas of origin. This finding highlights the persistent threat UXO poses to community safety and return efforts, emphasizing the necessity for regionally tailored interventions.
- ❖ Approximately 57% of the interviewed IDP households reported that children in their areas of origin had been affected by incidents related to unexploded ordnance (UXO), while 43% indicated otherwise, highlighting a significant concern. Regional variations are notable; for instance, governorates like Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, and As-Sweida reported nearly 100% of interviewed IDP households indicating no children affected at their areas of origin, whereas governorates such as Idleb and Deir-ez-Zor showed higher percentages of

affected children at the areas of origin, at around 70% and 71% respectively. Aleppo and Dar'a present nearly balanced responses, while the interviewed IDP households in Tartous reported a full 100% affirmation of children affected in their areas of origin. These disparities suggest localized risks and vulnerabilities that require tailored interventions. For humanitarian actors and decision-makers, these findings emphasize the urgent need for targeted child protection measures, prioritizing regions with higher reported impacts and ensuring resources are allocated to mitigate risks and support affected children and their families effectively.

- ❖ A concerning impact of incidents across Syria, with 43% of the interviewed IDP households reporting permanent disability, 37% indicating minor injuries, and 20% identifying death as a consequence. Significant regional variations were observed, with governorates like Hama and Homs showing high levels of permanent disability, while areas like rural Damascus and Tartous reported near-universal agreement on minor injuries. These findings underscore the urgent need for tailored interventions focusing on long-term disability care and rehabilitation, particularly in regions with higher rates of permanent injury and death, to address the ongoing health and psychosocial needs of affected populations.
- ❖ A significant barrier to return across Syria, with 59% of the interviewed IDP households reporting that these concerns prevent return, while 41% disagree. Regional disparities are evident, with Al-Hasakeh and As-Sweida showing high percentages of households (over 90%) affirming concerns about return, while in areas like Damascus and Quneitra, nearly all households reported no protection concerns. Governorates such as Hama, Homs, and Dar'a show a mixed response, with around 50% of households concerned. These protection concerns, particularly in areas with the highest percentages of affected households, and ensure that returnees are supported with adequate security and protection measures.
- ❖ The key protection concerns preventing return, with significant regional variations across Syria. The presence of unexploded ordnance or landmines is a primary concern, cited by around 30% of IDP households nationally, while fear of arrest or detention upon return affects approximately 12%. Other critical issues include threats or discrimination due to previous affiliations, community rejection, and gender-based violence, which are prevalent in areas such as Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, and Dar'a. In Al-Hasakeh, 28% of households reported fear of arrest, while in As-Sweida, 100% indicated the presence of unexploded ordnance. Ar-Raqqa and Hama showed high rates of challenges accessing humanitarian assistance, with 25% of households affected. These findings underscore urgent needs for demining efforts, legal protection services, and support to mitigate gender-based violence and discrimination. Humanitarian

actors should prioritize areas with high risks of arrest or community conflict and address protection concerns that hinder safe returns, particularly in governorates like Al-Hasakeh and As-Sweida.

- ❖ The survey results on displaced individuals who have returned indicate that the majority of households across various governorates report the return of all household members, with notable regional variations. In areas like Aleppo and Ar-Raqqa, around 70-80% of households stated that all members had returned, whereas regions such as Dar'a and rural Damascus saw more reports of only half or a few members returning. Al-Hasakeh and As-Sweida stand out for having nearly all households reporting the return of majority or all members. The data also shows that in some regions, like Dar'a and rural Damascus, a significant portion of households indicate that only the head of the household has returned. The findings highlight regional disparities in displacement and return patterns, pointing to variations in security conditions, economic opportunities, and local policies.

For decision-makers and humanitarian actors, this underscores the need for targeted interventions based on return dynamics, such as ensuring the protection and reintegration of households, particularly in areas with partial returns. Additionally, there is a need to address the challenges faced by households that have not yet been fully reintegrated, with a focus on support for families in areas with less favorable conditions for return.

- ❖ The type of shelter currently occupied by returnee households reveals significant variation across different regions, highlighting ongoing challenges in the housing sector for displaced individuals. Nationally, approximately 35% of households reported residing in their original homes that are still partially damaged, with around 34% living in homes that are either undamaged or not yet repaired. A notable proportion, around 10%, indicated they are residing in homes that were fully destroyed but self-rebuilt. However, other shelter options such as rented accommodation (9%), being hosted by relatives or neighbors (6%), and unfinished buildings (4%) were also common. Regional disparities were evident, with some areas like As-Sweida reporting 100% of returnees living in unfinished buildings, while in Aleppo, 39% of households were in homes not damaged or repaired, and in Damascus, a substantial number (50%) had returned to homes that were undamaged. These figures underscore the need for targeted interventions to address the shelter needs of returnees, particularly in regions where housing conditions are still poor or temporary. Humanitarian actors should prioritize support for repairs and rebuilding efforts in these areas and ensure that vulnerable households have access to safe, adequate, and durable shelter solutions. Additionally, further attention is needed in providing housing alternatives and improving living conditions for returnees residing in rented accommodations or with host families, where long-term sustainability is a concern.

- ❖ The key factors influencing returnees' decisions across Syria, with improved security being the most significant factor, reported by around 43% of households overall. Livelihood opportunities and support from family or community were also prominent factors, cited by 16% and 15% of households, respectively. Humanitarian assistance, the reopening of services, and ownership of property or house reconstruction were less significant but still notable in certain regions. Regional variations are evident, with Aleppo, Homs, and rural Damascus showing high importance placed on security, while areas like Dar'a and Deir-ez-Zor highlight the role of family support and services in return decisions. The findings suggest that humanitarian actors should prioritize addressing security concerns and facilitating livelihood support, while also working on improving infrastructure and services in key return areas. Decision-makers should consider these factors when planning interventions, ensuring a focus on security, livelihood opportunities, and family support to encourage sustainable returns.
- ❖ The urgent household needs following return in Syria, with shelter rehabilitation, health services, and food assistance emerging as the primary concerns for households across the country. Notably, there are regional variations, with areas like Aleppo and Ar-Raqqa prioritizing shelter support, while others such as Al-Hasakeh and Damascus emphasize livelihood opportunities and access to clean water. The findings underscore significant challenges in addressing basic needs such as education, protection services, and legal support, particularly in rural areas. For humanitarian actors and decision-makers, these results highlight the need for targeted interventions in shelter repair, healthcare, food security, and water access, with a focus on vulnerable populations in high-need areas.
- ❖ The key post-return challenges for returnees in Syria, with limited job opportunities and damaged housing as the primary issues, affecting around 25% of households. Other concerns include lack of clean water, sanitation, and health services. Regional variations show areas like rural Damascus and Tartous facing significant housing damage, while Al-Hasakeh and Lattakia report high job scarcity. These findings underscore the urgent need for targeted interventions in housing, employment, and essential services to support returnees' reintegration.

- ❖ Returnees' perception of safety across areas of return indicates a nuanced and varied sense of security. Nationally, nearly half of the households (50%) reported feeling safe only sometimes, depending on the situation, while 46% affirmed they always feel safe. A small portion either preferred not to respond (3%) or reported feeling unsafe (1%). Regionally, significant disparities emerged: areas such as Al-Hasakeh, Homs, and As-Sweida reported overwhelmingly conditional feelings of safety, while governorates like Rural Damascus and Idleb exhibited a stronger sense of consistent security. Conversely, Hama and Deir-ez-Zor showed more mixed responses, including higher levels of uncertainty and discomfort. These findings suggest that while many returnees perceive partial or situational safety, a substantial proportion continue to live with uncertainty or risk. For humanitarian actors and decision-makers, this underscores the urgency of strengthening protective environments in return areas, with a particular focus on addressing community-level threats, rebuilding trust in local security structures, and ensuring targeted support in regions where confidence remains low.
- ❖ The reported protection risks in areas of return, particularly focusing on the presence of armed groups, gender-based violence, unexploded ordnance, and community threats. Nationally, the majority of households approximately 87% indicated that such risks were not present, while around 13% acknowledged their existence. However, notable regional disparities emerged. Most governorates, including Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Damascus, Hama, Homs, and Tartous, reported no presence of these risks. In contrast, Deir-ez-Zor revealed a concerning split, with nearly half of the respondents (47%) reporting the presence of protection threats. Similarly, slightly elevated concerns were noted in Idleb (14%), rural Damascus (11%), and Lattakia (8%), though these remained minority perceptions. Among returnees specifically, the pattern mirrored national trends, with 87% denying the presence of risks and 13% affirming them. Given these findings, humanitarian actors should maintain a vigilant focus on governorates such as Deir-ez-Zor, to a lesser extent, Idleb, rural Damascus, and Lattakia, where protection risks appear more pronounced. Further qualitative assessments and community-level protection monitoring are essential to understand the nature of reported threats, including potential gender-based violence or contamination by unexploded ordnance. Efforts should prioritize risk mitigation, mine action programs, community safety interventions, and targeted support to vulnerable populations to ensure that returns are both voluntary and safe.

- ❖ Unexploded ordnance or landmines are the most reported risks in return areas across Syria, cited by around 30% of returnee households. Other notable threats include gender-based violence, child exploitation, and community-level tensions. Deir-ez-Zor and Idleb show the highest diversity of protection concerns, while Lattakia and rural Damascus report nearly exclusive concern over landmines. These findings highlight the need for targeted demining operations, child protection, gender-based violence prevention, and improved access to legal and humanitarian services in high-risk areas.
- ❖ The report highlights that nearly 28% of interviewed returnee households across Syria reported incidents of unexploded ordnance on return sites within the past six months, indicating a significant ongoing safety concern for returnees. Regional variations are notable, with governorates such as Aleppo and Idleb showing higher incidences, around 21% and 60% respectively while areas like Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Damascus, Dar'a, and Tartous reported minimal to no incidents. Deir-ez-Zor also presents elevated risks, with about 63% of households confirming such incidents. These findings underscore the persistent threat posed by unexploded ordnance, which varies considerably by region but remains a critical barrier to safe returns. Given the prevalence and regional disparities in unexploded ordnance incidents, decision makers and humanitarian actors should prioritize clearance operations and risk education in high-risk areas, particularly in Idleb, Deir-ez-Zor, and Aleppo. Ensuring the safety of return sites is essential for enabling sustainable returns and protecting vulnerable populations from explosive hazards.
- ❖ The report highlights that children affected by incidents of unexploded ordnance (UXO) on return sites over the past six months remain a significant concern across Syria, with an average of 60% of households confirming such impact, while 40% reported no such incidents. Regionally, the prevalence varies considerably; Aleppo and Idleb show notably high percentages of affected children at approximately 69% and 65% respectively, whereas Ar-Raqqa, Homs, and Lattakia report minimal or no cases. In contrast, governorates like As-Sweida report nearly universal affirmation of children affected by UXO incidents, while Deir-ez-Zor and Al-Hasakeh display lower but still notable levels of impact. Rural Damascus presents a mixed scenario, with 44% of households acknowledging affected children. These findings underscore the urgent need for focused child protection measures and UXO risk education in high-impact areas. Decision-makers and humanitarian actors should prioritize clearance operations, community awareness, and specialized support services for children in affected regions to mitigate ongoing risks and safeguard vulnerable populations.

- ❖ The report presents a comprehensive assessment of the immediate effects and long-term consequences of incidents involving unexploded ordnance across Syria, emphasizing the nature of impacts on affected households. Nationally, approximately 40% of interviewed returnee households reported permanent disabilities, 34% cited deaths, and 26% indicated minor injuries resulting from these incidents. Regional variations are evident, with Aleppo showing a higher prevalence of permanent disability (46%) and deaths (28%), while Al-Hasakeh and As-Sweida reported nearly 100% incidence of permanent disability and death respectively. In Deir-ez-Zor, minor injuries were most common (58%), alongside notable percentages of permanent disability (33%) and deaths (8%). Hama exhibited an equal split between permanent disability and minor injuries (around 50% each). Idleb's figures highlighted 39% permanent disability, 37% deaths, and 24% minor injuries, whereas rural Damascus showed a predominance of deaths at 71%, with 29% permanent disability. These findings underscoring the urgent need for tailored medical, rehabilitation, and psychosocial support services, as well as targeted risk reduction and prevention efforts. Given these pressing issues, humanitarian actors and decision-makers should prioritize enhancing emergency response capacities, expanding long-term care for survivors, and strengthening community-based interventions focused on rehabilitation and trauma support. Integrating these efforts with mine action and clearance operations will be essential to mitigate ongoing risks and improve the safety and well-being of affected populations.
- ❖ The report focused on the issue of minors returning with their family members across Syria, revealing that nationally, approximately 79% of returnee households reported that minors accompanied them during their return, while around 21% reported otherwise. Regional variations are evident, with governorates such as Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, Idleb, rural Damascus, and Tartous reporting high minors returning rates ranging from 79% to nearly 100%. Conversely, areas like Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa exhibit more mixed outcomes, with returning rates closer to 54% and 58%, respectively, and substantial proportions of households indicating no returning for minors. Notably, Damascus and Dar'a both show an even split between returning and non-returning cases. These findings underscore the importance of prioritizing family tracing and reunification programs, particularly in governorates with lower rates of minors returning. Humanitarian actors and decision-makers should focus on strengthening protection mechanisms, psychosocial support.

- ❖ The status of children's return to education following displacement across Syria, revealing that, on average, about 67% of households reported children had resumed schooling, while approximately 33% indicated that children were not enrolled. Significant regional disparities were evident, with higher enrollment rates observed in governorates such as Aleppo (77%), Ar-Raqqa (81%), Homs (83%), rural Damascus (93%), and Tartous (75%). In contrast, areas including As-Sweida and Dar'a reported near-total non-enrollment, with close to 100% of households indicating children had not returned to school. Other governorates showed mixed outcomes: Damascus and Hama had nearly equal proportions of enrollment and non-enrollment, while Idleb recorded 60% non-enrollment. These variations highlight uneven access and barriers to education linked to displacement and local conditions. This pattern underscores persistent challenges in ensuring consistent educational access for displaced children across different regions. Given these findings, humanitarian actors and decision-makers must prioritize interventions aimed at increasing enrollment in low-performing areas by addressing obstacles such as damaged infrastructure, lack of resources, and social barriers. Strengthening education recovery programs, enhancing community outreach, and ensuring safe and inclusive learning environments are essential to support displaced children's educational reintegration and prevent long-term disruptions to their development and well-being.
- ❖ The report identifies several critical reasons for non-enrollment in education following return across Syria, with key challenges including damaged or unsafe school infrastructure (16%), shortages of teachers and educational staff (15%), and the absence of nearby or functioning schools (12%). Financial barriers such as high education costs or school supplies affect 11% of households, while child labor to support families (8%) and long absences from school (7%) further hinder enrollment. Additional factors include lack of educational documents, security concerns, early marriage, and lack of interest from children or parents. Significant regional variations emerge, such as higher concerns about school destruction and teacher shortages in Aleppo, predominant issues of lack of interest and other unspecified reasons in Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa, and pronounced financial and safety challenges in As-Sweida and Damascus. Rural Damascus reports a high proportion of unspecified reasons, and Tartous shows a unique pattern with lack of interest cited by nearly all households. These findings highlight the multifaceted barriers to education access, underscoring the need for targeted interventions focused on rebuilding educational infrastructure, addressing staff shortages, alleviating financial burdens, and improving community engagement and protection measures. Humanitarian actors and decision-makers should prioritize resource allocation to the most affected governorates and develop comprehensive strategies that

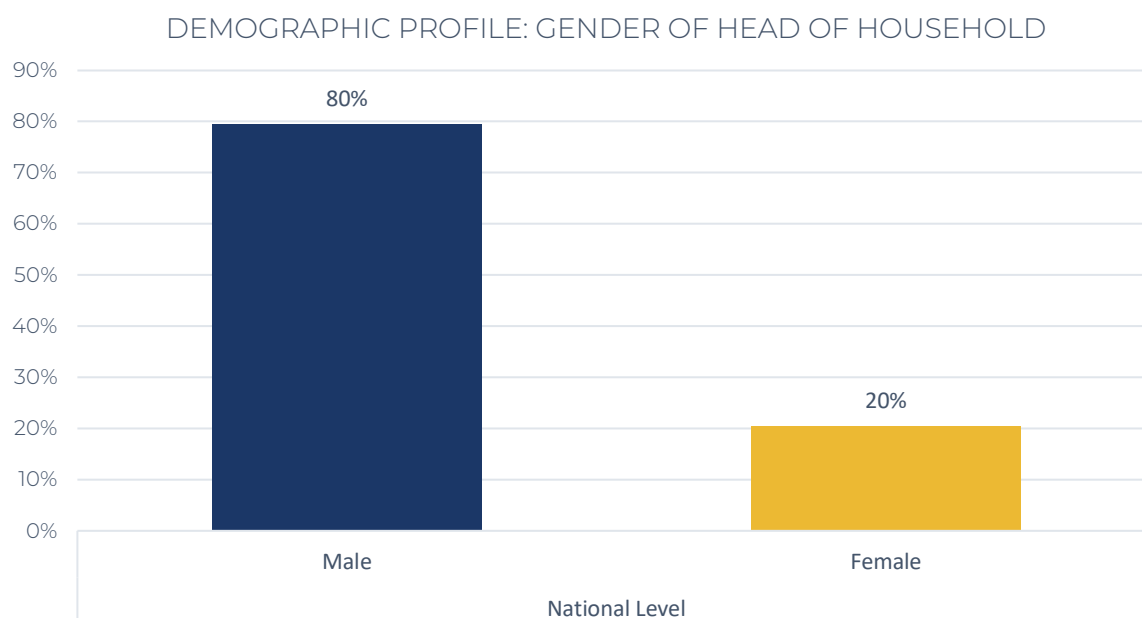
address both physical and socio-economic obstacles to facilitate sustainable school reintegration for returnee children.

- ❖ Threats and harassment at return sites across Syria reveal a predominantly secure environment, with nearly all households close to 100% in most governorates including Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, As-Sweida, Damascus, Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Latakia, rural Damascus, and Tartous reporting no such incidents. Slight exceptions are noted in Aleppo and Idleb, where about 1% of households indicated experiencing threats or harassment. This consistent trend across regions underscores a generally low prevalence of security concerns related to harassment at return sites. For humanitarian actors and decision-makers, these findings suggest that while continuous monitoring is necessary, immediate interventions may prioritize other critical needs. Targeted attention in governorates with minor reported cases could help maintain safe conditions and support ongoing return efforts.
- ❖ Nationally, around 58% of households reported being engaged by such organizations, while 42% indicated no engagement. At the governorate level, significant variation emerges. High levels of engagement were reported in Damascus, Quneitra, Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, and Tartous (ranging between 83% and 100%), suggesting strong operational coverage in these areas. In contrast, governorates like Homs and Rural Damascus recorded notably low engagement levels, with 81% and 63% of households respectively indicating no support from protection actors. Other regions such as Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, and As-Sweida reflected more balanced yet still concerning figures, with a sizable portion of households reporting limited or no interaction with protection services. Disaggregation by population group showed a similar trend: 60% of IDPs and 57% of returnees confirmed engagement, indicating gaps that persist across vulnerable categories.

- ❖ The protection needs across Syria indicates that approximately 80% of households identified a need for protection services, while 20% reported no such need. Significant regional variations emerged, with governorates like Damascus and Quneitra reporting nearly universal protection needs at 100%, and high levels also noted in Al-Hasakeh (92%), Ar-Raqqa (89%), and rural Damascus (97%). Conversely, areas such as As-Sweida showed a pronounced divide, with only 50% of households expressing protection needs. Similarly, Deir-ez-Zor, Lattakia, and Hama recorded lower levels of reported need, ranging between 53% and 65%. Disaggregated by population groups, 86% of returnee households reported protection needs, compared to 72% of IDPs, suggesting higher vulnerability among returnees in this regard. Given the widespread and regionally variable demand for protection services, particularly among returnees and in high-need areas like Al-Hasakeh and rural Damascus, humanitarian actors should prioritize scalable, locally responsive protection interventions. Stakeholders are encouraged to allocate resources accordingly, ensure comprehensive coverage in underserved regions, and tailor responses to meet the distinct needs of both returnees and IDPs.

HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE GENDER OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD



The overview of the gender distribution of heads of households across the assessed areas, highlighting significant trends at both national and sub-national levels. At the national level, the findings indicate that close to 80% of the surveyed households are headed by males, whereas, on average, 20% reported having a female head of household. This gender disparity is echoed across most governorates, though regional variations are evident. In Aleppo, approximately 73% of households reported male heads, while around 27% identified female heads. Similarly, in Al-Hasakeh, nearly 74% of respondents indicated male heads of household, compared to 26% who reported female heads. Ar-Raqqa showed a slightly more balanced distribution, with about 70% male and nearly 30% female-headed households.

In contrast, certain governorates reported a complete or near-complete dominance of male-headed households. In As-Sweida and Damascus, almost 100% of households indicated that the head is male. In Quneitra, this trend was also present, with nearly all surveyed households identifying a male head. Other areas showed varying levels of female representation. In Dar'a, approximately 85% of households reported a male head, while about 15% cited a female head. In Deir-ez-Zor, the share of male-headed households was around 87%, with roughly 13% being female-headed. Hama reflected a similar pattern, with 85% male and 15% female. In Homs, the proportion of male-headed households reached 89%, leaving 11% for female-headed ones. Idleb presented slightly more gender balance, with 82% male and around 18% female heads of household.

In Lattakia, the gender composition was 73% male and 27% female, showing one of the higher rates of female-headed households among governorates. In Rural Damascus, approximately 84% of households reported male heads, while around 16% reported female heads. Tartous followed a similar pattern, with nearly 83% of households headed by males and about 17% by females.

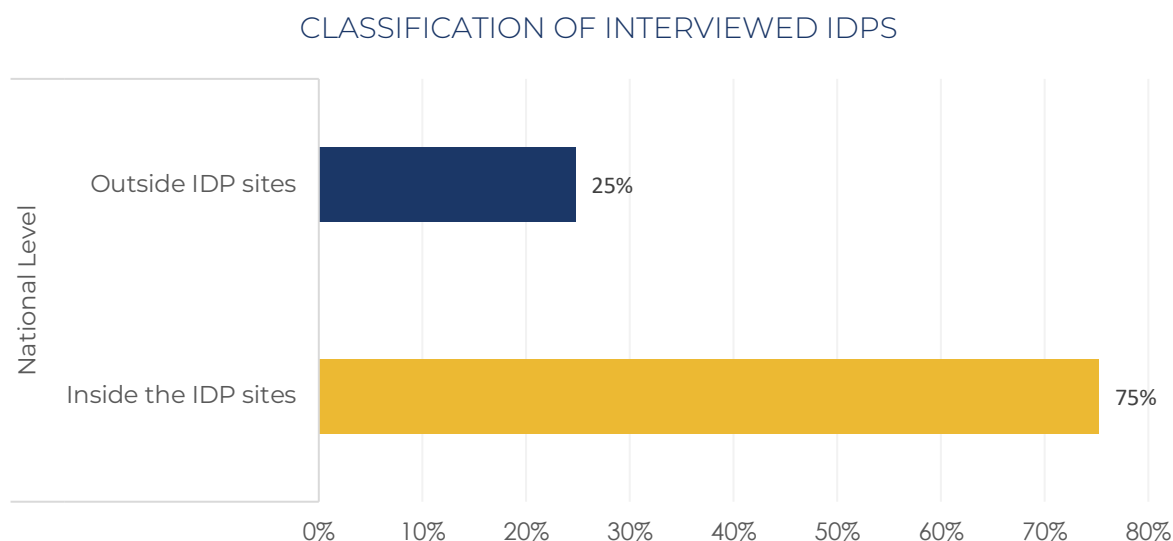
When analyzed by population group, the data reveals further insights. Among internally displaced persons (IDPs), around 76% of households reported a male head, while approximately 24% were female-headed. For returnee households, the proportion of male heads stood at nearly 82%, with close to 18% reporting female heads. These findings reflect the prevailing gender dynamics in household leadership and indicate that female-headed households, while a minority, are present across various regions and population categories. These variations should be taken into account by humanitarian stakeholders when designing inclusive interventions, ensuring that the specific needs and vulnerabilities of female-headed households are adequately addressed, particularly in areas with higher female representation.

(IDPs)

Internally Displaced Persons



CLASSIFICATION OF INTERVIEWED IDPS



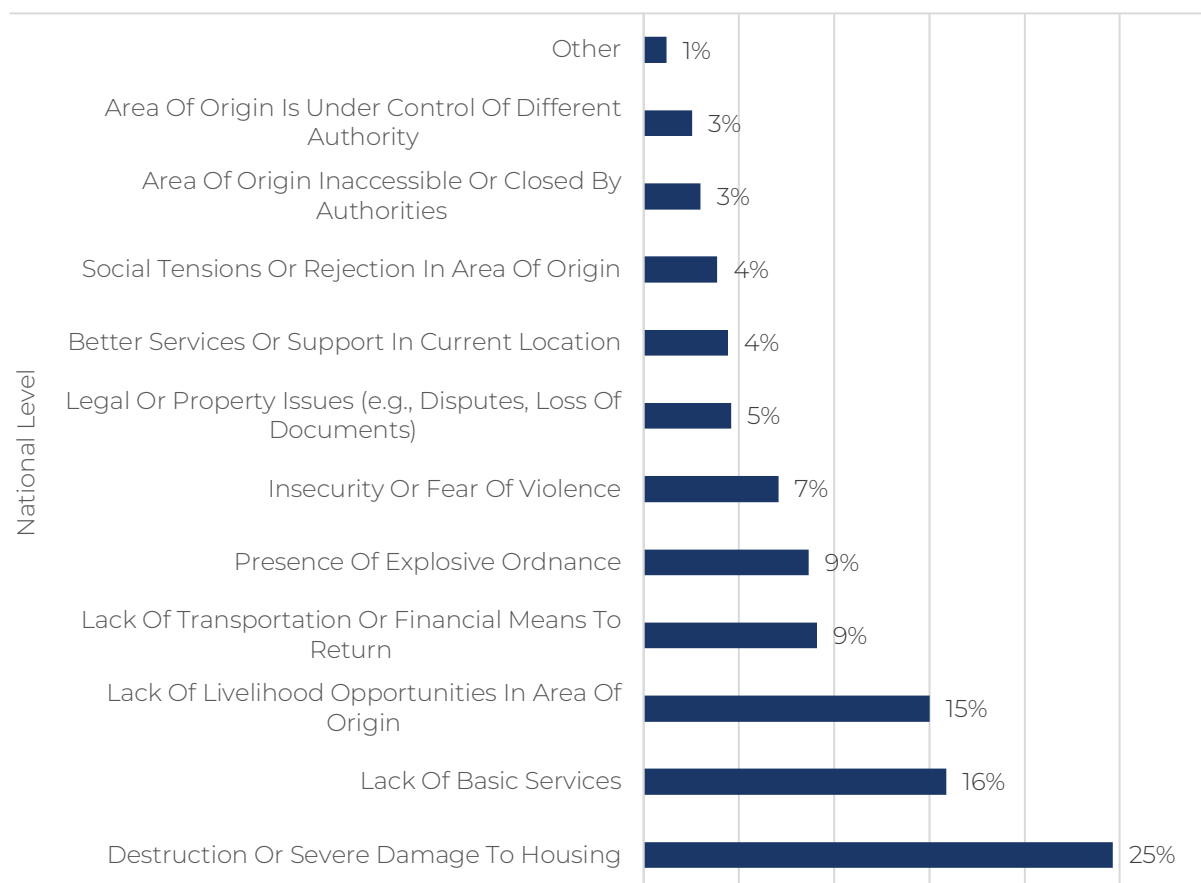
Overall, roughly three-quarters of the interviewed IDP households report living inside IDP sites. This headline figure, however, is almost entirely shaped by five governorates where camps and collective sites are present: Idleb, Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, and Al-Hasakeh. Within these areas, living arrangements vary, Idleb and Aleppo remain strongly camp-centric; Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor show a mixed pattern between in-site and out-of-site residence; while Al-Hasakeh leans more toward out-of-site living.

In all other governorates, As-Sweida, Damascus, Dar'a, Quneitra, Tartous, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, and Rural Damascus, all interviewed IDP households live outside camps. This points to displacement that is absorbed by host communities, private rentals, unfinished buildings, or staying with relatives, rather than formal sites. The contrast suggests two distinct displacement geographies: camp-anchored displacement in the northwest and parts of the northeast/east, and community-based displacement across the rest of the country.

Several factors likely drive these patterns. Where camps exist and humanitarian footprints are dense new arrivals and protracted caseloads continue to concentrate in sites because of predictable assistance, social networks formed over multiple displacement waves, and limited affordable housing. Elsewhere, the absence of formal camps, different security dynamics, access to labor markets, and stronger family ties encourage out-of-camp settlement, even when services are thinner and costs (e.g., rent, transport) weigh heavily on households.

FACTORS INFLUENCING THE RETURN OF IDPS TO PLACE OF ORIGIN

FACTORS INFLUENCING THE RETURN OF IDPS TO PLACE OF ORIGIN



The factors influencing the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their places of origin reveals several significant challenges as reported by heads of households in the target areas. On average, 25% of respondents identified destruction or severe damage to housing as a primary impediment to return. Additionally, approximately 16% of households highlighted the lack of basic services, including water, electricity, education, and health, as a critical barrier. The absence of livelihood opportunities in the areas of origin was also frequently cited, with close to 15% of interviewees emphasizing this issue. Financial and transportation constraints to facilitate return were noted by 9% of households, paralleling the concern over the presence of explosive ordnance, which was similarly reported by 9% of respondents. Security concerns, encompassing insecurity and fear of violence, were raised by roughly 7% of households, while about 5% referenced legal or property issues, such as disputes or loss of documentation.

A smaller proportion around 4% indicated that better services or support in their current location discouraged their return, and an equal percentage noted social tensions or rejection in their area of origin. Furthermore, around 3% of households stated that their place of origin was inaccessible or closed by authorities, and a comparable figure indicated control of the area by different authorities. Finally, nearly 1% of respondents mentioned other unspecified factors.

When examining governorate-level variations, Aleppo exhibited the highest concern regarding destruction or severe housing damage, with nearly 36% of heads of households reporting it as a return barrier. This was followed by 19% citing lack of livelihood opportunities and 12% emphasizing lack of basic services. Transportation and financial constraints were relevant for 11%, while 10% noted the presence of explosive ordnance. Insecurity or fear of violence was less prominent at 4%, and other factors such as better services in the current location or legal disputes were cited by smaller percentages.

In contrast, Al-Hasakeh presented a distinct pattern, where approximately 25% of respondents highlighted social tensions or rejection as a major factor, matched by an equal proportion who reported the area of origin being under control of different authorities. Additionally, 22% indicated that their place of origin was inaccessible or closed by authorities. Security fears affected around 11% of households, while other barriers such as lack of livelihood opportunities, basic services, and transportation were reported by smaller percentages.

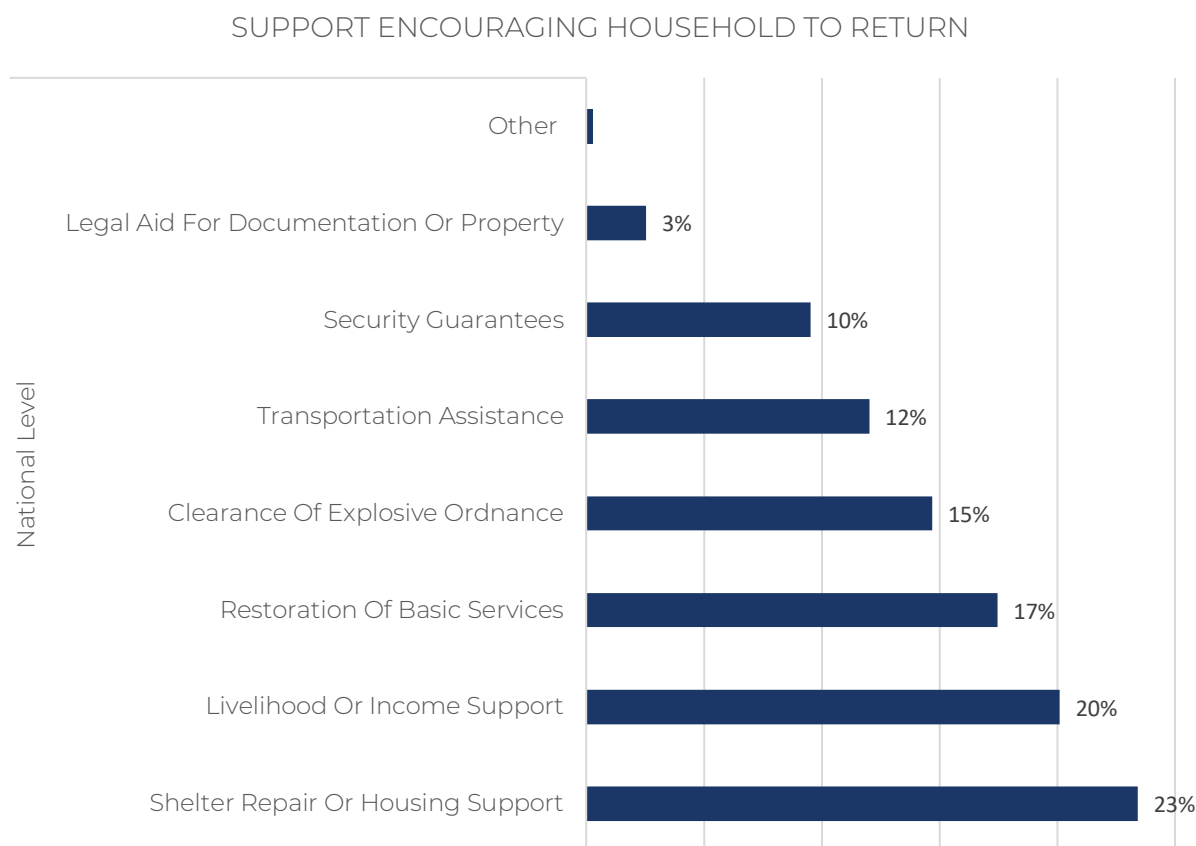
In Ar-Raqqa, lack of basic services was the leading concern for 23% of households, with 15% reporting the presence of explosive ordnance and equal shares pointing to destruction or severe housing damage. A notable 15% also acknowledged better services in their current location. Issues like transportation, social tensions, legal problems, and livelihood constraints were cited by approximately 8% each.

Other governorates exhibited varying but similarly significant impediments. For instance, As-Sweida and Quneitra reported 100% of households identifying destruction or severe housing damage as a factor, underscoring the severity of infrastructure damage in these areas. Damascus reflected concerns related to destruction (33%), lack of livelihoods (25%), and other unspecified factors (17%), alongside better services in the current location (17%). Dar'a showed 26% identifying housing destruction, 12% citing lack of livelihood opportunities and basic services each, and around 9% noting transportation or financial limitations. Deir-ez-Zor demonstrated a notably high level of housing damage concern (49%), with insecurity, explosive ordnance, and lack of basic services affecting between 7% and 9% of respondents.

Similarly, in Hama and Homs, destruction and livelihood shortages were prominent concerns, alongside insecurity and explosive ordnance. Idleb recorded about 18% of households concerned with both housing destruction and basic services, with livelihood and safety issues also significant. Lattakia's respondents reported insecurity (15%), destruction (13%), and legal or social issues (around 11%). Rural Damascus echoed patterns seen in other regions, with 30% identifying housing damage and 24% citing lack of basic services.

These findings indicate pervasive obstacles to the return of IDPs, dominated by physical destruction, lack of essential services, economic hardship, security concerns, and legal challenges. The notable regional variations suggest that humanitarian and policy interventions must be context-specific, addressing infrastructure rehabilitation, restoration of services, livelihood support, security stabilization, and legal assistance. Targeted efforts in heavily affected governorates such as Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, and Al-Hasakeh are particularly urgent to facilitate sustainable return and reintegration of displaced populations.

SUPPORT ENCOURAGING HOUSEHOLD TO RETURN



An analysis of the support measures encouraging households to return within the target area reveals a range of prioritized needs as expressed by the surveyed households. Overall, approximately 23% of respondents identified shelter repair or housing support as a critical factor in facilitating their return. Livelihood or income support followed closely, with nearly 20% of households highlighting its importance. Restoration of basic services was noted by about 17% of households, underscoring the significance of essential infrastructure for returnees. Clearance of explosive ordnance was also a considerable concern, with an average of 15% of households emphasizing this need. Furthermore, close to 12% of households recognized transportation assistance as a necessary support, while security guarantees were cited by roughly 10% of respondents. Legal aid related to documentation or property was mentioned by nearly 3% of households, indicating a smaller yet notable demand for legal support.

Regional variations in these support needs are apparent across governorates. In Aleppo, shelter repair or housing support was identified by nearly 29% of heads of households, with livelihood or income support and clearance of explosive ordnance both cited by approximately 19%. Restoration of basic services was acknowledged by 17%, and transportation assistance by 11%, whereas security guarantees and legal aid were less frequently mentioned, at 3% and 1%, respectively. In contrast, Al-Hasakeh displayed a distinct profile, with about 64% of households prioritizing security guarantees, while restoration of basic services (9%), transportation assistance (8%), clearance of explosive ordnance (6%), livelihood or income support (6%), and shelter repair (5%) were less frequently cited.

Similarly, in Ar-Raqqa, shelter repair and livelihood or income support each accounted for roughly 23% of responses, with clearance of explosive ordnance, transportation assistance, and

restoration of basic services all noted by around 15% of households. Legal aid was brought up by 8% of respondents. As-Sweida presented a balanced distribution where approximately one-third of households each emphasized restoration of basic services, shelter repair or housing support, and security guarantees. In Damascus, shelter repair and livelihood or income support were each identified by about 27% of households, restoration of basic services by nearly 20%, and transportation assistance by 13%, with legal aid and other support cited by smaller proportions.

In Dar'a, livelihood or income support (29%), shelter repair (26%), and restoration of basic services (26%) were the main support categories, alongside clearance of explosive ordnance at 10% and security guarantees at 6%. Deir-ez-Zor households emphasized livelihood or income support (26%), restoration of basic services (25%), and shelter repair (23%), while security guarantees and clearance of explosive ordnance were mentioned by 16% and 7%, respectively. Transportation assistance was noted by 3%.

Hama respondents identified clearance of explosive ordnance (22%), shelter repair (21%), livelihood or income support (18%), restoration of basic services (16%), and security guarantees (13%) as key needs, with transportation assistance (8%) and legal aid (1%) less frequently cited.

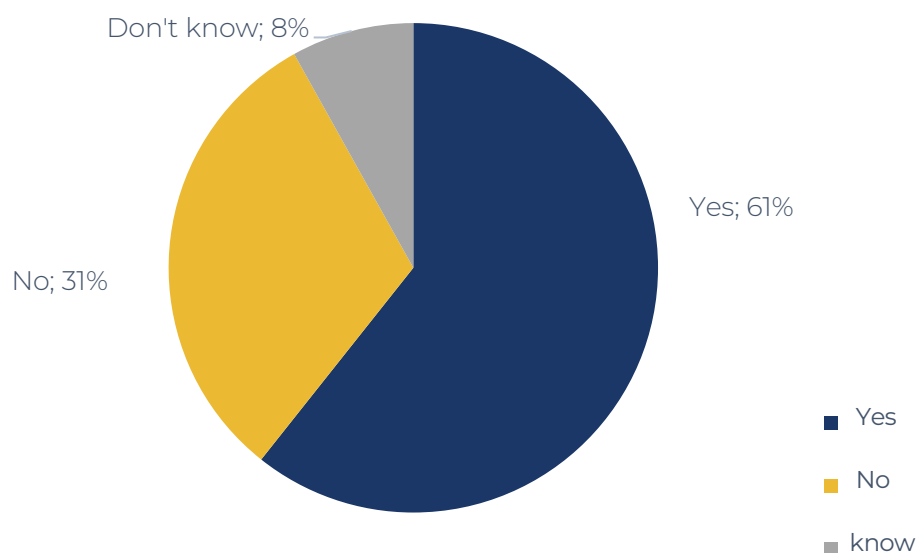
In Homs, shelter repair (23%), clearance of explosive ordnance (18%), livelihood or income support (18%), security guarantees (15%), and restoration of basic services (15%) emerged as primary concerns, with transportation assistance (8%) and legal aid (3%) mentioned less often. Idleb households reported livelihood or income support (19%), restoration of basic services (18%), shelter repair (18%), clearance of explosive ordnance (17%), security guarantees (13%), and transportation assistance (10%), while legal aid was cited by 4%. Lattakia households highlighted security guarantees (26%), livelihood or income support (21%), clearance of explosive ordnance (18%), shelter repair (12%), transportation assistance (12%), restoration of basic services (9%), and legal aid (3%). Quneitra showed an equal emphasis on livelihood or income support, shelter repair, and security guarantees, each at about 33%.

In rural Damascus, shelter repair (28%), livelihood or income support (25%), and transportation assistance (22%) were predominant, with restoration of basic services at 16%, legal aid at 3%, and lower mentions for security guarantees and clearance of explosive ordnance at 2% each. In Tartous, livelihood or income support, shelter repair, and restoration of basic services were each noted by 20% of households, alongside transportation assistance, legal aid, clearance of explosive ordnance, and security guarantees all cited by approximately 10%.

These findings illustrate the multifaceted nature of support required for returnees, with significant regional differences and varying priorities that must be carefully considered in planning effective interventions.

RETURN OF IDPS FAMILY MEMBERS AND NEIGHBORS TO PLACE OF ORIGIN

RETURN OF FAMILY MEMBERS AND NEIGHBORS TO PLACE OF ORIGIN

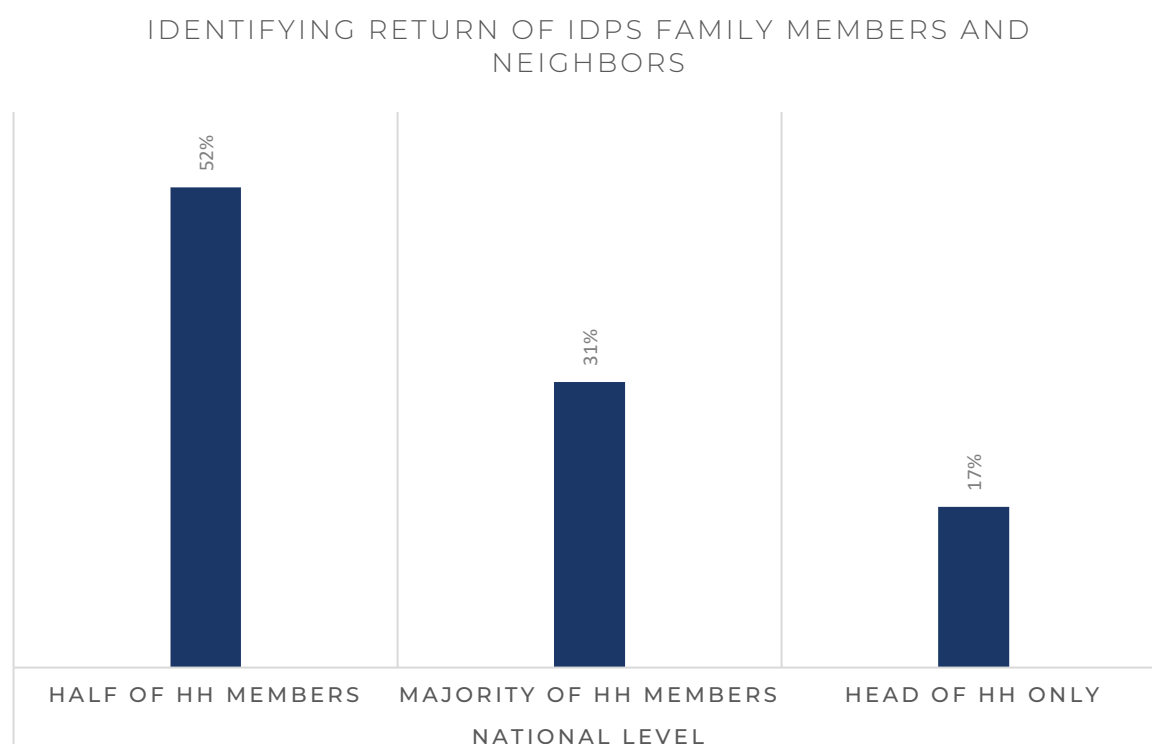


The thoroughly examines the status of the return of family members and neighbors to their places of origin across Syria, revealing significant variations both nationally and at the governorate level. Nationally, approximately 61% of interviewed IDP households reported that family members or neighbors have returned, while about 31% indicated that no such returns have taken place, and roughly 8% were uncertain. At the governorate level, return patterns vary widely. In Aleppo, for example, 55% of interviewed households reported no return activity, 29% confirmed returns, and 16% were unsure. In Al-Hasakeh, a majority of 83% indicated no returns, with only 8% confirming returns and 9% uncertain. Conversely, some governorates showed near-universal returns: Ar-Raqqa and As-Sweida each reported close to 100% of interviewed households affirming returns.

Damascus showed a strong return rate with about 75% confirming returns, while 25% noted none. Dar'a reflected a return rate of 64%, with 36% reporting no returns. Deir-ez-Zor showed 65% affirming returns, 30% negating, and 5% uncertain. High return rates were also noted in Hama (84%), Homs (94%), Idleb (80%), and rural Damascus (82%), although each had small proportions reporting no returns or uncertainty. Lattakia's data showed 62% confirming returns, 31% negating, and 8% uncertain. Similarly, Quneitra and Tartous reported nearly 100% affirmation of returns.

These findings highlight the complex and regionally diverse dynamics of return processes in Syria. Such disparities emphasize the importance of context-specific approaches by humanitarian actors and decision-makers, focusing on supporting return in areas with positive trends while addressing persistent obstacles in governorates where returns remain limited or uncertain.

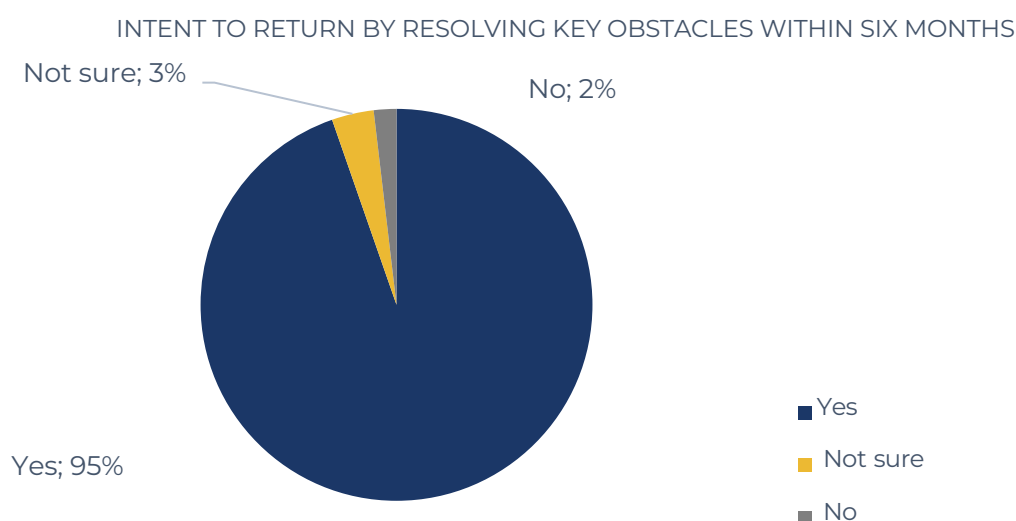
IDENTIFYING RETURN OF IDPS FAMILY MEMBERS AND NEIGHBORS



Following the previous paragraph, Among the interviewed IDP households in displacement sites, respondents were asked about the return of family members or neighbors, the identification of returnees follows a consistent yet regionally varied pattern. Overall, just over half of respondents, reported that about half of family members had returned (52%), while nearly a third indicated the majority had returned (31%), and around one in six said only the head had returned (17%). This headline distribution conceals notable sub-national contrasts. In Aleppo, responses cluster between half returned (47%) and majority returned (45%), with 8% reporting head-only.

Al-Hasakeh shows an even split around the midpoint—50% half returned, and 25% each citing majority or head-only. Ar-Raqqa skews toward partial return, with 67% half returned and 33% head-only. By contrast, As-Sweida reports an almost universal majority-returned profile ($\approx 100\%$). In Damascus, two-thirds identify half returned and about one-third the majority. Dar'a presents a three-way pattern—57% half returned, 29% head-only, 14% majority—while Deir-ez-Zor is more balanced across categories (38% majority, 33% head-only, 29% half). Hama (65% half) and Homs (73% half) both display a pronounced “half-returned” profile, with the remainder divided between head-only and majority. Idleb and Lattakia show mixed responses, Idleb with 45% half and 33% majority, and Lattakia with 62% half and 38% head-only. Quneitra is distinctive in that 100% of households report head-only return. Rural Damascus records 64% half, 26% majority, and 10% head-only, while Tartous is essentially even, with roughly half of households indicating head-only and half returned.

INTENT TO RETURN BY RESOLVING KEY OBSTACLES WITHIN SIX MONTHS

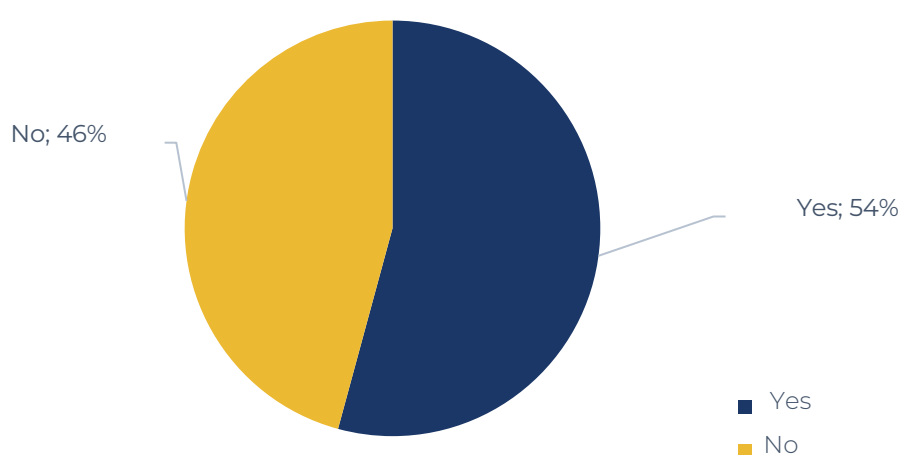


The report highlights the significant intention among households across Syria to return to their places of origin within six months, contingent upon the resolution of key obstacles. Overall, approximately 95% of IDP households interviewed expressed a clear willingness to return under such conditions, while about 3% remained uncertain, and nearly 2% indicated they would not return within this timeframe. This intent is reflected consistently at the governorate level, with Aleppo reporting around 97% of IDP households interviewed affirming their intention to return, accompanied by 2% uncertain and 1% negative responses.

In Al-Hasakeh, a lower proportion of roughly 79% confirmed their intent to return, with 19% uncertain and 2% not intending to return, illustrating some regional variability. In contrast, Ar-Raqqa, As-Sweida, Damascus, Dar'a, Homs, Quneitra, and Tartous exhibited near-unanimous positive responses, with almost 100% of IDP households interviewed expressing their intention to return upon the removal of barriers. Deir-ez-Zor and Hama also showed strong positive responses, at 97% and 96% respectively, though small percentages of households remained unsure. Idleb reflected 94% affirmative intent, with 4% uncertain and 2% negative, while Lattakia presented the greatest uncertainty with only 77% confirming intent to return and 23% unsure. Similarly, rural Damascus showed a high positive response rate of 94%, alongside small percentages expressing uncertainty or refusal. These findings underscore a widespread readiness among displaced populations to return if critical obstacles are addressed. For policymakers and humanitarian actors, this emphasizes the urgency of prioritizing interventions that tackle security, infrastructure, and service provision challenges to facilitate safe and sustainable returns across diverse regions of Syria.

IMPACT OF UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE ON FAMILY RETURN: PRESENCE IN AREA OF ORIGIN

IMPACT OF UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE ON FAMILY RETURN:
PRESENCE IN AREA OF ORIGIN



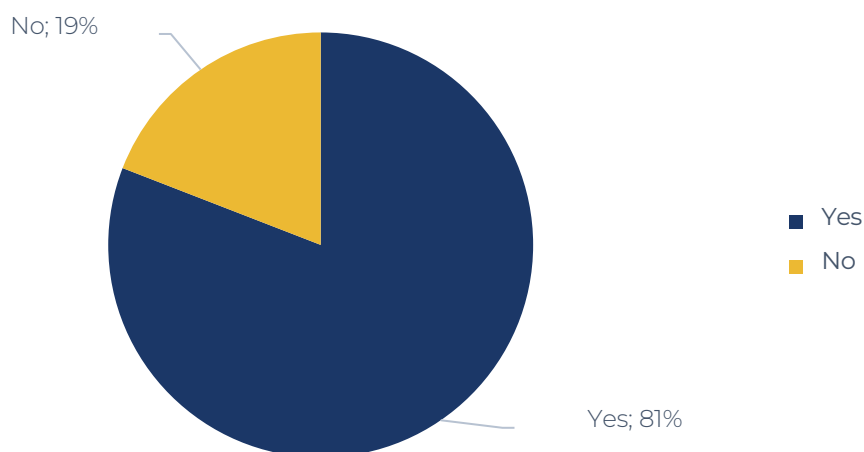
The impact of unexploded ordnance (UXO) presence in areas of origin on family return highlight a significant and varied challenge across Syria.

Nationally, approximately 54% of interviewed IDP households reported the presence of UXO in their area of origin, identifying it as a key obstacle to return, while about 46% indicated that UXO was not present. At the governorate level, the data reveal marked regional differences. In Aleppo, the figures mirror the national trend, with nearly 54% acknowledging UXO presence as a major obstacle to return and 46% indicating otherwise. Al-Hasakeh contrasts sharply, as around 91% of interviewed IDP households reported no UXO presence in area of origin, with only about 9% confirming its existence. Conversely, Ar-Raqqa and As-Sweida both report a unanimous presence of UXO, with 100% of interviewed IDP households affirming this barrier. Damascus shows a near-complete absence of UXO concerns, with roughly 100% of respondents indicating no UXO presence. Similarly, rural Damascus reflects a high percentage, approximately 93%, reporting no UXO. Other governorates present more nuanced situations: Dar'a shows a nearly even split with 55% denying and 45% affirming UXO presence;

Deir-ez-Zor reports 68% indicating no UXO and 32% confirming it; Hama reveals a majority of 84% acknowledging UXO presence; Homs reports 61% affirming UXO and 39% denying it; Idleb has 79% affirming UXO presence, while 21% do not. Lattakia shows a nearly balanced perspective with 54% confirming and 46% denying UXO presence. Tartous also reflects an even split with 50% each reporting presence and absence of UXO. In Quneitra, households unanimously reported no UXO presence. These regional disparities in UXO presence underscore the complexity of addressing return challenges in Syria and point to a pressing need for tailored risk mitigation, clearance operations, and community awareness initiatives to support safe and sustainable family returns.

INCIDENTS OF UXO-RELATED ACTIVITY IN AREAS OF ORIGIN OVER PAST SIX MONTHS

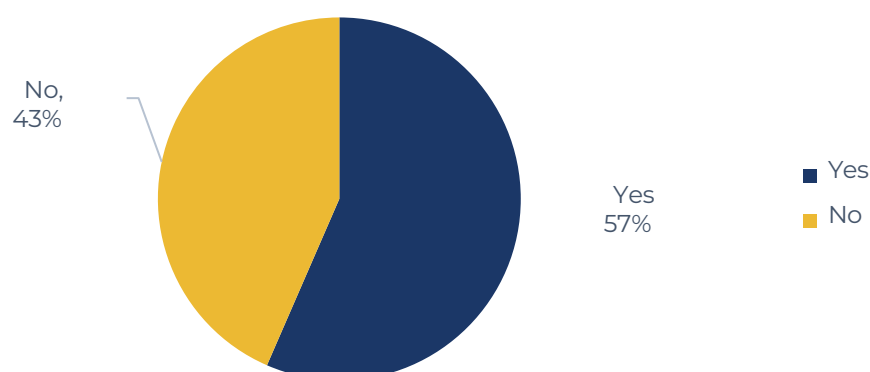
INCIDENTS OF UXO-RELATED ACTIVITY IN AREAS OF ORIGIN
OVER PAST SIX MONTHS



Given its critical significance, the report devoted focused attention to monitoring incidents of unexploded ordnance (UXO) related activity in area of origin over the past six months. At the national level across Syria, the findings reveal that approximately 81% of interviewed IDP households reported the presence of UXO-related incidents, while 19% indicated no such activity. A closer examination at the governorate level uncovers notable regional variations. In Aleppo, about 79% of interviewed IDP households confirmed UXO incidents, with 21% reporting none. Contrastingly, Al-Hasakeh shows a majority of 60% of interviewed IDP households reporting no recent UXO activity, while around 40% acknowledged its presence. Similarly, in Ar-Raqqa, roughly 67% of respondents indicated no UXO-related incidents, whereas 33% confirmed such activity. In stark contrast, As-Sweida stands out with 100% of surveyed households reporting UXO presence, underscoring the severity of the issue in this governorate. Dar'a reflects a high incidence rate with approximately 80% affirming UXO activity and 20% denying it. Deir-ez-Zor presents a more divided picture, with 58% of households confirming incidents and 42% reporting none. The governorate of Hama records 88% of interviewed IDP households acknowledging UXO presence, with 12% denying it. Similarly, in Homs, 89% affirmed UXO activity, while 11% did not. Idleb exhibits 81% reporting UXO-related incidents, with 19% negating them. Rural Damascus follows closely with 82% affirming incidents and 18% not. These findings highlight the pervasive threat UXO poses across multiple regions, necessitating prioritized attention and tailored responses to mitigate risks and protect affected communities.

CHILDREN AFFECTED BY UXO-RELATED INCIDENTS

CHILDREN AFFECTED BY UXO-RELATED INCIDENTS

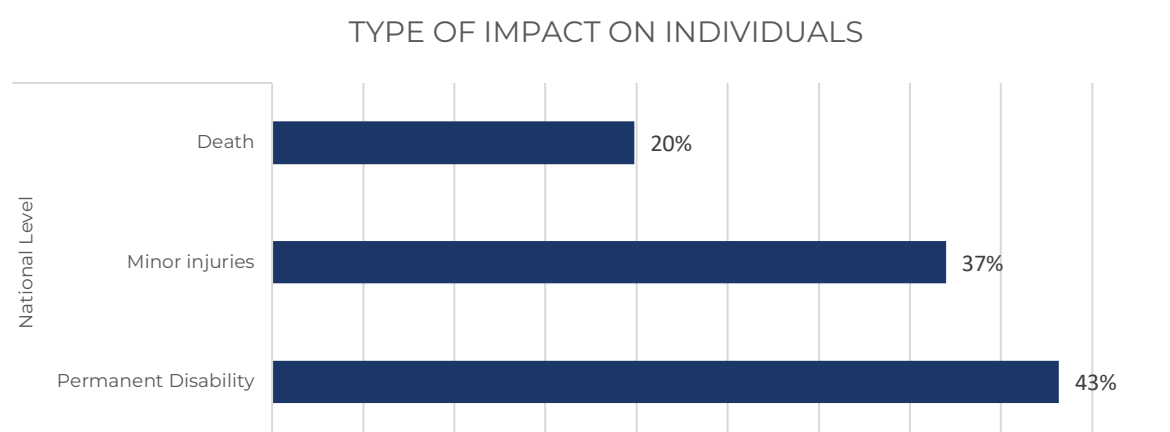


Following the previous paragraph, children affected by incidents related to unexploded ordnance (UXO) across Syria show significant variations at both national and governorate levels.

At the national level, Approximately 57% of the interviewed IDP households reported that children in their areas of origin had been affected by incidents related to unexploded ordnance (UXO), while around 43% indicated no impact on children. This mixed picture is further clarified through governorate-specific data. In Aleppo, responses were nearly balanced, with about 52% of households reporting no impact on children, while approximately 48% confirmed such impact. In contrast, in Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, and As-Sweida, nearly 100% of the interviewed displaced households reported that children in their areas of origin had not been affected by incidents related to UXO, suggesting relatively safer conditions in these locations. Meanwhile, in Dar'a, the responses were evenly divided with approximately 50% affirming and 50% denying the presence of affected children. Deir-ez-Zor showed a higher prevalence, with around 71% of households acknowledging affected children, compared to 29% reporting none. Hama and Homs displayed similar trends, where 63% and 67% of interviewed IDP households respectively reported no affected children, while 37% and 33% indicated the opposite. Idleb presented a notable exception, with approximately 70% of households confirming children affected by incidents, contrasted by 30% reporting none. In Lattakia, about 57% of interviewed IDP households reported no impact on children, while 43% indicated children were affected. Rural Damascus revealed that nearly 78% of households had no children affected, with about 22% affirming cases of affected children. Significantly, in Tartous, almost 100% of interviewed IDP households reported children affected by incidents. These findings highlight substantial regional disparities in the impact on

children, underscoring the need for targeted protection interventions tailored to specific governorates and population groups to address the vulnerabilities and support affected children effectively.

TYPE OF IMPACT ON INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED BY UXO-RELATED:



Following the previous section, this report presents important findings regarding the impact types on population affected by UXO-related incidents in their areas of origin across Syria, highlighting the severe consequences these incidents have on households.

Overall, approximately 43% of surveyed IDP households reported that permanent disability was the primary impact on individuals affected by UXO-related incidents, while 37% indicated that minor injuries were the main impact. Additionally, around 20% of surveyed IDP households reported deaths resulting from these incidents. These findings are crucial for understanding the widespread and devastating effects on the population, as they reveal both long-term disabilities and immediate fatal consequences. When examining regional variations, the governorates exhibit diverse patterns of impact. In Aleppo, nearly 39% of surveyed IDP households reported permanent disability as the main impact, while approximately 30% of surveyed IDP households identified death as a consequence, with another 30% mentioning minor injuries. In Dar'a, the findings show an even split, with 50% of surveyed IDP households citing permanent disability as main impact and the same proportion indicating minor injuries as the primary effect. Deir-ez-Zor demonstrated similar results, with 50% of surveyed IDP households reporting permanent disability and another 50% indicating minor injuries. These statistics underline the high prevalence of both permanent disability and minor injuries in these regions, highlighting the need for targeted medical and rehabilitation support.

In Hama, almost 50% of surveyed IDP households reported minor injuries as primary impact, while 29% identified permanent disability, and 21% reported death as the main impact. In contrast, Homs presented a different pattern, with 62% of surveyed IDP households citing permanent disability, 25% mentioning minor injuries, and 12% reporting death. Idleb reflected a similar trend, with 46% of households reporting permanent disability, 38% minor injuries, and 16% death. This suggests

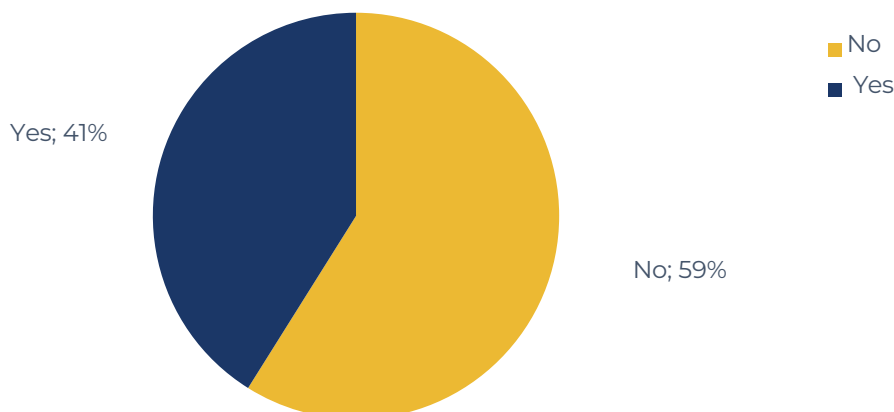
that some regions, such as Homs and Idleb, are experiencing a higher prevalence of permanent disability compared to others, which could require specific interventions focused on long-term care and rehabilitation services.

Governorates such as Latakia and rural Damascus reported a greater prevalence of minor injuries as the main impact, with 67% of surveyed IDP households in Latakia mentioning minor injuries and 33% citing permanent disability. In rural Damascus and Tartous, nearly 100% of surveyed IDP households affirmed that minor injuries were the predominant impact in the area of origin. This highlights regional differences in the severity of impacts, with some areas experiencing a higher incidence of minor injuries rather than permanent disabilities or fatalities.

In summary, the findings of this report indicate that the impacts of recent incidents in Syria are both varied and severe, with significant regional disparities in the types of injuries and disabilities reported. Humanitarian actors and decision-makers must prioritize interventions that focus on long-term rehabilitation, medical care, and psychosocial support, particularly in areas with high rates of permanent disability. Additionally, regions with higher fatality rates may require urgent assistance to manage the immediate needs of affected populations.

PRESENCE OF PROTECTION CONCERNS PREVENTING THE RETURN OF IDPS

PRESENCE OF PROTECTION CONCERNS PREVENTING RETURN



The report highlights significant concerns regarding protection factors preventing the return of displaced persons IDPs across various governorates in Syria. At the national level, the findings indicate that approximately 59% of households surveyed reported no protection concerns preventing return, while 41% expressed that such concerns do indeed exist. This division is evident when examining individual governorates. In Aleppo, around 58% of households expressed no protection concerns, while 42% indicated that these concerns are present. Al-Hasakeh shows a striking contrast, with a significant 92% of households acknowledging protection concerns that prevent return, while only 8% reported no such issues. In Ar-Raqqa, the division is closer, with 67% of

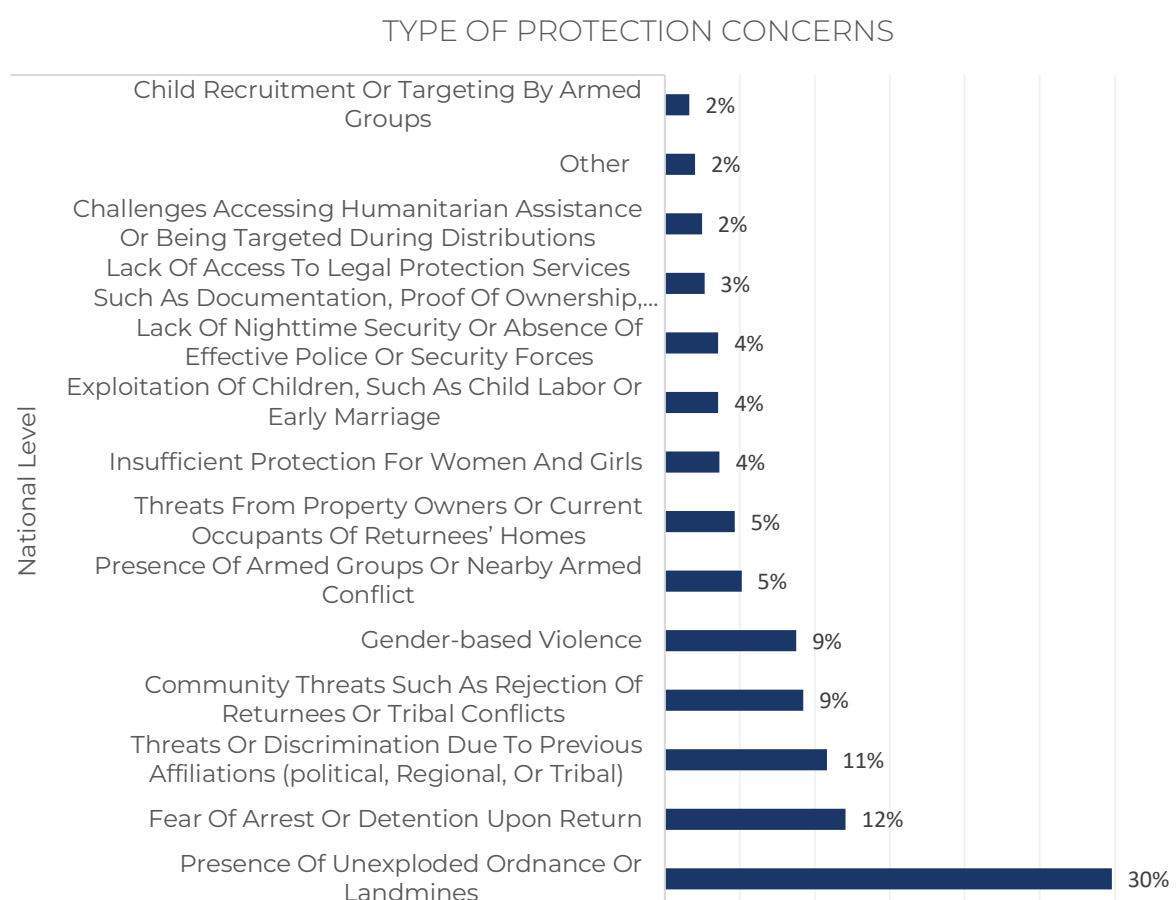
households indicating no protection concerns and 33% affirming that such concerns exist. A similar trend is observed in As-Sweida, where 100% of households surveyed indicated that protection concerns prevent return. Conversely, in Damascus, nearly all households (close to 100%) reported no protection concerns hindering return. In Dar'a, there is a relatively balanced response, with 55% of households indicating that protection concerns are an obstacle to return, while 45% stated that no such concerns exist. Deir-ez-Zor also reveals mixed responses, with 57% of households citing protection concerns and 43% reporting no concerns.

Other governorates exhibit a variety of responses. In Hama, 65% of households acknowledged protection concerns preventing return, while 35% disagreed. Homs presented similar figures, with 60% of households identifying protection concerns as a barrier, and 40% stating that there are no such concerns. In Idleb, 63% of households expressed that there are no protection concerns, while 37% acknowledged the presence of these concerns.

Lattakia stands out with 77% of households reporting that protection concerns prevent return, while 23% of households expressed no such concerns. Governorates like Quneitra and rural Damascus show an almost complete lack of protection concerns, with roughly 100% of households in Quneitra reporting that protection is not a barrier to return, and 88% in rural Damascus agreeing that return is not hindered by protection issues. Tartous reveals a split, with 50% of households reporting protection concerns and 50% indicating no such issues.

In the context of internally displaced persons (IDPs), a similar trend emerges. Approximately 59% of IDP households indicated that protection concerns are not preventing return, while 41% reported that these concerns are indeed an obstacle to their return. These findings suggest that, while protection concerns are significant in many areas, the extent of these concerns varies considerably between regions and population categories, with some areas, such as Al-Hasakeh and As-Sweida, facing greater challenges than others. Addressing these concerns should be prioritized, particularly in high-risk areas, to facilitate safer returns for displaced populations.

TYPE OF PROTECTION CONCERNS PREVENTING THE RETURN OF IDPS



Following the previous section, the type of protection concerns preventing the return of IDPs reveal a complex and multifaceted picture of the challenges faced by households. Among the most significant concerns, approximately 30% of households reported the presence of unexploded ordnance or landmines, a critical threat to their safety and security. Additionally, around 12% of respondents cited the fear of arrest or detention upon return, highlighting a major barrier to the safe return of displaced populations. In another notable finding, nearly 11% of households expressed concerns about threats or discrimination linked to previous political, regional, or tribal affiliations, which further complicates the potential for peaceful reintegration into their communities.

Moreover, around 9% of households identified community threats, such as rejection of returnees or ongoing tribal conflicts, which persist as major sources of tension in the region. Gender-based violence also emerged as a key issue, with 9% of respondents acknowledging its prevalence, a serious concern for the safety of women and girls. In addition to these issues, the presence of armed groups or nearby armed conflict was mentioned by about 5% of households, further exacerbating the insecurity faced by returnees. Similarly, threats from property owners or current

occupants of returnees' homes were also noted by approximately 5% of those surveyed, indicating the persistence of property-related disputes.

Approximately 4% of respondents highlighted the lack of sufficient protection for women and girls, pointing to a gap in security measures for these vulnerable groups. Exploitation of children, including child labor and early marriage, was reported by around 4% of households, underscoring the vulnerability of children in this environment. Another 4% of respondents expressed concerns about the absence of nighttime security or effective police presence, further indicating gaps in law enforcement and the protection of public safety. Furthermore, nearly 3% of households raised issues related to the lack of access to legal protection services, including the inability to obtain necessary documentation or prove ownership of property. This lack of legal support presents a significant obstacle to the restoration of rights and access to services. Humanitarian assistance also remains a significant challenge, as 2% of households reported difficulties in accessing aid or being targeted during distributions. Lastly, 2% of respondents identified child recruitment or targeting by armed groups as a critical issue in the region, exacerbating the vulnerability of young people and their families. These findings reflect a complex and ongoing crisis, where multiple layers of insecurity, discrimination, and exploitation continue to undermine the well-being of affected populations.

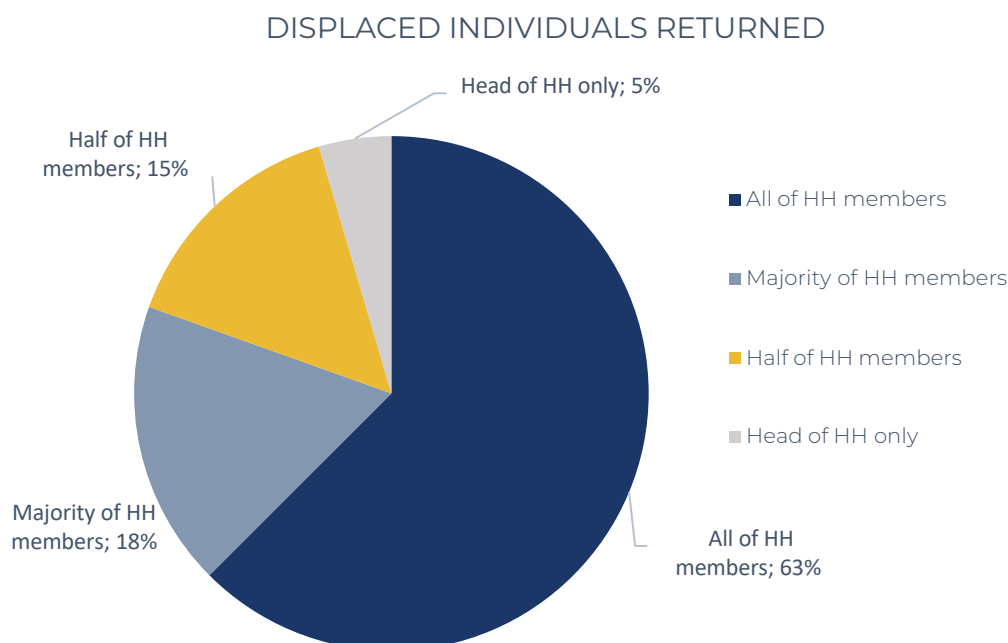
When examining the responses from specific governorates, significant regional variations were noted. In Aleppo, for example, 56% of households identified the presence of unexploded ordnance or landmines, a major concern in the region. Around 9% of households in Aleppo also reported gender-based violence, while 8% cited the exploitation of children. In contrast, in Al-Hasakeh, 28% of households mentioned the fear of arrest or detention upon return, and 26% raised concerns about community threats, such as the rejection of returnees or tribal conflicts.

These figures provide a regional snapshot of the diverse and pressing challenges faced by households in different parts of the country. Other governorates, such as Deir-ez-Zor, Homs, and Idleb, also reflected significant percentages of households reporting similar concerns, with the presence of unexploded ordnance, threats related to armed conflict, and community-based discrimination emerging as common themes across the board. In certain areas, such as As-Sweida and Tartous, nearly all surveyed households reported the presence of unexploded ordnance or landmines, underscoring the widespread nature of this threat across various regions. The analysis of the identification of affirmative responses in these areas indicates that the challenges faced by households are not only significant but also widespread, affecting a broad range of communities and populations throughout the region. The persistence of these issues, including the presence of unexploded ordnance, fear of arrest, discrimination, and gender-based violence, highlights the urgent need for targeted interventions that address both the immediate security concerns and the longer-term needs for protection, legal services, and humanitarian aid.

RETURNEES



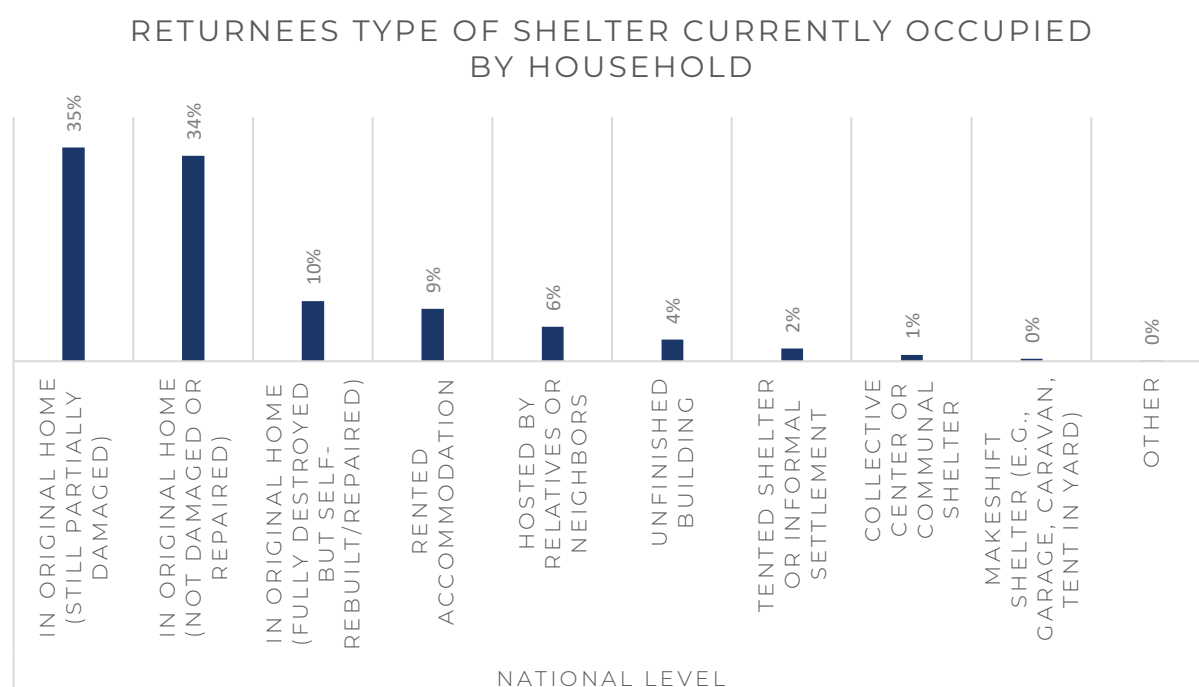
DISPLACED INDIVIDUALS RETURNED



The findings from the survey on Returnees reveal a nuanced picture of the broader challenges faced by returning households. Across the surveyed locations, about 63% of households reported that all members had returned, while 18% indicated that the majority of household members had returned. Approximately 15% noted that half of the household members had returned, and 5% mentioned that only the head of the household had come back. These figures highlight the complexities of the return process, with varying levels of family reunification across different regions. In Aleppo, a significant 74% of households reported the return of all family members, while 20% said that the majority had returned. In Al-Hasakeh, 62% of households indicated full returns, while 26% stated that most family members had come back. Ar-Raqqa stands out with 81% of households reporting the return of all members, a strong indicator of the region's recovery. However, some areas, like Dar'a and rural Damascus, show more mixed results, with nearly 50% of households in Dar'a indicating that only the head of the household had returned. In contrast, Deir-ez-Zor and Homs show higher levels of return, with 70% and 80% of households reporting the return of all members, respectively. Idleb, while showing 58% full returns, also revealed that 18% of households had only half of the members return. Lattakia, similarly, recorded 82% of households with all members returning. Hama, however, reflected a more varied situation, with 49% of households reporting that half of the members had returned, and 21% reporting the return of all members.

These results illustrate the challenges faced by families in the return process, with some areas showing promising signs of recovery, while others face obstacles in achieving complete family reunification. These differences emphasize the need for tailored humanitarian responses that focus on the specific needs of each region and community, ensuring that all displaced individuals can safely return and reintegrate into their homes and communities.

RETURNEES TYPE OF SHELTER CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY HOUSEHOLD



The returnees' current shelter situations reveal a significant variety in the types of accommodation they occupy, with regional variations observed in the data. A substantial proportion of households, approximately 35%, reported residing in their original homes, which are still partially damaged. In contrast, about 34% of Returnee Households indicated that they are living in their original homes that have not been damaged or repaired. Furthermore, around 10% of Returnee Households affirmed that they are residing in homes that were fully destroyed but have been self-rebuilt or repaired. Alongside these, roughly 9% of Returnee Households are in rented accommodation, while 6% are hosted by relatives or neighbors. Another 4% of Returnee Households reside in unfinished buildings, and 2% are living in tented shelters or informal settlements. A smaller fraction, approximately 1%, reported staying in collective centers or communal shelters.

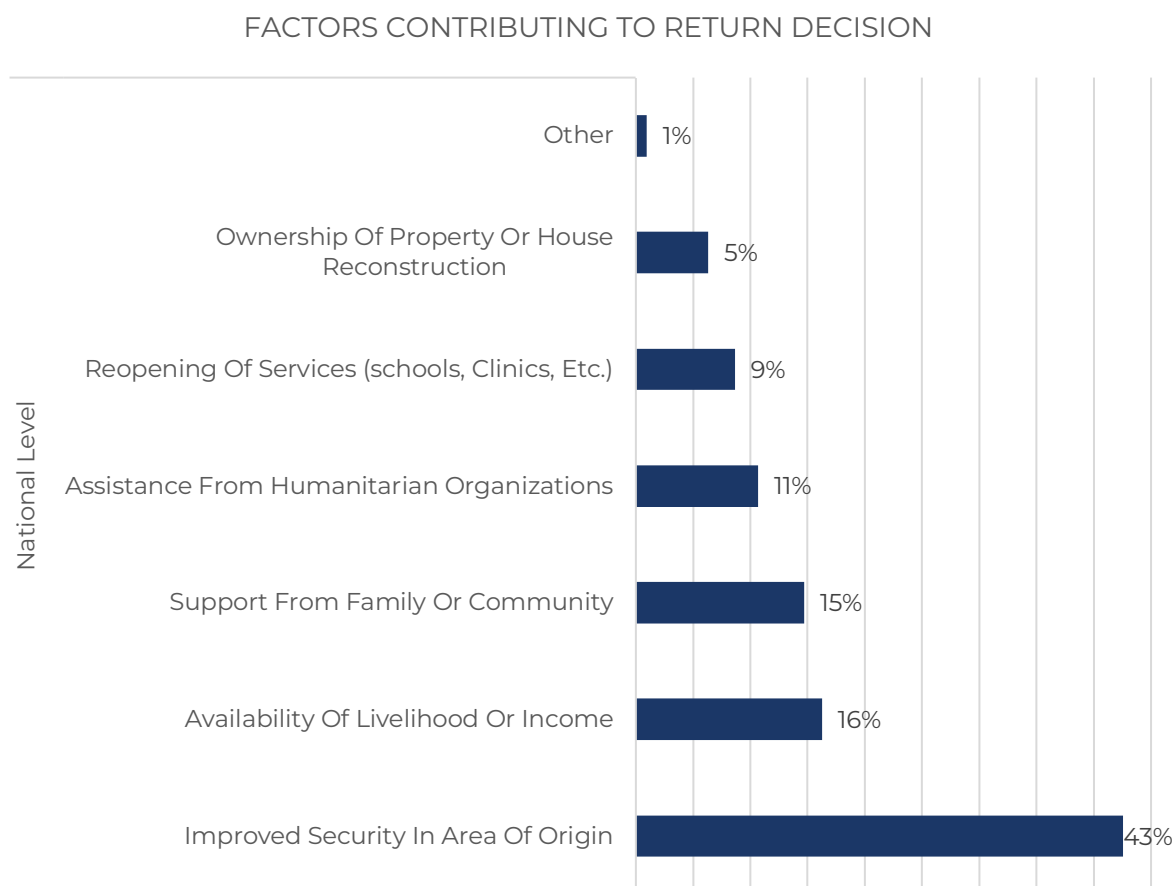
Focusing on specific governorates, the shelter situation also varies. In Aleppo, for instance, around 39% of Returnee Households are living in homes that have not been damaged or repaired, while 35% are in homes that are still partially damaged. Approximately 12% reside in homes that have been fully destroyed but self-rebuilt, and 6% are hosted by relatives or neighbors. A smaller number, around 4%, are living in rented accommodations. Similarly, in Al-Hasakeh, about 36% of households occupy homes that are not damaged or repaired, and 35% are in homes that remain partially damaged. In Ar-Raqqa, a notable 47% of Returnee Households live in homes that are still partially damaged, while 23% reside in homes that are not damaged or repaired, with 12% living in rented accommodation. In As-Sweida, an unusual situation was reported where 100% of households reside in unfinished buildings.

In Damascus, around 50% of households occupy homes that have not been damaged or repaired, with another 25% in rented accommodation and 25% in homes that are still partially damaged. Similarly, in Dar'a, approximately 50% of Returnee Households live in rented accommodation, and the same percentage resides in homes that are partially damaged. In Deir-ez-Zor, about 51% of Returnee Households live in homes that are not damaged or repaired, with 37% in partially damaged homes. The situation in Hama indicates that 45% of households reside in homes that are still partially damaged, and 21% live in homes that were fully destroyed but have been self-rebuilt or repaired. In Homs, around 40% of Returnee Households occupy homes that have not been damaged or repaired, while 35% are in homes that are partially damaged, and 13% live in rented accommodation.

The findings from Idleb and Lattakia show different patterns. In Idleb, 37% of households live in homes that are partially damaged, and 24% occupy homes that are not damaged or repaired. In Lattakia, 25% of households are in rented accommodation, and another 25% live in homes that are not damaged or repaired, while 21% reside in homes that are partially damaged. Similarly, rural Damascus reports that 41% of households live in homes that are not damaged or repaired, while 27% are in homes that are partially damaged. In Tartous, 50% of households reside in rented accommodation, with 25% living with relatives or neighbors, and another 25% in homes that are not damaged or repaired.

These findings reflect the urgent need for targeted humanitarian interventions in various regions. While some returnees are managing to return to relatively undamaged homes, many others are still facing poor housing conditions, living in partially damaged homes or temporary shelters. Humanitarian actors should focus on improving housing conditions by supporting repair and reconstruction efforts, particularly in areas where homes are still partially damaged or uninhabitable. Furthermore, increasing support for those in rented accommodation and hosted by relatives is essential, as these arrangements may not provide long-term stability. Addressing these shelter challenges will be crucial in ensuring that returnees can rebuild their lives in a safe and secure environment.

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO RETURN DECISION



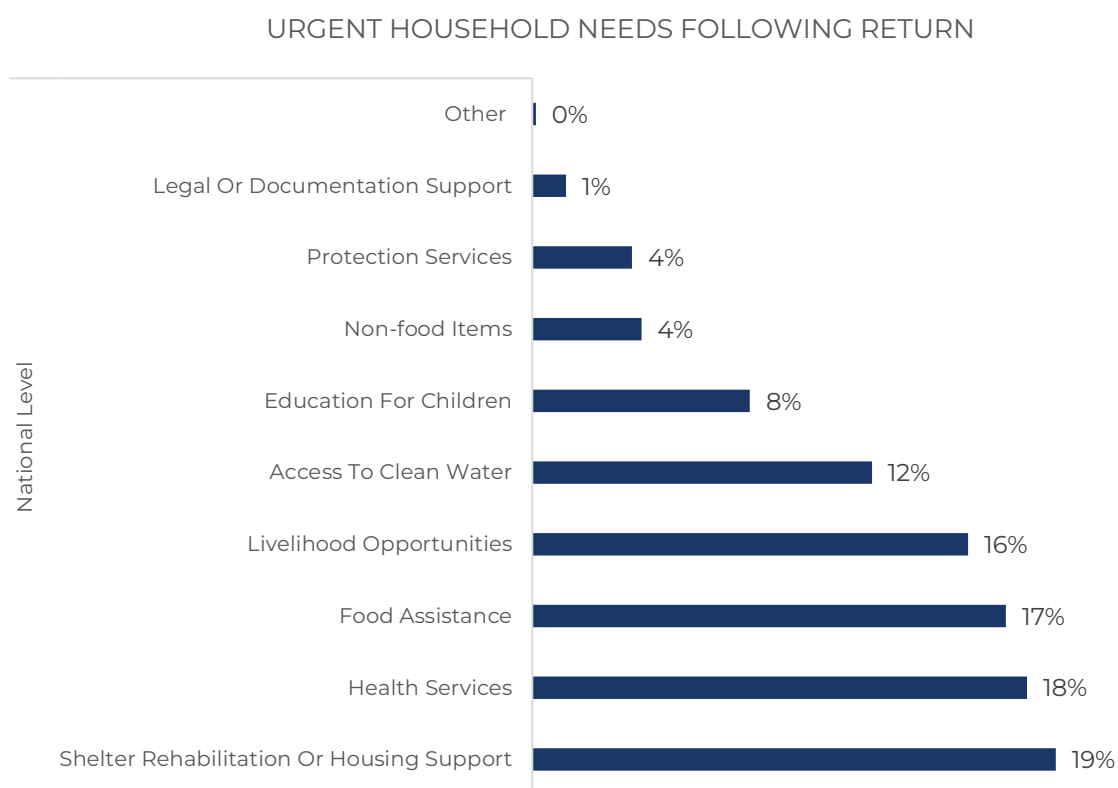
The factors influencing the return decision for households across Syria reveals a complex interplay of security, economic conditions, and social support systems. Among the most critical factors, approximately 43% of the surveyed Returnee Households identified improved security in the area of origin as the primary motivator for their decision to return. This highlights the continued significance of safety in determining the feasibility of return. Another major contributing factor, cited by 16% of Returnee Households, is the availability of livelihood opportunities or income, underscoring the economic challenges that returnees face. Support from family or community was mentioned by 15% of households, pointing to the importance of social networks in facilitating return. Humanitarian assistance also played a role, with 11% of Returnee Households noting it as a significant factor. The restoration of essential services, such as schools and clinics, was identified by 9% of respondents, emphasizing the importance of infrastructure recovery in supporting return. Approximately 5% of households highlighted property ownership or house reconstruction as contributing factors, while only 1% referred to other considerations.

Looking at regional disparities, significant differences emerge in the factors influencing return across various governorates. In Aleppo, improved security was again the most prominent factor, cited by 43% of households, followed by the availability of livelihood opportunities (23%) and family or community support (16%). Humanitarian assistance was noted by 9%, and ownership of property or house reconstruction was mentioned by 3%. In Al-Hasakeh, improved security was reported by 32% of households, while 25% emphasized support from family or community and 23% noted humanitarian aid as important. Similarly, in Ar-Raqqa, improved security was cited by 30% of households, with 28% pointing to family support and 24% to humanitarian assistance.

Governorates such as Damascus, Dar'a, and Deir-ez-Zor show a stronger emphasis on the role of family and community support. In Damascus, 25% of Returnee Households identified this factor, while in Dar'a, an overwhelming 67% of Returnee Households cited it as a key consideration. In Deir-ez-Zor, 18% of Returnee Households also emphasized the importance of family or community support. Conversely, in areas like Homs and Idleb, security and the restoration of services were more prominent. In Homs, for instance, 69% of Returnee Households identified improved security, and in Hama, 41% of respondents emphasized the reopening of services like schools and clinics.

These findings highlight that return motivations are not uniform across Syria, with some regions prioritizing security, while others emphasize the need for economic opportunities or social support. For humanitarian organizations and policymakers, these insights are vital for developing tailored interventions. By focusing on region-specific needs whether improving security, supporting livelihoods, or enhancing community networks efforts can be more effectively directed to support sustainable returns. Additionally, addressing long-term housing and property restoration in areas like As-Sweida, where 100% of Returnee Households prioritize property ownership or reconstruction, is essential for ensuring durable solutions for returnees. These regional trends should inform strategic planning for recovery and stabilization efforts across the country.

URGENT HOUSEHOLD NEEDS FOLLOWING RETURN



The critical urgent household needs following return in Syria, providing a comprehensive overview of the varying priorities across different regions. The findings indicate that approximately 19% of Returnee Households across the country prioritize shelter rehabilitation or housing support, while nearly 18% of those surveyed emphasize the need for health services. Food assistance is also a significant concern, with around 17% of Returnee Households identifying it as a critical need. Livelihood opportunities were mentioned by approximately 16% of respondents, reflecting the

importance of economic stability for households returning to their areas. Furthermore, around 12% of Returnee Households indicated that access to clean water is an urgent requirement, followed by 8% who expressed the need for education for children. Additionally, 4% of households mentioned non-food items as essential, while another 4% raised the need for protection services. Legal or documentation support was identified as an urgent need by about 1% of the surveyed households.

At the governorate level, the urgent needs vary, reflecting local circumstances and priorities. In Aleppo, 22% of households identified shelter rehabilitation or housing support as a priority, while food assistance was indicated by 21%. Health services were highlighted by 18% of the population, with 16% calling for livelihood opportunities.

Access to clean water was a priority for 8% of households, and 8% also identified education for children as a key concern. Protection services were cited by 5%, and non-food items by 3%, while legal or documentation support was noted by 1%. In Al-Hasakeh, the most pressing need was livelihood opportunities, which were mentioned by 26% of households, followed by food assistance at 23%. Shelter rehabilitation was identified by 18%, and both access to clean water and health services were mentioned by 14%. Protection services and legal support were cited by 1% of households, with no significant need for other categories.

In Ar-Raqqa, livelihood opportunities were the top priority, identified by 27% of households, followed by food assistance at 22%. Shelter rehabilitation and health services were each mentioned by approximately 21% of households, with access to clean water cited by 10%. Similar needs for protection services, non-food items, education for children, and legal support were mentioned by about 1% of households. As-Sweida presented a distinct pattern, with 50% of households highlighting shelter rehabilitation or housing support as the most urgent need, followed by the same percentage for access to clean water. In Damascus, 36% of households prioritized food assistance, while access to clean water, livelihood opportunities, and health services were each cited by 18%. Shelter rehabilitation was needed by 9% of households.

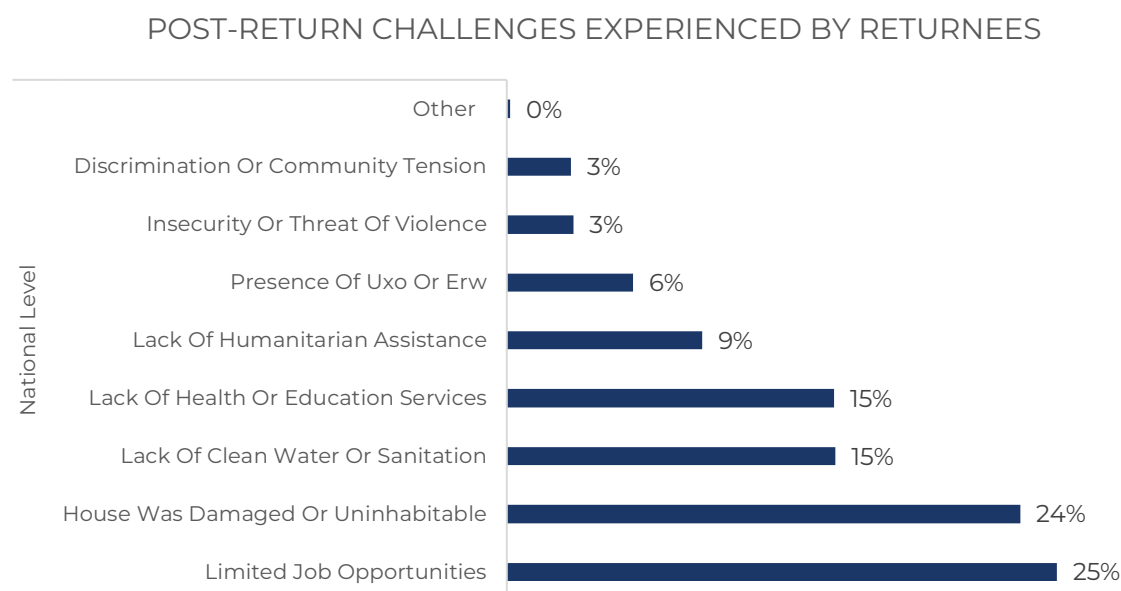
Dar'a residents also expressed strong demand for livelihood opportunities, with 29% identifying this as a critical need. Shelter rehabilitation was cited by 14%, along with protection services, food assistance, education for children, and health services, all of which were mentioned by approximately 14% of households. In Deir-ez-Zor, the most urgent needs were livelihood opportunities (18%), food assistance (15%), and shelter rehabilitation (15%), with access to clean water, health services, and non-food items also being significant concerns for many households.

The situation in Hama reflected similar needs, with health services being the most frequently mentioned (26%), followed by access to clean water (24%) and shelter rehabilitation (21%).

Homs showed a strong demand for shelter rehabilitation, livelihood opportunities, and health services, each mentioned by around 14% of households. Food assistance, education for children, access to clean water, and protection services were also important needs, although they were mentioned by fewer households. Idlib residents prioritized health services (19%), food assistance (18%), and access to clean water (17%), with shelter rehabilitation, livelihood opportunities, and education for children also being highlighted by around 16% of the population. Finally, in Lattakia, livelihood opportunities and food assistance were identified by 23% of households, with health services and non-food items mentioned by 17%. Shelter rehabilitation, protection services, education for children, and access to clean water were also relevant needs, though they were less frequently cited.

Across all governorates, the report reveals a clear trend toward the need for basic services such as shelter rehabilitation, food assistance, health services, and livelihood opportunities, with regional variations highlighting specific local priorities. These findings underscore the importance of targeted interventions in areas most in need, particularly in the provision of shelter, livelihood support, health services, and access to clean water, while also addressing protection services and legal assistance where necessary. For humanitarian actors and decision-makers, the report highlights the urgent need for resource allocation based on these identified priorities to facilitate the recovery and reintegration of returnee populations across Syria.

POST-RETURN CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED BY RETURNEES



In examining the post-return challenges faced by returnees in the target area, the report presents a comprehensive overview of the various issues impacting households. Approximately 25% of the Returnee Households surveyed reported limited job opportunities as a significant challenge, while around 24% indicated that their houses were damaged or uninhabitable. Additionally, roughly 15% of households highlighted a lack of clean water or sanitation as a critical concern. Similarly, another 15% of the surveyed households cited a lack of health or education services as an ongoing issue. A further 9% of households mentioned the absence of humanitarian assistance as a challenge, and 6% expressed concerns about the presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO) or explosive remnants of war (ERW). Insecurity or the threat of violence was noted by 3% of households, with an equal percentage reporting discrimination or community tensions.

When examining these challenges at the governorate level, the data reveals distinct regional variations. In Aleppo, nearly 27% of households reported that their houses were damaged or uninhabitable, while another 27% mentioned limited job opportunities. About 15% of households raised concerns about a lack of health or education services, and 12% highlighted inadequate clean water and sanitation. Additionally, 7% of households in Aleppo identified the presence of UXO or ERW, while 5% reported insufficient humanitarian assistance, and 4% noted discrimination or community tension. Insecurity or the threat of violence was cited by 3% of households in the governorate.

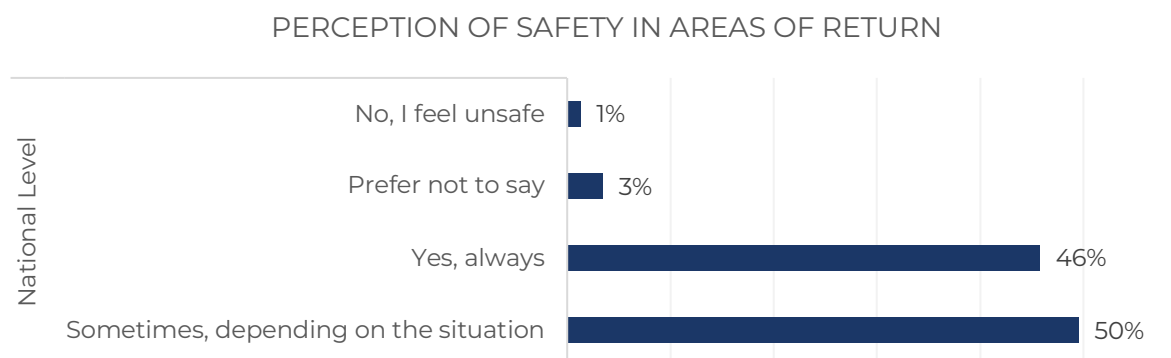
In Al-Hasakeh, the situation appeared to be even more dire, with approximately 34% of households citing limited job opportunities as a major issue. Around 20% reported that their homes were damaged or uninhabitable, and 18% indicated a lack of humanitarian assistance. Similarly, 16% of households expressed concerns about the lack of clean water and sanitation, and 6% mentioned insufficient health or education services. Issues of discrimination or community tension were raised by 4% of the households, while 1% cited UXO or ERW and insecurity or the threat of violence.

Ar-Raqqa presented another unique set of challenges, with 31% of households identifying limited job opportunities as the primary issue. In addition, 24% of households reported that their homes were damaged or uninhabitable, while 19% raised concerns about the lack of clean water and sanitation, and another 19% highlighted the absence of humanitarian assistance. The data also revealed that 2% of households reported a lack of health or education services, while 2% noted other unspecified challenges. Insecurity or the threat of violence affected 2% of households, and 1% cited issues related to discrimination or community tension.

Other governorates such as As-Sweida, Damascus, and Dar'a also showed similar trends, with limited job opportunities, damaged housing, and lack of basic services like clean water, sanitation, and healthcare being the most common challenges identified by returnee households. For example, in Damascus, approximately 38% of households reported limited job opportunities, while 25% cited a lack of humanitarian assistance. In Dar'a, 33% of households identified both limited job opportunities and damaged housing as their primary concerns. Hama and Homs showed high percentages of households reporting a lack of clean water or sanitation, with approximately 29% of households in Hama and 23% in Homs highlighting this issue.

These findings emphasize the urgent need for comprehensive support that addresses both immediate humanitarian assistance and long-term reintegration efforts to mitigate these ongoing challenges for returnees.

PERCEPTION OF SAFETY IN AREAS OF RETURN



A key component explored in this report is the perception of safety in areas of return, a critical factor influencing the sustainability of returns. At the national level, approximately 50% of Returnee Households reported that they felt safe only sometimes, depending on the situation. Another 46% indicated a consistent sense of safety by responding yes, always. A smaller proportion, close to 3%, preferred not to express their views, while around 1% stated they felt unsafe in their areas of return.

At the governorate level, perceptions varied considerably. In Aleppo, close to 48% of Returnee Households affirmed they always felt safe, while nearly 44% felt safe only in certain circumstances, and close to 7% preferred not to answer; about 1% reported feeling unsafe. In Al-Hasakeh, the vast majority around 74% indicated conditional safety depending on the situation, whereas approximately 25% reported feeling safe at all times, and 1% preferred not to comment. In Ar-Raqqa, just about 56% of surveyed households expressed situational safety, while 43% affirmed consistent safety, and 2% preferred not to say.

Notably, in As-Sweida, 100% of respondents reported feeling safe only depending on the situation. Similarly, in Damascus, about 75% of heads of households felt safe in specific circumstances, while nearly 25% affirmed consistent safety. In Dar'a, all surveyed households close to 100% reported conditional safety. Deir-ez-Zor reflected a more mixed perception, with around 67% expressing conditional safety and approximately 30% stating they always felt safe. Roughly 2% in this governorate reported feeling unsafe, and another 2% preferred not to answer.

In Hama, around 78% of respondents noted that their sense of safety was dependent on the situation, 12% chose not to disclose, and approximately 10% reported always feeling safe. In Homs, almost 95% of surveyed households indicated situational safety, with just about 2% citing consistent safety and an equal percentage preferring not to answer. Only around 1% reported feeling unsafe. In Idleb, the perception was more balanced, with approximately 51% stating they always felt safe and about 46% reporting conditional safety. Roughly 3% indicated feeling unsafe, while 1% preferred not to say.

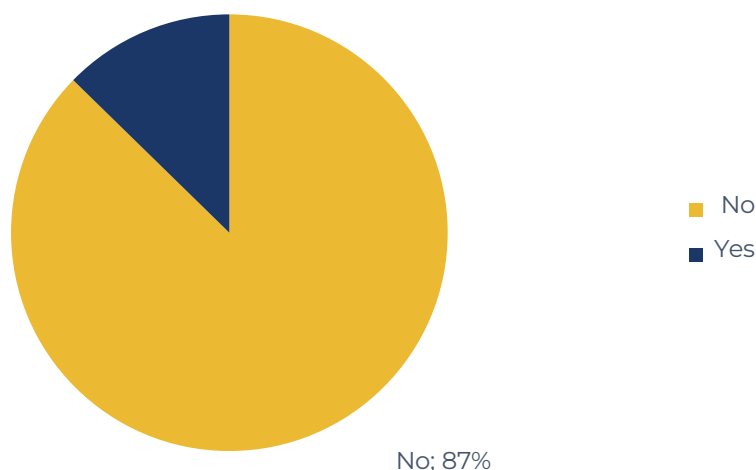
In Lattakia, nearly 57% of respondents felt safe depending on the situation, while about 43% reported consistent safety. Rural Damascus reflected relatively higher confidence, with around 69% reporting always feeling safe and 30% indicating conditional safety. About 1% preferred not to respond. In Tartous, about 75% of respondents expressed conditional safety, whereas 25% affirmed they always felt safe.

These findings highlight that while a considerable portion of returnees experience consistent safety, a majority still express reservations, indicating that their sense of security is situational and potentially fragile. For humanitarian actors and decision-makers, this emphasizes the need for ongoing protection interventions, localized security assessments, and community-based initiatives to build trust and safety. Efforts must prioritize areas with lower safety perceptions, ensuring that return conditions meet minimum protection standards to support sustainable reintegration.

PRESENCE OF PROTECTION RISKS IN RETURN AREAS.

PRESENCE OF PROTECTION RISKS IN RETURN AREAS

Yes; 13%



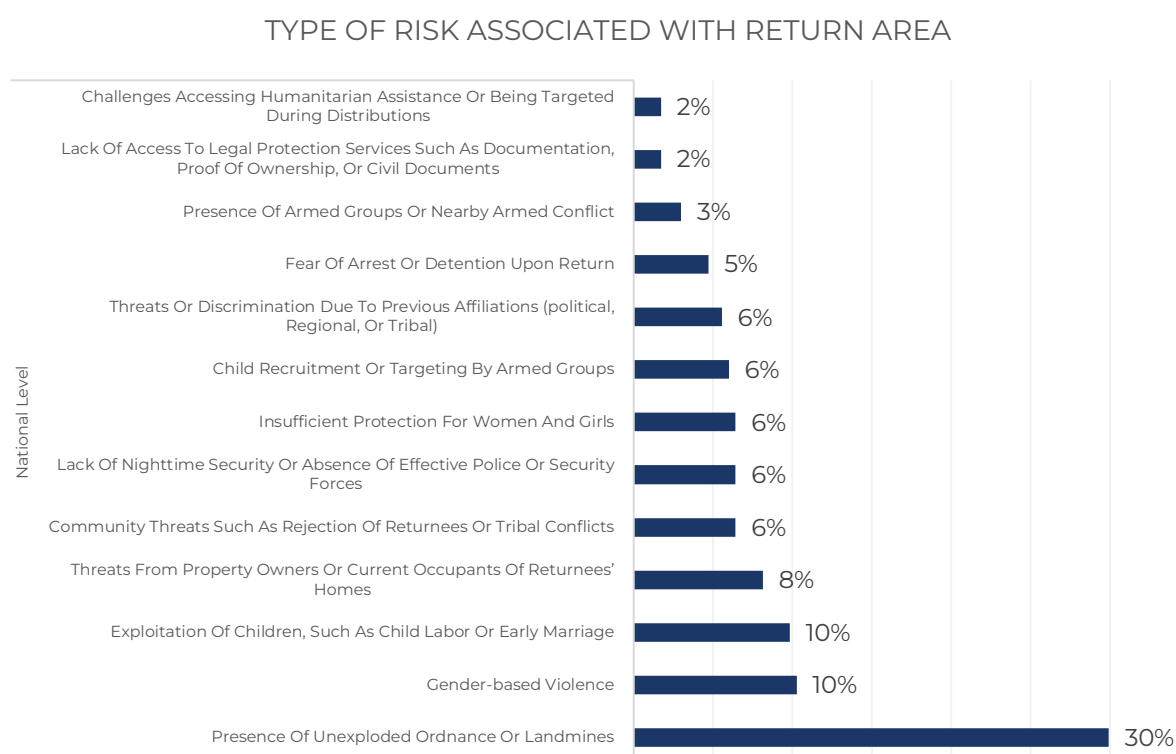
An important dimension addressed in this report pertains to protection risks in return areas, including the presence of armed groups, gender-based violence, unexploded ordnance, and threats within the community. National-level findings indicate that approximately 87% of surveyed Returnee Households reported no such protection risks, while around 13% confirmed their presence, signaling that the vast majority do not perceive these threats in their areas of return. However, a closer look at the governorate level reveals notable disparities.

In Aleppo, about 87% of households affirmed the absence of protection risks, with approximately 13% reporting their presence. Similar findings were recorded in Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Damascus, Hama, Homs, and Tartous, where close to or exactly 100% of Returnee Households reported no such risks. These figures suggest a generally perceived sense of safety in these locations.

Nevertheless, some governorates presented different realities. In Deir-ez-Zor, protection concerns were significantly higher, with close to 53% of households indicating no risks while nearly 47% acknowledged their presence, highlighting this area as a key concern for targeted interventions. In Idleb, approximately 86% of respondents reported no protection threats, while nearly 14% stated otherwise. Similarly, in Lattakia, close to 92% denied the existence of such risks, though about 8% expressed concern. Rural Damascus also exhibited some variation, with nearly 89% indicating no protection risks and around 11% reporting their presence.

Overall, while a sense of safety prevails in most surveyed areas, the findings underscore the need for focused protection monitoring and responsive programming in locations such as Deir-ez-Zor, Idleb, and rural Damascus, where reported risks are comparatively higher. These areas should be prioritized for further assessment, risk mitigation efforts, and community-based protection activities to ensure safe, voluntary, and dignified returns.

TYPE OF RISK ASSOCIATED WITH RETURN AREA



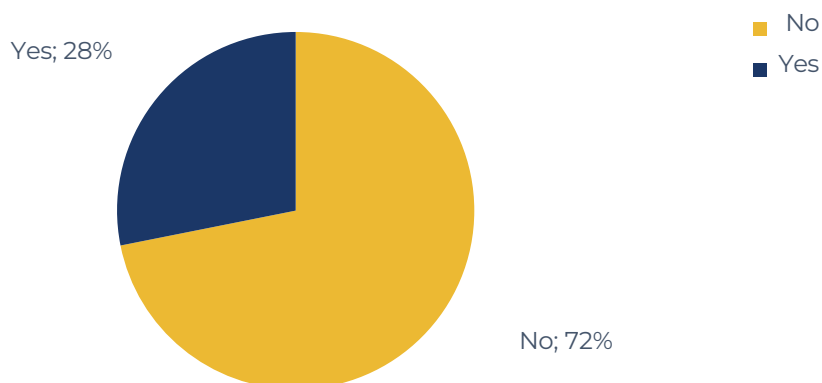
The analysis of protection risks associated with return areas across Syria highlights a complex range of threats that households continue to face upon returning. At the national level, approximately 30% of Returnee Households identified the presence of unexploded ordnance or landmines as the primary concern, underscoring a significant and widespread physical safety risk. Additionally, around 10% of Returnee Households reported exposure to gender-based violence, and a similar proportion pointed to the exploitation of children, including child labor and early marriage, as a major threat. Other notable risks include threats from property owners or current occupants of returnees' homes, cited by 8% of Households, and community-related threats such as rejection or tribal conflict, indicated by about 6%. Equally, around 6% highlighted lack of nighttime security, insufficient protection for women and girls, child recruitment or targeting by armed groups, and threats or discrimination linked to prior political, regional, or tribal affiliations. Roughly 5% feared arrest or detention upon return, while around 3% expressed concerns over the presence of armed groups or nearby conflict. A smaller share of households, approximately 2%, reported lack of access to legal protection services or difficulties accessing humanitarian assistance.

At the governorate level, the situation varies markedly. In Aleppo, nearly 30% of respondents mentioned landmine threats, followed by 15% reporting child exploitation, 12% citing gender-based violence, and around 10% highlighting insufficient protection for women and girls. Deir-ez-Zor stands out with around 60% of respondents citing landmine risks and 20% referencing gender-based violence, alongside smaller but concerning shares indicating threats linked to past affiliations and lack of humanitarian access. In Idleb, respondents indicated a wider spread of risks: 13% reported both landmines and threats from property owners, around 11% cited child recruitment and community threats, while gender-based violence, discrimination, and security gaps ranged between 5% and 10%. In contrast, Lattakia and rural Damascus showed extreme concentrations of risk, with nearly 100% and 91% of respondents respectively identifying landmines as the predominant concern. Gender-based violence in rural Damascus was also noted by 9% of households.

These findings highlight the urgent need for demining operations, community-level protection programming, and targeted interventions to address GBV and child protection risks. In areas like Deir-ez-Zor, Idleb, and Aleppo where multiple types of risks converge comprehensive multisectoral responses are especially critical. Addressing the lack of legal and humanitarian access remains an essential priority to ensure safe, dignified, and sustainable returns.

INCIDENTS OF UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE (UXO) ON RETURN SITES OVER PAST SIX MONTHS

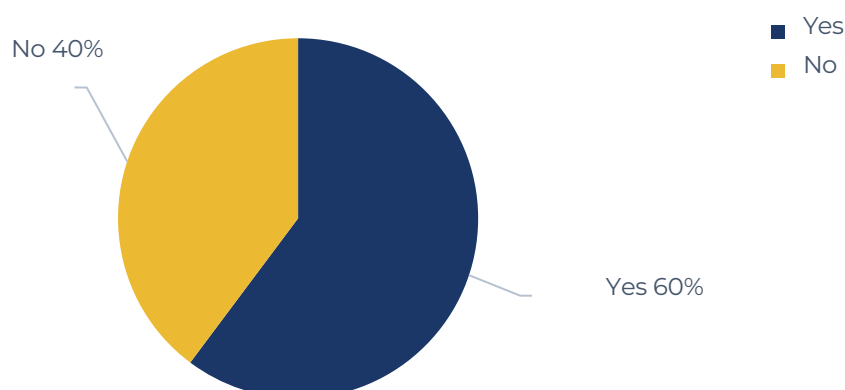
INCIDENTS OF UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE ON RETURN SITES
OVER PAST SIX MONTHS



The incidents of unexploded ordnance (UXO) on return sites over the past six months reveal significant variation across Syria. At the national level, approximately 72% of surveyed Returnee Households reported no incidents, while nearly 28% confirmed the presence of UXO, highlighting a considerable security concern for returnees. Examining governorate-level data, Aleppo showed that nearly 79% of Returnee Households reported no incidents, yet about 21% acknowledged UXO presence. Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa exhibited lower incidences, with roughly 96% and 97% of Returnee Households respectively indicating no incidents, and only 4% and 3% reporting UXO. Conversely, Damascus, Dar'a, and Tartous reported minimal or no incidents, with nearly 100% of households affirming no UXO presence. In Deir-ez-Zor, the situation was more concerning; about 63% of households confirmed UXO incidents, whereas around 37% reported none. Other governorates such as Hama and Homs reflected predominantly low UXO presence, with approximately 93% and 96% of households reporting no incidents, respectively. In Idlib, a significant proportion of households approximately 60% reported UXO incidents, contrasted by 40% who did not. Latakia and rural Damascus predominantly indicated no incidents, with 96% and 94% of households affirming this, respectively, though a small percentage acknowledged UXO presence. From a population perspective, among returnees, close to 72% of households reported no UXO incidents, while about 28% confirmed such hazards on return sites. These findings indicate that while the majority of return sites across several governorates appear free from recent UXO incidents, certain regions, notably As-Sweida, Deir-ez-Zor, and Idlib, remain significantly affected. This disparity underscores the need for targeted clearance efforts and risk mitigation measures to ensure the safety of returnees and enable sustainable returns.

CHILDREN AFFECTED BY INCIDENTS OF UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE ON RETURN SITES OVER PAST SIX MONTHS

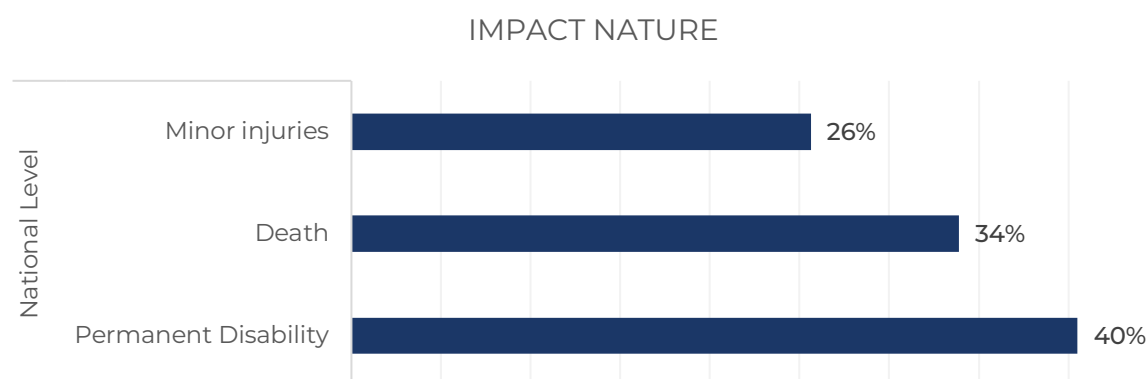
CHILDREN AFFECTED BY INCIDENTS OF UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE ON RETURN SITES OVER PAST SIX MONTHS



Following the previous section and upon analyzing the data collected for this report, it is important to highlight the significant impact of unexploded ordnance UXO on children at return sites across Syria over the past six months. On a national scale, approximately 60% of surveyed Returnee households reported that children had been affected by such incidents, while nearly 40% indicated no such impact on children. When disaggregated by governorate, variations emerge that underscore regional differences in risk exposure. For instance, in Aleppo, about 69% of surveyed Returnee households acknowledged children being affected by UXO incidents, contrasted by roughly 31% reporting no impact. In Al-Hasakeh, the situation was reversed, with approximately 67% of surveyed Returnee households reporting no affected children and 33% confirming impact. Ar-Raqqa and Homs reported the lowest incidence, with nearly 100% of households affirming that no children had been affected by UXO incidents. Conversely, As-Sweida presented a starkly different picture, where nearly 100% of surveyed Returnee households confirmed children had been impacted. Similarly, in Deir-ez-Zor, 80% of surveyed Returnee households indicated no impact, whereas 20% confirmed children were affected. The governorate of Hama showed an equal split, with about 50% of surveyed Returnee households reporting affected children and the other half reporting none. In Idleb, approximately 65% of surveyed Returnee households stated that children had been affected, with about 35% denying such occurrences. Lattakia mirrored Ar-Raqqa and Homs with close to 100% reporting no children affected by UXO incidents. In rural Damascus, the data reflected a more mixed scenario, with 56% of households denying any impact on children and 44% acknowledging it.

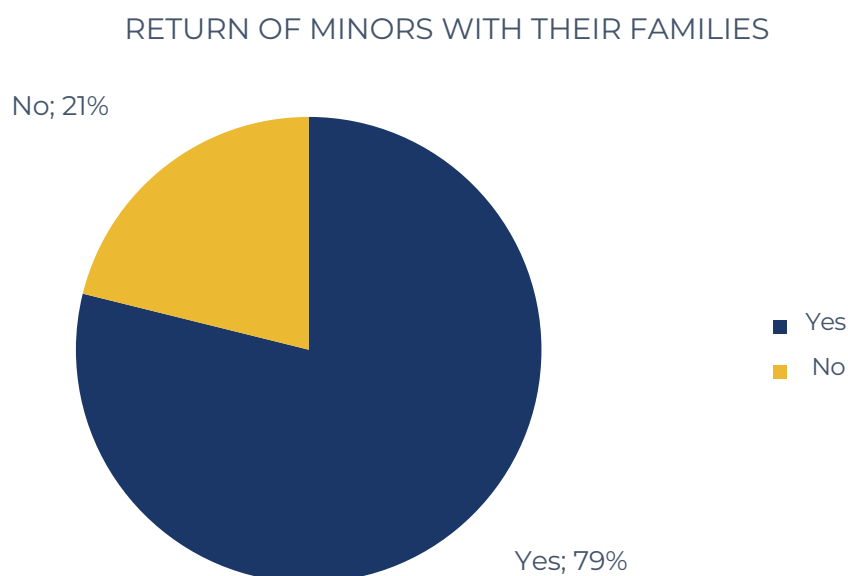
These findings highlight significant regional disparities and underscore the urgent need for targeted interventions focused on child protection, mine risk education, and clearance activities, particularly in high-risk areas where children's safety remains compromised.

ASSESSMENT OF IMMEDIATE EFFECTS AND LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES ON RETURNEES: IMPACT NATURE



The report thoroughly addresses the assessment of immediate effects and long-term consequences related to the nature of impacts from incidents involving unexploded ordnance on returnees across Syria. At the national level, the findings reveal that approximately 40% of surveyed Returnee households reported permanent disabilities, while roughly 34% indicated deaths, and close to 26% identified minor injuries as significant outcomes of these incidents. When examining governorate-level data, Aleppo stands out with 46% of surveyed Returnee households reporting permanent disability as main impact, 28% citing deaths, and 27% noting minor injuries. In contrast, Al-Hasakeh showed a striking 100% of households affected by permanent disability, whereas As-Sweida reported nearly 100% of surveyed Returnee households affected by death. Deir-ez-Zor's results highlight that 58% of surveyed Returnee households experienced minor injuries, alongside 33% reporting permanent disability and 8% acknowledging deaths as the major impact of UXO-related incidents. Hama presents an even split, with approximately 50% of surveyed Returnee households affected by permanent disability and a similar proportion reporting minor injuries. In Idleb, 39% of households affirmed permanent disability, 37% reported deaths, and 24% noted minor injuries. Meanwhile, rural Damascus recorded a high incidence of death at 71%, with 29% of surveyed Returnee households affected by permanent disability. These figures highlight significant regional disparities and the considerable burden of unexploded ordnance on affected communities, underscoring the urgent need for targeted medical care, rehabilitation services, and comprehensive risk reduction strategies to address both immediate and enduring consequences.

RETURN OF MINORS WITH THEIR FAMILIES INTO AREAS OF ORIGIN



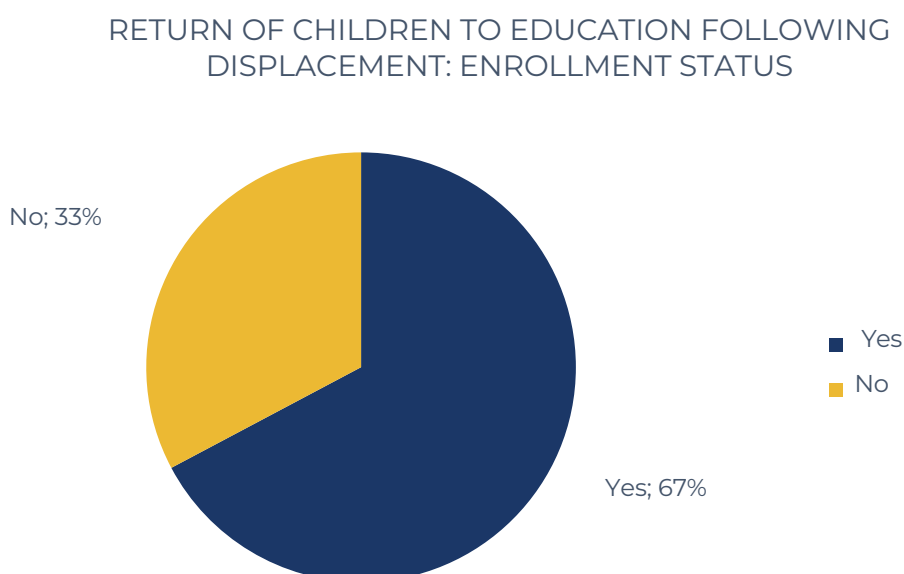
Given the critical importance of family unity, the report focused on the issue of minors returning with their family members across Syria. The findings at the national level indicate that approximately 79% of returnee households reported that minors accompanied them during their return, while around 21% stated that there were no minors in the household or that minors did not accompany them during the return. When analyzing the situation by governorate, notable variations emerge. In Aleppo, for instance, about 84% of households reported that minors returned with their families, while nearly 16% stated that minors did not return or were not present within the household. Conversely, in Al-Hasakeh, the rate of minors returning was significantly lower, with only 54% confirming that minors returned with their families, while about 46% indicated that minors did not return or were not part of the household. Similar mixed outcomes were observed in Ar-Raqqa, where approximately 58% of households reported minors returning with the family, while 42% indicated no return of minors.

In contrast, As-Sweida showed an almost complete return, with nearly 100% of households confirming that minors returned with their families. Damascus and Dar'a both presented an even split, with roughly 50% of households confirming minors returned with their families, while the other half reported otherwise. Deir-ez-Zor showed a more positive outcome, with about 79% of households confirming minors returned with their families, and 21% stating that no minors returned with the household. In Hama, approximately 74% of households reported minors returning with the family, while 26% indicated otherwise.

Homs recorded around 65% of returnee households reporting minors returning with their families, while 35% stated the opposite. Idleb demonstrated a higher success rate, with 81% of households confirming minors returned with their families, whereas 19% reported that minors did not return. In Lattakia, about 71% of households indicated minors returned with their families, while 29% stated otherwise.

Rural Damascus recorded a high return rate of minors, at approximately 85%, with only 15% reporting that minors did not return. Finally, Tartous showed an almost complete return of minors, with nearly 100% of households confirming that minors returned with their families. These findings underscore the importance of prioritizing family tracing and reunification programs, particularly in governorates with lower rates of minors returning. Humanitarian actors and decision-makers should focus on strengthening protection mechanisms, psychosocial support, and inter-agency coordination to ensure the rapid identification and safe reunification of minors separated from their families, thereby mitigating the long-term risks associated with family separation

RETURN OF CHILDREN TO EDUCATION FOLLOWING DISPLACEMENT: ENROLLMENT STATUS



Given the critical importance of education in the context of displacement, the report dedicated focused attention to monitoring the return of children to schooling following displacement, specifically examining enrollment status across Syria.

The findings at the national level indicated that approximately 67% of surveyed Returnee households reported that children had resumed their education, while nearly 33% of surveyed Returnee households stated that children had not returned to school.

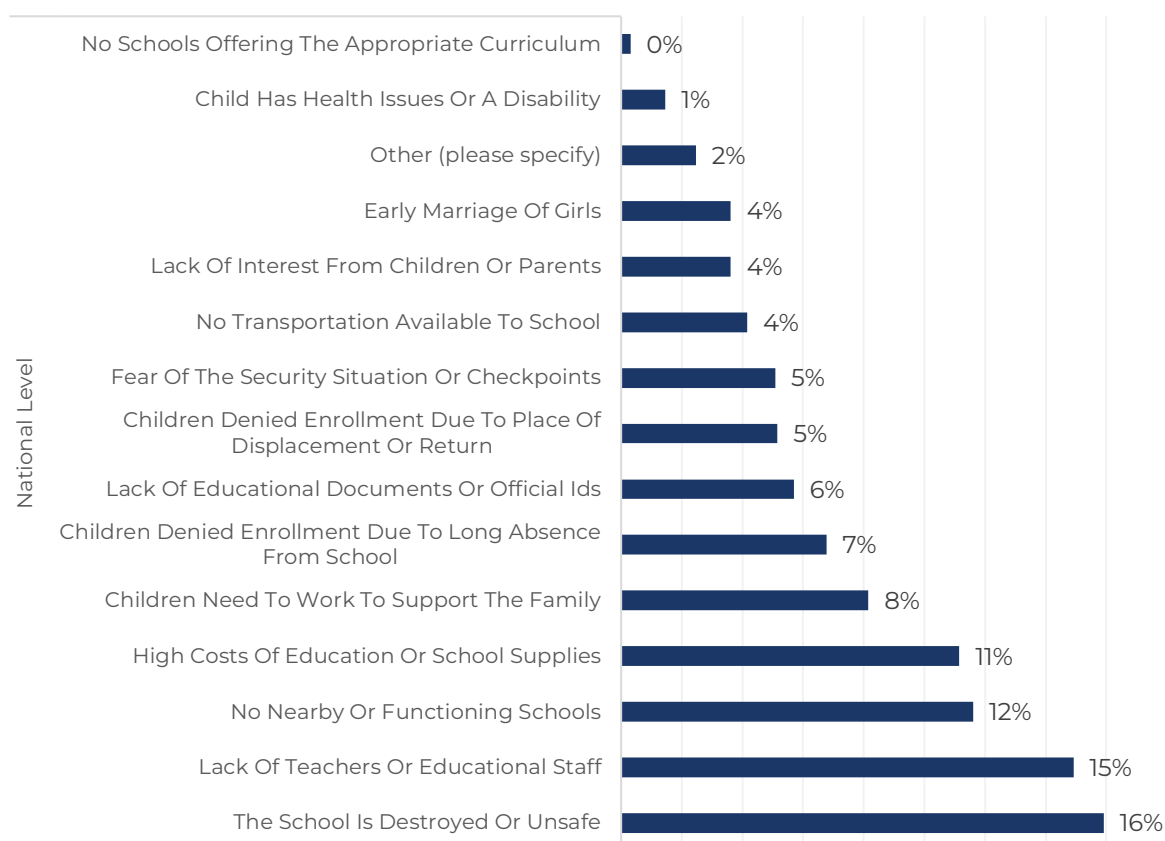
When analyzing these trends at the governorate level, significant regional variations emerged. In Aleppo, close to 77% of surveyed Returnee households confirmed children's enrollment, compared to around 23% who reported otherwise. Similarly, in Al-Hasakeh, about 67% of surveyed Returnee households indicated that children had returned to education, with 33% stating they had not. Ar-Raqqa showed a higher rate, with approximately 81% affirming children's return to school, whereas 19% indicated non-enrollment. Conversely, in As-Sweida, nearly 100% of households reported that children had not returned to education, highlighting a severe gap in this area. Damascus and Dar'a exhibited nearly equal proportions, with about 50% of surveyed Returnee households affirming enrollment and the remainder reporting non-enrollment.

Deir-ez-Zor presented a more positive picture, with 65% of households confirming children's return to education, though 35% reported otherwise. In Hama, the situation was almost evenly split, with 53% of surveyed Returnee households reporting non-enrollment and 47% confirming enrollment. Homs showed a more favorable status, with 83% affirming children's enrollment compared to 17% indicating they had not returned. In Idleb, almost 60% of surveyed Returnee households indicated non-enrollment, while 40% reported children had resumed schooling. Lattakia reflected relatively high enrollment rates at about 75%, with 25% of households stating children had not returned. Rural Damascus demonstrated the highest rate of children returning to education, with approximately 93% of households affirming enrollment and only 7% reporting non-enrollment.

Lastly, in Tartous, around 75% of households confirmed children's return to education, while 25% indicated otherwise. These findings collectively underscore the uneven progress in educational reintegration of displaced children across different regions of Syria, with particular challenges evident in areas such as As-Sweida, Dar'a, and Idleb, where enrollment remains notably low.

REASONS FOR NON-ENROLLMENT IN EDUCATION AFTER RETURN

REASONS FOR NON-ENROLLMENT IN EDUCATION AFTER RETURN



An important aspect addressed in this report concerns the reasons behind non-enrollment in education following return across the whole of Syria. The findings reveal a complex array of challenges faced by households in re-integrating children into the education system. Approximately 16% of respondents identified the destruction or unsafe condition of schools as a primary barrier. Closely related, about 15% of surveyed Returnee households reported a lack of teachers or educational staff, while 12% indicated the absence of nearby or functioning schools as significant impediments. Financial constraints also play a notable role, with 11% citing high costs of education or school supplies as deterrents. Additionally, around 8% of households pointed to the necessity for children to work and support their families, which further limits school attendance. Long absences from school were noted by 7% as a reason for denial of enrollment, and 6% attributed the issue to the lack of educational documents or official identification. Other reported factors include denial of enrollment due to the place of displacement or return (5%), fear stemming from the security situation or checkpoints (5%), and lack of available transportation to schools (4%).

Furthermore, lack of interest from children or parents and early marriage of girls were both cited by close to 4% of respondents. Smaller proportions identified other reasons such as health issues or disabilities (1%) and various other unspecified factors (2%). Examining these reasons at the governorate level reveals notable regional variations. In Aleppo, approximately 14% of households reported school destruction or unsafe conditions, and 12% noted teacher shortages. Around 11% cited child labor as a factor, while 10% mentioned high education costs. Additionally, 9% referenced long absences from school, 8% early marriage of girls, and 7% lack of official documents. Only 6% indicated the absence of nearby schools, with 5% concerned about security-related issues. Similar trends appeared in Al-Hasakeh, where lack of interest from children or parents accounted for 27%, and 23% pointed to other unspecified reasons. Child labor and early marriage were also significant, at 12% and 8% respectively, alongside a mix of other challenges including transportation and document-related obstacles, each hovering around 4%.

In Ar-Raqqa, a notably high 56% of households cited other unspecified reasons, while child health issues, lack of interest, long absences, and enrollment denials related to displacement or return each accounted for about 11%. As-Sweida reported an equal distribution of challenges, with approximately 33% of surveyed Returnee households identifying high education costs, school destruction, and lack of teachers as key issues. Damascus presented a more diverse set of barriers, with 25% of households each reporting lack of interest, early marriage, child health issues, and long absences from school as contributing factors. Dar'a reflected similar proportions, highlighting teacher shortages, early marriage, long absences, and child labor, all at around 25%. In Deir-ez-Zor, lack of interest and high costs were reported by about 17%, with transportation challenges, child labor, early marriage, and health-related issues also present at varying levels.

Further regional disparities include Hama, where 17% of households noted teacher shortages and 15% identified child labor as barriers, alongside concerns about school safety and education costs at roughly 12%. Security fears and enrollment denials due to absence or displacement were also reported. Homs showed a mix of other unspecified reasons (33%) and school-related challenges such as destruction (25%) and lack of official documents (17%). Idleb recorded around 19% for both school destruction and teacher shortages, with additional difficulties including lack of nearby schools and high costs. Lattakia's main concerns involved child labor (33%), lack of interest (17%), school safety, and education costs (both approximately 17%). Rural Damascus stood out with 73% citing other unspecified reasons, while transportation, school safety, and financial burdens were mentioned by smaller shares. Finally, Tartous reported a unique situation where nearly 100% of households identified lack of interest from children or parents as the predominant reason. This comprehensive overview underscores the multifaceted nature of barriers to education post-return, revealing significant regional differences that necessitate tailored responses from humanitarian actors and policymakers to effectively address both structural and socio-economic impediments to school enrollment.

THREATS AND HARASSMENT AT RETURN SITES

An in-depth examination of the findings related to threats and harassment at return sites across various governorates in Syria indicates that such incidents are largely absent according to the surveyed population. In the overall assessment, approximately 100% of households reported no occurrence of threats or harassment in their return areas. At the governorate level, the data reveals consistently similar patterns. In Aleppo, nearly 99% of surveyed Returnee households indicated no threats or harassment, while around 1% reported experiencing such issues. Al-Hasakeh reflected near-total security, with close to 100% of respondents affirming the absence of threats or harassment. Comparable responses were observed in Ar-Raqqa, where almost 100% of those interviewed confirmed no incidents of this nature.

In the southern governorates, including As-Sweida and Damascus, approximately 100% of households similarly reported no threats or harassment. Dar'a mirrored this trend, with about 100% of respondents stating no such concerns. In Deir-ez-Zor, the findings were consistent, with almost 100% of the surveyed population indicating no threats or harassment at their return sites. Hama also followed this pattern, with nearly 100% of households reporting a secure environment. Likewise, in Homs, the average response showed that 100% of households had not encountered any threats or harassment upon return.

In northwestern Syria, the governorate of Idleb showed a slightly higher variation, where around 99% of households did not report any threats or harassment, while approximately 1% stated that such incidents had occurred. In Lattakia, the data confirmed that close to 100% of households experienced no threats or harassment. Rural Damascus reflected a similar outcome, with nearly 100% of respondents affirming the absence of such issues, and about 0.5% reporting otherwise. In Tartous, the pattern held steady, with roughly 100% of households citing no threats or harassment at their place of return.

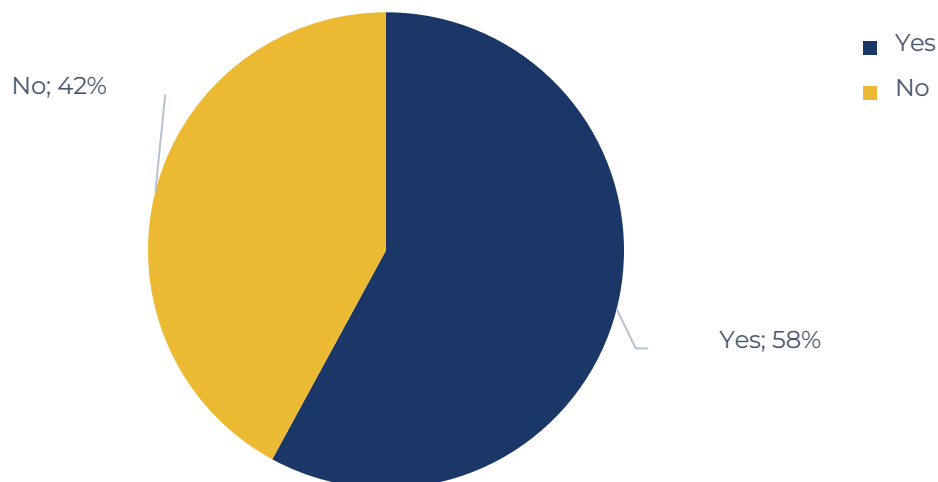
This consistent trend of reported safety suggests that, for the time being, threats and harassment are not a widespread barrier to return across Syria. Nonetheless, the few exceptions observed, particularly in Aleppo and Idleb, merit continued monitoring and localized assessment to ensure early response should conditions shift. For humanitarian actors and decision-makers, these findings underscore the importance of sustaining current levels of security, while allocating monitoring resources efficiently to areas where minor indications of risk have surfaced.



PROTECTION

ENGAGEMENT BY PROTECTION SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

ENGAGEMENT BY PROTECTION SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

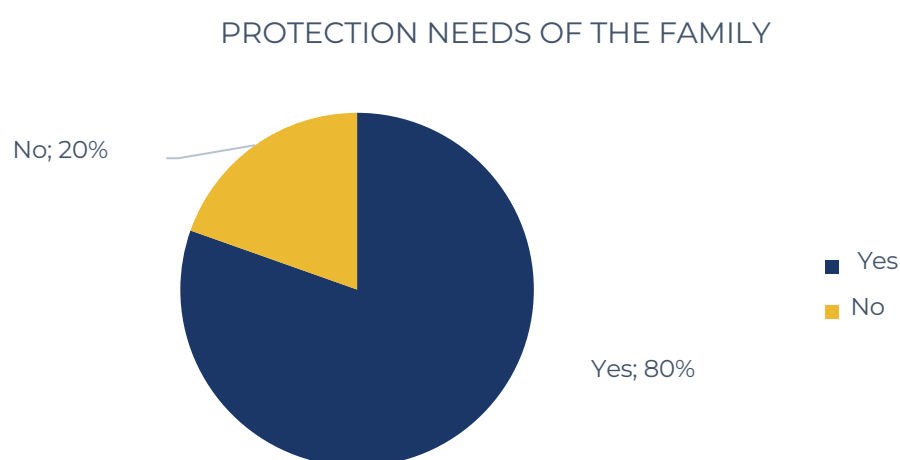


The engagement by protection service organizations across the assessed locations presents a varied landscape of service coverage. At the national level, the data show that approximately 58% of surveyed households confirmed having received support or services from protection organizations, while around 42% reported no such engagement. This general overview masks notable disparities across governorates. In Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, and Tartous, engagement levels were among the highest, with close to 83% of households in each indicating positive interaction with protection service actors. Similarly, Quneitra and Damascus reported full engagement, with 100% of households acknowledging support. Aleppo also demonstrated a relatively strong presence of protection actors, as 66% of households reported engagement, compared to 34% who did not.

In contrast, several areas reflected weaker coverage. For instance, in Homs, only about 19% of surveyed households reported receiving support, while a substantial 81% stated they had not been engaged by protection organizations. Rural Damascus also showed a concerning gap, with 63% of households indicating no engagement, and only 37% reporting some level of support. A similar pattern was observed in Deir-ez-Zor, where 56% of households noted no engagement compared to 44% who did. Other governorates such as As-Sweida, Hama, Latakia, Idleb, and Dar'a reflected a more balanced distribution of responses, suggesting partial coverage that may require expansion or reinforcement.

Disaggregated by population group, approximately 60% of internally displaced persons (IDPs) confirmed engagement by protection service organizations, while 40% reported no such contact. Similarly, among returnee households, about 57% reported engagement, compared to 43% who did not, indicating a consistent pattern of moderate service reach across population categories. These findings suggest that although protection actors are present and active in many areas, substantial gaps remain particularly in regions with high vulnerability or returnee populations necessitating targeted efforts to expand coverage and ensure equitable access to essential protection services across all governorates.

PROTECTION NEEDS OF THE FAMILY



A critical area addressed in this report pertains to the protection needs of families of IDPs and Returnees across Syria, where approximately 80% of surveyed households reported having such needs, while the remaining 20% indicated otherwise. At the governorate level, findings varied significantly. In Aleppo, about 83% of households confirmed the presence of protection needs, whereas 17% did not. Al-Hasakeh reflected an even higher level of concern, with nearly 92% acknowledging the need for protection services and 8% stating the contrary. Similarly, in Ar-Raqqa, approximately 89% of respondents recognized protection needs, with 11% not sharing this concern. A balanced divide was observed in As-Sweida, where 50% of households expressed protection needs and an equal percentage reported none.

In Damascus, the response was unanimous, with 100% of households indicating a need for protection, while Dar'a showed moderate concern, with around 67% citing protection needs and 33% indicating none. In Deir-ez-Zor, 53% of respondents acknowledged protection needs, contrasted with 47% who did not. In Hama, about 65% of households reported protection needs, while 35% did not. Homs followed a similar trend, with nearly 70% reporting protection needs and 30% stating otherwise.

In Idleb, the results showed that around 75% of households required protection support, with 25% indicating no such need. In Lattakia, the proportions were more divided, as roughly 56% confirmed protection needs and 44% reported none.

Other regions presented clearer patterns. In Quneitra, all surveyed households (100%) expressed protection needs. Rural Damascus reflected similarly high concern, with 97% of respondents acknowledging protection needs and only 3% disagreeing. In Tartous, approximately 83% of households cited protection needs, while 17% did not.

When disaggregated by population category, 72% of internally displaced persons (IDPs) stated that their families had protection needs, while 28% did not. Among returnees, the proportion of households with protection concerns was higher, with about 86% identifying a need and 14% indicating none. These findings underscore both the widespread nature of protection concerns in Syria and the regional disparities that shape the intensity of these needs across different locations and population groups.

RECOMMENDATION

- ❖ The demographic analysis of household leadership by gender reveals a consistent national trend, with close to 80% of households headed by males and approximately 20% by females. This pattern is largely reflected across governorates, though certain areas such as Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hasakeh, Lattakia, and Aleppo show relatively higher proportions of female-headed households, reaching up to 30% in some cases. In contrast, governorates like As-Sweida, Damascus, and Quneitra report nearly 100% male-headed households, indicating minimal representation of female heads. When examined by population group, internally displaced households report a slightly higher share of female-headed households (24%) compared to returnee households (18%). These variations underscore potential vulnerabilities among female-headed households, particularly in displacement-affected areas, and highlight the need for gender-sensitive programming and inclusive service delivery.
- ❖ To ensure effective and equitable response, humanitarian actors and decision-makers should prioritize targeted support for female-headed households, especially in regions and population groups where their presence is more pronounced. Immediate actions should include tailored protection measures, access to livelihood support, and integration into existing assistance frameworks to address the unique challenges faced by these households.
- ❖ In light of these findings, humanitarian actors and decision-makers are encouraged to adopt a dual-track response that addresses the needs of both long-term displaced populations requiring durable solutions and recently displaced households in need of immediate humanitarian assistance. Resource allocation should be prioritized in areas with high concentrations of protracted displacement to support early recovery, resilience-building, and reintegration, while regions experiencing recent displacement should be targeted with emergency support, protection services, and stabilization interventions.

- ❖ The report's findings on the classification of interviewed internally displaced persons (IDPs) indicate that approximately 75% of households reside within IDP sites, while about 25% live outside these designated areas. Significant regional variation exists, with governorates such as Aleppo, Ar-Raqqqa, As-Sweida, Damascus, Dar'a, Quneitra, and Tartous reporting near-universal residence inside IDP sites. Conversely, Al-Hasakeh stands out with nearly 94% of households living outside IDP sites, highlighting a distinct displacement pattern. Other governorates like Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Idleb, Lattakia, and rural Damascus exhibit a more mixed distribution between inside and outside site residency, reflecting diverse living arrangements across the country. These variations underscore differing levels of accessibility to formal camps and alternative shelter options, as well as varying humanitarian needs. The prevalence of IDPs outside formal sites in several regions signals a critical need for adaptable, community-based assistance approaches alongside camp-focused interventions. Given these findings, humanitarian actors and decision-makers should prioritize resource allocation that addresses both in-site and out-of-site IDP populations, tailoring strategies to local contexts. Enhanced support is needed for areas with high concentrations outside camps to ensure access to basic services, protection, and durable solutions. Simultaneously, strengthening infrastructure and service delivery within established sites remains essential. This dual approach will help meet urgent needs more effectively while informing strategic planning for displacement response and recovery efforts.
- ❖ The factors influencing the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) across various governorates reveals a consistent pattern where destruction or severe damage to housing remains the predominant barrier, affecting up to 100% of households in some areas. Alongside this, lack of basic services such as water, electricity, education, and healthcare, as well as limited livelihood opportunities in places of origin, significantly hinder return intentions, with notable regional variations. Additional critical constraints include the presence of explosive ordnance, insecurity or fear of violence, and legal or property disputes, all contributing to continued displacement. Social tensions, accessibility issues, and governance complexities further complicate return dynamics in specific governorates. For humanitarian actors and decision-makers, these findings underscore the urgent need to prioritize shelter rehabilitation, restoration of essential services, and livelihood support, while simultaneously addressing security concerns and legal obstacles to facilitate safe and sustainable returns. Enhanced coordination and resource allocation must target these interconnected challenges to effectively support IDP return processes and promote durable solutions.

- ❖ The findings highlight shelter repair, livelihood support, restoration of basic services, and clearance of explosive ordnance as key factors encouraging household returns, with notable regional variations. Security guarantees are particularly critical in Al-Hasakeh, while other areas emphasize housing and income support. Transportation assistance and legal aid also play important roles in some governorates. For IDPs, similar needs persist alongside safety concerns from explosive hazards. Humanitarian efforts should prioritize tailored housing rehabilitation, livelihood restoration, demining, and infrastructure repair, with added focus on security and legal support to facilitate safe and sustainable returns.
- ❖ The findings on the return of family members and neighbors to their places of origin in Syria reveal significant regional variation. Nationally, 61% of households reported returns, while 31% had not, and 8% were unsure. Some governorates like Ar-Raqqa, As-Sweida, Quneitra, and Tartous showed near-total returns, whereas Aleppo and Al-Hasakeh had high percentages reporting no return. Other areas demonstrated mixed results with moderate return rates. Internally displaced populations reflected similar trends. These results highlight the uneven progress of return efforts, indicating a need for targeted humanitarian support in regions with low return rates and ongoing monitoring to promote safe, sustainable returns.
- ❖ The returned individuals across the target area reveals that, on average, just over half of households (52%) reported that half of their members have returned, while approximately 31% indicated that the majority of household members have returned, and around 17% identified only the head of household as returned. Regional variations are evident; for instance, Aleppo and Al-Hasakeh show a fairly even distribution between half and majority of returned members, with a smaller proportion identifying only the head. In contrast, Ar-Raqqa and Homs report higher percentages for half of household members returning, whereas As-Sweida stands out with nearly all households indicating the majority of members have returned. Some governorates, such as Quneitra, exhibit a unique pattern, where nearly all respondents report only the head of household has returned. These findings underscore significant heterogeneity in return patterns across Syria, influenced by local contexts and security conditions. For humanitarian actors and decision-makers, this highlights the need for tailored, governorate-specific approaches to support returnees, with particular attention to areas where returns are partial or limited to household heads. Priority should be given to interventions that facilitate family reunification, address barriers to full household returns, and ensure adequate access to basic services and protection for those still displaced or partially returned.

- ❖ The analysis of households' intent to return within six months, contingent on resolving key obstacles, reveals a strong overall willingness across Syria, with approximately 95% of households expressing a positive intention to return. This intent is nearly unanimous in several governorates such as Ar-Raqqa, As-Sweida, Damascus, Dar'a, Homs, Quneitra, and Tartous, where close to 100% of households affirm their readiness to return. Aleppo and Deir-ez-Zor also exhibit high levels of positive intent, at around 97%, while Hama and Idleb show slightly lower but still significant rates near 94-96%. Notably, Al-Hasakeh and Lattakia report greater uncertainty, with only about 79% and 77% respectively indicating intent to return, alongside a notable proportion of households expressing uncertainty. Rural Damascus also reflects strong intent at 94%, but with small percentages expressing hesitation or refusal. Internally displaced persons demonstrate similar trends, with 95% affirming intent to return. These findings highlight a widespread readiness among displaced populations to return, emphasizing the critical need for humanitarian and development actors to prioritize removing key barriers such as security concerns, infrastructure deficits, and access to services. Addressing these obstacles promptly is essential to support safe and sustainable returns, requiring targeted interventions and resource allocation tailored to regional variations and emerging uncertainties.
- ❖ The impact of unexploded ordnance (UXO) presence in areas of origin reveals a complex and regionally varied challenge affecting family return across Syria. Nationally, approximately 54% of households acknowledge UXO presence as a significant barrier, while 46% report its absence. At the governorate level, stark contrasts emerge: Aleppo reflects the national balance with nearly equal proportions affirming and denying UXO presence, whereas Al-Hasakeh and Damascus show overwhelming indications of no UXO presence, at 91% and roughly 100% respectively. In contrast, Ar-Raqqa and As-Sweida report universal UXO presence, highlighting acute risks that likely hinder return. Other areas such as Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, and Idleb present mixed but predominantly affirmative responses regarding UXO presence, signaling ongoing threats to safety and return viability. Lattakia and Tartous display near equal division in perceptions, indicating localized variability within these governorates. Quneitra and rural Damascus stand out with high percentages (100% and 93% respectively) denying UXO presence, suggesting comparatively safer environments for return. These diverse regional realities emphasize the critical need for targeted UXO clearance, risk education, and support mechanisms tailored to local conditions to enable safer and more sustainable family returns. Addressing the persistent presence of unexploded ordnance must remain a priority for humanitarian actors and decision-makers, requiring focused resource allocation toward clearance operations, community

awareness campaigns, and reintegration support to mitigate risks and facilitate safe return processes in the most affected regions.

- ❖ Urgent focus is needed on UXO clearance and risk education, especially in governorates with high incident rates. Prioritizing resources and continuous monitoring will be essential to protect communities and support safe returns.
- ❖ The report highlights significant regional variations in the impact of incidents on children across Syria. Nationwide, 57% of households reported children affected by incidents, with higher prevalence in governorates like Deir-ez-Zor and Idlib (71% and 70%, respectively). Some regions, including Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa, reported minimal impact. Notably, nearly 100% of households in Tartous acknowledged the effects on children, indicating a critical area of concern. Among displaced populations, 57% of households reported affected children. These findings emphasize the need for targeted child protection interventions, especially in high-impact areas and among displaced communities.
- ❖ Humanitarian actors should focus on providing long-term rehabilitation and psychosocial support, with a particular emphasis on regions reporting higher levels of permanent disability. Tailored interventions for each governorate are recommended.
- ❖ Humanitarian actors should prioritize intervention in high-risk areas such as Al-Hasakeh and As-Sweida, while continuing to monitor conditions in other regions, ensuring that resources are allocated where they are most urgently needed. The results also indicate a critical need for continued protection support, particularly for IDPs, to address the barriers to return and provide safe conditions for affected populations.
- ❖ It is essential to prioritize areas with high levels of reported threats, such as unexploded ordnance, and focus on protection measures for women and children. The findings suggest that further attention is required in providing legal documentation and enhancing security mechanisms, particularly in governorates with higher reported cases of violence and displacement challenges. Humanitarian actors should adjust resource allocation to regions where these protection issues are most prevalent and engage in targeted interventions to mitigate risks associated with return and resettlement.

- ❖ In several governorates, a large proportion of households reported the return of all members, with Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, and Deir-ez-Zor showing particularly high rates of full returns at 74%, 81%, and 70%, respectively. However, other regions such as Damascus, Dar'a, and rural Damascus displayed mixed patterns, with considerable portions of households reporting only partial returns or that the head of the household was the only member who had returned. These disparities indicate that while some regions are experiencing stronger recovery and reunification, others face continued challenges in achieving comprehensive returns. Humanitarian actors should prioritize tailored interventions in areas with lower return rates and provide targeted support for those households still separated or experiencing difficulties in the return process. Further resource allocation may be needed in regions such as Dar'a and rural Damascus, where family reunification is less complete. Additionally, it is crucial to monitor the evolving needs of returnees, ensuring access to essential services such as housing, healthcare, and economic opportunities to facilitate reintegration.
- ❖ There is an urgent need for more rental assistance and improved living conditions for those hosted by relatives or in informal settlements. Allocating resources towards ensuring safe, stable housing for returnees and addressing the gaps in shelter assistance can significantly contribute to stabilizing the return process and improving the resilience of affected populations.
- ❖ Humanitarian organizations should prioritize security, economic recovery, and infrastructure restoration, especially in regions like As-Sweida, where housing needs are critical. Tailored approaches are essential to address the diverse factors driving return, ensuring effective resource allocation in high-priority areas.
- ❖ The findings of the report on urgent household needs following return across Syria reveal significant variations in priorities, with shelter rehabilitation, food assistance, health services, and livelihood opportunities consistently identified as the top needs. Shelter rehabilitation or housing support emerged as the most pressing need, highlighted by nearly 19% of households nationally, followed by health services (18%), food assistance (17%), and livelihood opportunities (16%). Regional differences show specific concerns, with areas like As-Sweida and Aleppo prioritizing shelter rehabilitation and clean water, while other regions such as Dar'a and Hama emphasize livelihood opportunities and protection services. The report underscores a critical need for targeted interventions in shelter, health, and livelihoods, with an emphasis on providing access to clean water, education, and legal support in areas

where these needs are most urgent. Humanitarian actors should focus on addressing these priorities, ensuring that resources are allocated effectively to meet the diverse needs of returning households, while also considering regional disparities that may require tailored responses.

- ❖ The analysis of post-return challenges faced by returnees reveals several critical issues that must be addressed urgently. Limited job opportunities and damaged or uninhabitable housing emerged as the most significant concerns, affecting a large percentage of households across multiple governorates. Additionally, lack of clean water and sanitation, absence of health or education services, and insufficient humanitarian assistance were identified as persistent challenges, particularly in areas like Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, and Dar'a. The presence of UXO or ERW and insecurity were also highlighted in certain regions, indicating the ongoing risks faced by returnees. The findings suggest that humanitarian actors must prioritize employment generation, housing rehabilitation, and the provision of basic services such as water, health, and education. Furthermore, addressing the security concerns, including UXO and ERW, as well as community tensions and discrimination, should be key areas for targeted intervention. Immediate action is required to ensure that returnees' needs are met, and resources should be strategically allocated to these high-priority areas to support their reintegration and recovery.
- ❖ It is critical that humanitarian and protection actors prioritize the monitoring of localized security conditions and community-level safety perceptions. Interventions should aim not only to enhance physical protection and reduce threats but also to foster trust and psychological security among returnees. Specific focus should be placed on governorates with lower reported safety levels and high percentages of respondents indicating uncertainty or fear. Targeted support, community policing, risk communication, and efforts to address unexploded ordnance could contribute to improving the overall safety environment and support more durable and voluntary returns.
- ❖ Humanitarian actors and decision-makers should prioritize targeted protection monitoring and interventions in Deir-ez-Zor, Idlib, and rural Damascus, where risks are more prevalent. Efforts should focus on risk mitigation, mine action, community-based protection programs, and strengthening referral pathways for survivors of violence. These targeted actions will be essential to ensure safe and sustainable returns in areas still facing critical protection challenges.

- ❖ Given the widespread nature of explosive hazards and the persistent protection risks reported across several governorates, humanitarian actors and decision-makers are urged to prioritize demining efforts, strengthen GBV and child protection mechanisms, and enhance access to legal aid and community reconciliation programs. Areas with multi-layered risks such as Deir-ez-Zor, Aleppo, and Idleb require integrated, multisectoral responses and sustained investment in localized protection infrastructure.
- ❖ The incidents involving unexploded ordnance (UXO) on return sites over the past six months reveals notable regional disparities across Syria. Nationally, approximately 72% of households reported no UXO incidents, while nearly 28% confirmed their presence, indicating a persistent safety risk for a significant portion of returnees. Governorate-level data highlight higher risks in specific areas, such as Deir-ez-Zor, where 63% of households reported UXO incidents, and Idleb, with 60% acknowledging such hazards. Conversely, regions including Damascus, Dar'a, Tartous, and Al-Hasakeh showed minimal to no reported UXO presence, with figures nearing or at 100% for no incidents. Aleppo and rural Damascus presented moderate risk levels, with around 21% and 6% of households respectively reporting UXO. The stark contrast in As-Sweida, where nearly all households reported UXO incidents, underscores urgent localized threats. These findings emphasize the critical need for targeted clearance operations and risk mitigation strategies, particularly in high-risk governorates, to ensure safe and sustainable returns. Humanitarian actors and decision-makers should prioritize resource allocation for UXO removal and community awareness campaigns in affected regions, while continuously monitoring emerging patterns to adapt interventions accordingly.
- ❖ The report highlights significant concerns regarding children affected by incidents of unexploded ordnance (UXO) on return sites across Syria over the past six months. For returnee populations, around 60% of households reported that children had been impacted by such incidents, with approximately 40% indicating no effect. Regional disparities are notable, with governorates like Aleppo and As-Sweida showing high rates of affected children at 69% and nearly 100% respectively, while Ar-Raqqa, Homs, and Lattakia reported minimal or no cases. Other areas, such as Idleb and Hama, presented more balanced distributions, with about 65% and 50% of households respectively acknowledging affected children. Rural Damascus exhibited a mixed scenario, with 44% affirming impact and 56% denying it. These variations underscore the uneven risk landscape for children exposed to UXO, signaling heightened vulnerabilities in certain regions. reflecting a significant protection concern. The findings point to an urgent need for focused child protection measures,

enhanced risk education, and expanded UXO clearance efforts in identified hotspots to mitigate ongoing risks and safeguard vulnerable populations. To address these critical challenges, humanitarian actors and decision-makers should prioritize resource allocation toward targeted mine action and child-focused interventions in high-risk governorates. Strengthening community awareness programs and integrating UXO risk reduction into return and reintegration plans will be essential to reduce harm and support safe, sustainable returns.

- ❖ The immediate effects and long-term consequences of incidents involving unexploded ordnance across Syria, revealing significant impacts on affected populations. Nationally, approximately 40% of households reported permanent disabilities, around 34% reported deaths, and nearly 26% cited minor injuries as key outcomes. At the governorate level, there are notable variations: Aleppo recorded 46% permanent disability, 28% death, and 27% minor injuries; Al-Hasakeh reported a 100% incidence of permanent disability; As-Sweida saw nearly 100% of households affected by death; Deir-ez-Zor experienced 58% minor injuries, 33% permanent disability, and 8% death; Hama showed an even split between permanent disability and minor injuries at about 50% each; Idleb reported 39% permanent disability, 37% death, and 24% minor injuries; rural Damascus recorded 71% death and 29% permanent disability. Among returnees, the pattern aligns closely with the national average, with 40% of households indicating permanent disability, 34% death, and 26% minor injuries. These findings underscore the widespread and varied nature of the human cost related to unexploded ordnance, emphasizing the urgent need for targeted medical support, rehabilitation services, and enhanced risk education across affected regions to mitigate both immediate harm and long-term disability.
- ❖ It is imperative for humanitarian actors and decision-makers to prioritize resource allocation towards comprehensive healthcare and psychosocial support for survivors, alongside strengthening explosive hazard risk education and clearance efforts, particularly in high-impact governorates. Continued monitoring and context-specific interventions are essential to address the evolving challenges posed by unexploded ordnance and to reduce future casualties and disabilities.

- ❖ The findings on children's return to education following displacement indicate that while 67% of households nationwide report enrollment, about 33% still face challenges. Enrollment rates vary significantly by region, with higher rates in Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, rural Damascus, and Homs, contrasted by very low enrollment in As-Sweida and Dar'a where nearly all households report children not returning to school. Other areas like Damascus, Idleb, and Hama show mixed results, reflecting persistent barriers to education access. Returnee populations generally mirror the national enrollment trends. These results call for urgent focus on governorates with low enrollment, particularly As-Sweida and Dar'a, by addressing obstacles such as infrastructure damage, lack of resources, and psychosocial needs. Targeted interventions and increased support are essential to improve educational access and ensure all displaced and returnee children can resume schooling.
- ❖ Reasons for non-enrollment in education after return across Syria reveals significant barriers that vary by region but consistently highlight critical challenges such as school destruction or unsafe conditions, shortage of teachers, and lack of nearby functioning schools. Financial constraints, child labor, and long absences from school also emerge as common factors limiting access to education. Notably, governorates like Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, and rural Damascus exhibit distinct patterns, with some areas reporting high rates of lack of interest from children or parents, while others emphasize issues related to documentation, security concerns, and early marriage. These findings underscore the multifaceted nature of educational exclusion, indicating an urgent need for targeted interventions addressing infrastructure rehabilitation, teacher recruitment, financial support, and protection measures. Humanitarian actors and decision-makers should prioritize region-specific strategies, enhance outreach to vulnerable populations, and allocate resources to mitigate both structural and socio-economic obstacles to school re-enrollment, thereby facilitating more equitable access to education for returnee children.
- ❖ The data indicates that nearly all returnee households across Syrian governorates reported no threats or harassment at return sites, with only isolated cases (1%) noted in Aleppo and Idleb. This suggests that such issues are not currently widespread barriers to return.
- ❖ While no immediate large-scale interventions are required, humanitarian actors should continue monitoring protection conditions, particularly in areas with minor reported incidents to ensure the continued safety and confidence of returnees.

- ❖ The findings suggest a need to strengthen protection outreach in underserved areas, particularly Homs and rural Damascus, and to improve equitable access for IDPs and returnees through better coordination and resource allocation.

- ❖ A widespread and pressing need for protection services, particularly in governorates where rates exceed 80% and among returnee populations. For humanitarian actors and decision-makers, this calls for prioritizing protection programming in the most affected areas, ensuring the availability of tailored services that respond to context-specific risks and vulnerabilities, and reinforcing outreach to populations who may remain underserved.

PROTECTION NEEDS AND SERVICE ENGAGEMENT

OF DISPLACED AND RETURNEE POPULATIONS



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