

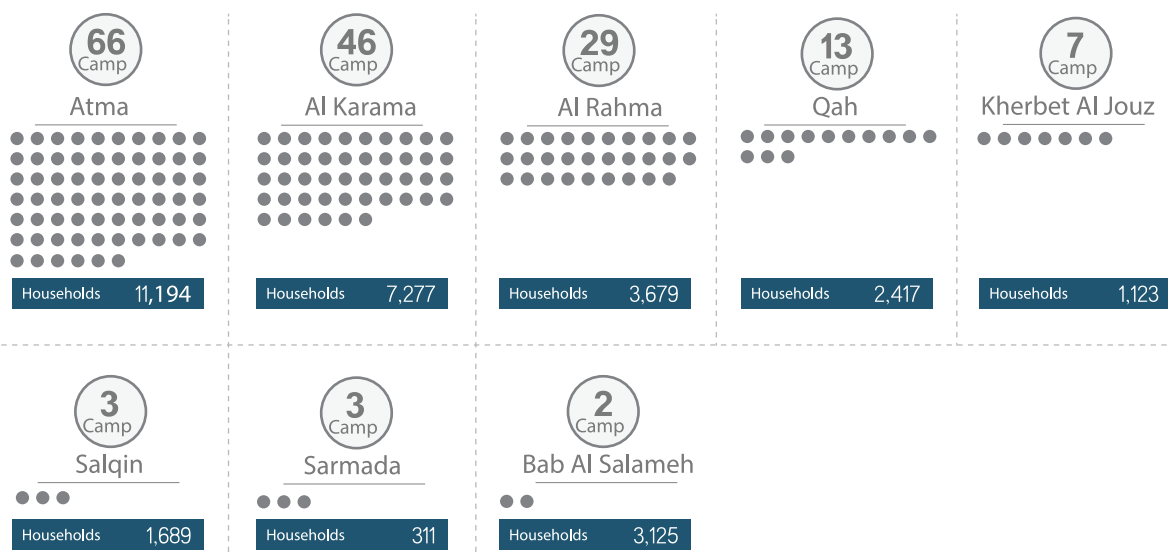
Need for Heaters in Northern Syria Camps

December 2016

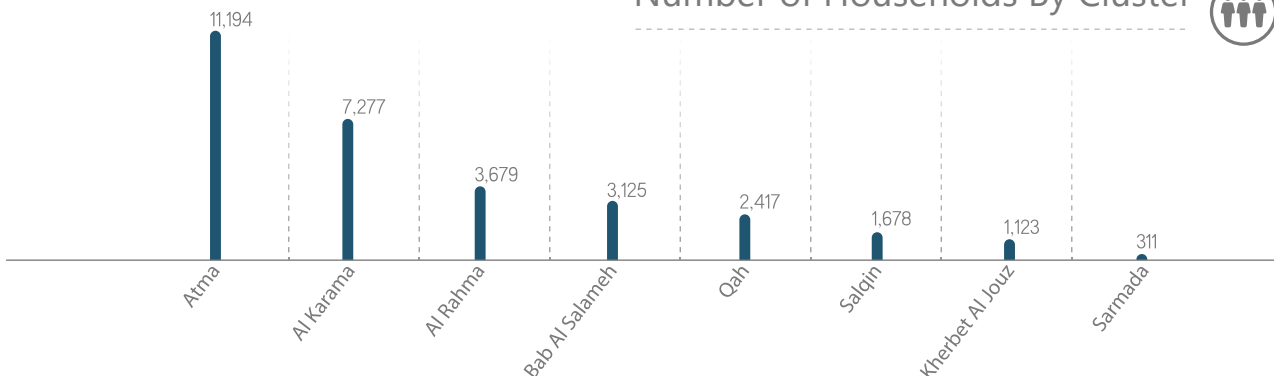
The IDP camps in Northern Syria witnessed several tragic accidents during the month of December. On 25 December, 2016 a tent containing a family of 6 members was burned within Bab Al Salameh Border Camp due to the misuse of a coal oil heater, resulting in dying two girls under 5 years old and transforming the rest of the family to a hospital inside Turkish lands whose situation is critical. On 22 December two newly born infants died in Al Anfal camp within Atma cluster within Dana sub-district in Idleb because of bitter cold and the lack of heating during the last snow storm. As well as, an eight years old child died as a result of suffocation due to the consumption of oxygen within the tent where the family used coal oil heater all the night.

The need for heaters is a top priority within Northern Syria camps where severe need for heaters and heating fuel was reported in all assessed clusters. Twenty-two IMU enumerators participated in the winter needs survey of more than 30,000 families between the 10th and the 30th of November 2016 in 169 camps within 8 clusters in the North of Syria in order to enable humanitarian actors within assessed camps to provide the appropriate response that matches IDPs needs.

Number of Camps By Cluster

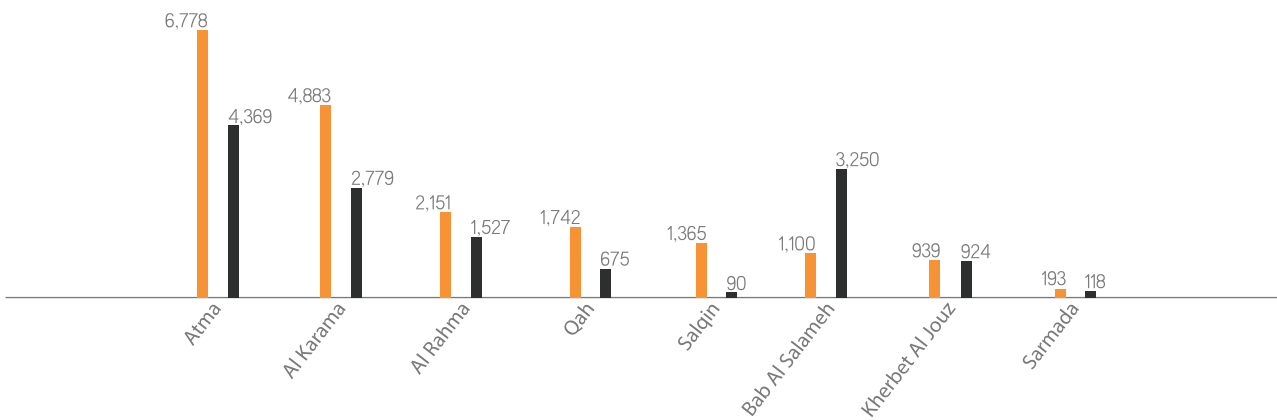


Number of Households By Cluster



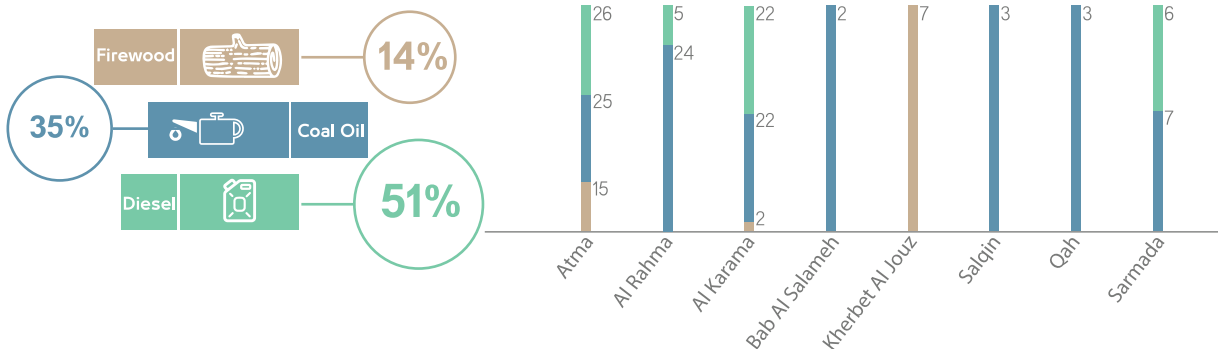
Number of Heaters

Heaters comprise the only mean for heating in camps. This study focused on the precise need for heaters because heaters came as the third priority within all assessed clusters after fuel and rain insulators, according to Winter Needs Report 2016¹. The following figure shows the need for heaters in each cluster considering that most of the available heaters are old and some of them were delivered to displaced households in 2013 and many of them became unusable and do not meet safety standards.



The Type of Heaters

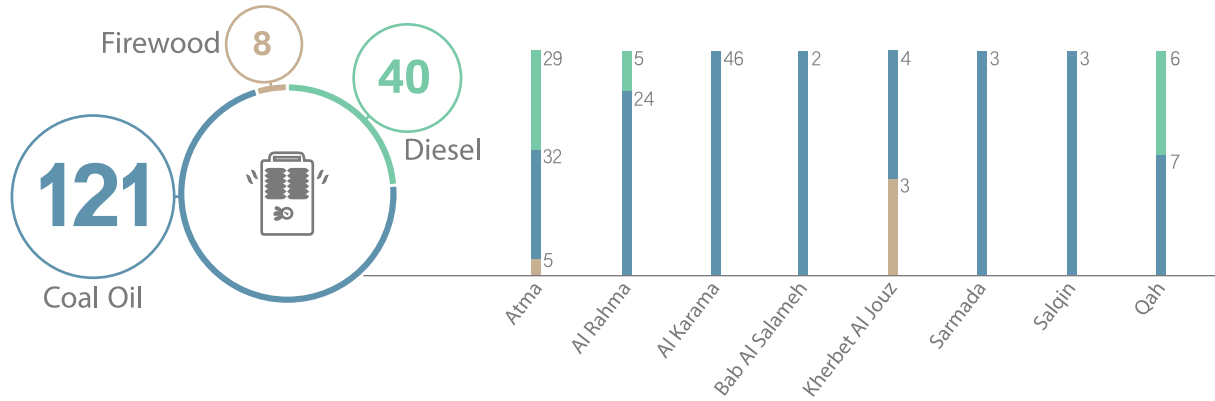
The study shows that more than half of used heaters operate with coal oil, despite the danger of using this kind of fuel as it causes fires and suffocation cases among the IDPs. On the other hand, only 35% of heaters use diesel because of its high prices and rare availability.



1- http://www.acu-sy.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/winter-needs_v_081116_AR.pdf

The Type of Required Heaters

Analysis results show that 72% of the assessed camps need coal oil heaters due to the low price of coal oil and because of the rare distribution of it by the humanitarian actors, despite the fact that using coal oil within the camps is dangerous and may cause suffocation cases and fires within the tents. The need for firewood as a heating fuel was only recorded in eight camps within Atma and Kherbet Aljouz clusters because of the possibility of getting it from nearby forests.



Assistance Coordination Unit (ACU) calls all active humanitarian actors in Northern Syria camps to meet the needs of displaced families for heaters and heating fuel as this study presents, considering that the poor quality of heaters causes a higher possibility of combustion within the tents. As well as, many displaced families are forced to burn cardboard, shoes and clothing to get warm with the risk of tents burning and suffocation, as happened during the past few years.

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