

# DISPLACEMENT AND VIOLATIONS IN DEIR-EZ-ZOR AND AR-RAQQA

ASSISTANCE COORDINATION UNIT



DEC 2017

SITUATION REPORT

# DISPLACEMENT AND VIOLATIONS IN DEIR-EZ-ZOR AND AR-RAQQA

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## **Objective of this Report:**

The ACU's Information Management Unit through its enumerator network and in cooperation with the provincial councils of Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zour, has prepared a situational report that highlights the human rights violations affecting both governorates, and monitors the urgent needs of the population in the places of their displacement.

Both Deir-ez-Zour and Ar-Raqqa have suffered human rights violations for more than six consecutive years. Civilians were shelled, besieged, forcibly displaced, and at the end detained in displacement camps. Despite the suffering of these governorates, humanitarian operations there were completely stopped and the complete picture of the humanitarian situation there was deliberately ignored from media channels.

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS:

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|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>ACU</b>   | Assistance Coordination Unit                 |
| <b>EWARN</b> | Early Warning And Response Network           |
| <b>IDP</b>   | Internally Displaced Person                  |
| <b>IMU</b>   | Information Management Unit                  |
| <b>IRC</b>   | International Rescue Committee               |
| <b>FSA</b>   | Free Syrian Army                             |
| <b>ISIL</b>  | Islamic State of Iraq and Levant             |
| <b>PC</b>    | Provincial Council                           |
| <b>PKK</b>   | Kurdistan Worker's Party                     |
| <b>SDF</b>   | Syria Democratic Forces                      |
| <b>UNHCR</b> | United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees |
| <b>USD</b>   | United States Dollar                         |
| <b>WHO</b>   | World Health Organization                    |

# DISPLACEMENT AND VIOLATIONS IN DEIR-EZ-ZOR AND AR-RAQQA

ASSISTANCE COORDINATION UNIT

## INTRODUCTION

### **Deir-ez-zor governorate**

Deir-ez-zor governorate is to the east of Syria on the Syrian- Iraqi borders. The governorate is administratively divided into three districts: Deir-ez-zor, Al Mayadin, and Abu Kamal, and 14 sub-districts. The villages of these sub-districts are distributed on both sides of the Euphrates River, which divides the governorate into two parts. According to the 2011 census, the total population was 1,237,413 people, 98% of whom were Sunni, and the 2% were Shia who used to live in Hseiniyeh village. The governorate is predominantly tribal, where there were a number of clans, the largest of which were al-Akidat and al-Bakara. While there was not a Kurdish community in any of Deir-ez-zor villages.

Deir-ez-zor governorate is considered the source for 60% of the underground wealth in Syria through oil and gas wells, including the largest oil wells: Al Omar and Al Tanak fields, and Al Ward, Al Taim and Al Jafra wells, as well as Kuniko gas plant which generates 40% of electricity in Syria, and AL Harita and T2 petrol stations, through which the Iraqi oil used to pass towards the Mediterranean. Moreover, Deir-ez-zor is the third governorate in the production of wheat, and the first governorate in cotton production in addition to livestock availability.

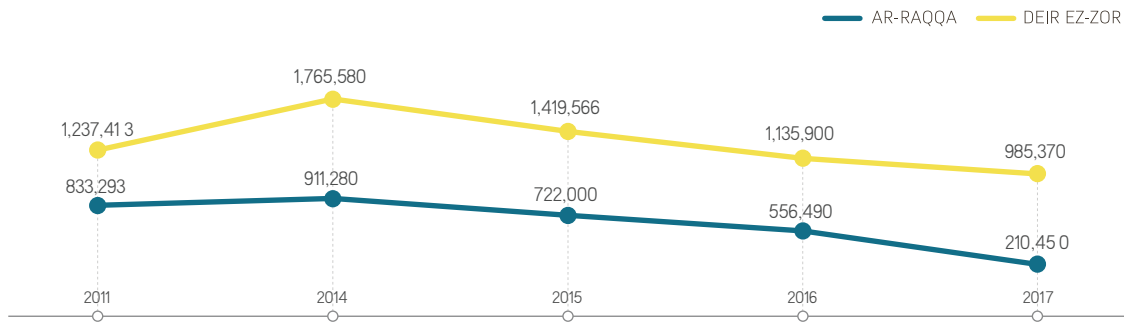
### **Ar-Raqqa Governorate:**

Located in North Central Syria-on the Syrian-Turkish border, Ar-Raqqa governorate is administratively divided into three districts which contain ten sub-districts. According to the 2011 census the total population was 833,293 people, but this figure was less than the actual number as the governorate contained a larger population, Especially in Ar-Raqqa city centre and Ath- Thawrah city after erecting the Tabaqah dam, where a large number of people work and live although they are registered in other governorates. The Euphrates dam in Ar-Raqqa, is an important source of electricity in Syria although creating the dam led to the loss of extensive fertile farming lands due to submerging dozens of villages in the water of dam's lake. It should be noted that Ar-Raqqa Governorate is ranked the second in wheat production after Al-Hasakeh.

**First: The Impact of the Change of the Controlling Party on the Displacement Movements:**

Large displacement movements, especially from Homs and Hama, directed towards Deir-ez-zor and Ar-Raqqa governorates since the outbreak of events in Syria. Where more than 400,000 IDPs arrived in Deir-ez-zor and nearly 60,000 IDPs arrived in Ar-Raqqa till 2014. As of the date of this report, Deir-ez-zor and Ar-Raqqa have suffered the largest displacement waves since the beginning of the crisis due to gaining control by PKK militia and Syrian regime forces of vast areas in these two-governorates.

**Figure 01:** Population Change in Syria:



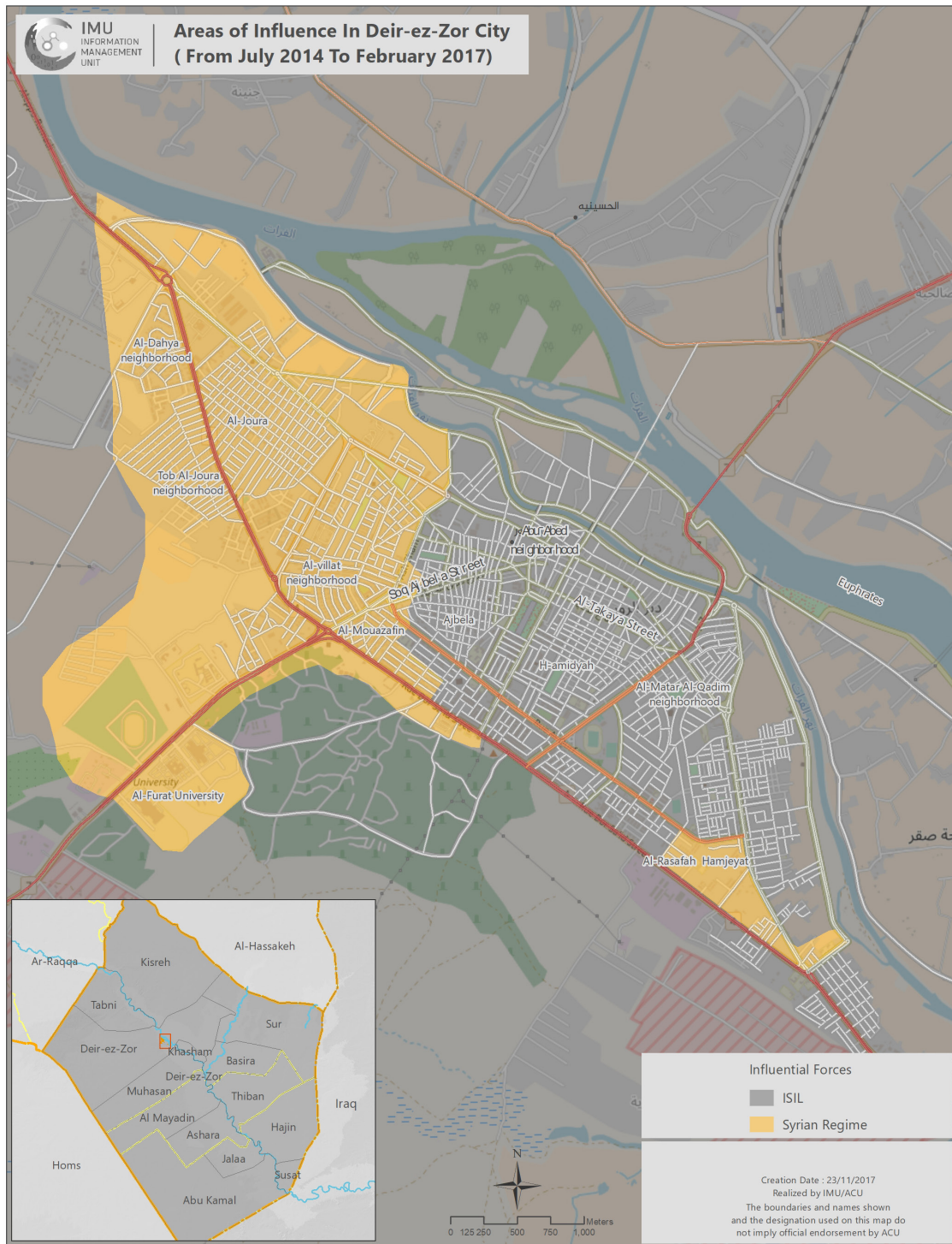
**Deir-ez-zor**

According to the 2011 census, the total population of Deir-ez-Zor Governorate was 1,237,413 people. Peaceful demonstrations started in Deir-ez-zor in March 2011. During that period the Deir-ez-zor sub-districts received a large number of IDPs. The sub-districts started to go out of the regime control one after another, and the last liberated are was the city center of Deir-ez-zor. The regime forces arrested some women in the city after Al-Jazeera broadcasting Deir-ez-zor women statement. With the escalated pace of arrests, civilians erected barriers to prevent regime’s security forces from entering the neighbourhoods. Civilians tried to hinder the regime’s forces from entering neighbourhoods by stones. These barriers lasted for twenty days until the regime brought a large number of military forces from Damascus who broke into the city in August 2011 and conducted a massive campaign of arrests.

In June 2012, the Free Syrian Army (FSA) appeared in the city for the first time, and declared the city completely liberated except for the security centers, On the 25th of September 2012, the Republican Guard carried out a large campaign to break into Deir-ez-zor city and shelled the city with all kinds of weapons and warplanes. The regime’s army committed a large number of massacres in Al-Jura neighbourhood, where hundreds of civilians were slaughtered with knives. The commander of the military campaign was killed during the clashes, and the regime forces could not break into a large section of the city’s neighbourhoods, so the regime resorted to the siege and bombardment of the city with all types of arms and military aviation. The siege of the liberated section of Deir-ez-zor lasted until 29/01/2013 when the Free Army liberated the Political Security branch and opened the only crossing of the besieged city via the (jizr Alsiyasa) bridge, which connects the liberated part of the city with the other side of the Euphrates River. Deir-ez-zor witnessed movements of displacement from the city to the neighbouring countryside and the governorates of Ar-Raqqa, Al- Hasakeh and Damascus. Despite this displacement, the governorate witnessed an increase in the number of civilians who settled in the countryside and other sub-districts. The population of Deir-ez-zor governorate was estimated at 1,765,580 people in 2014 during the control of the moderate opposition forces of the governorate.

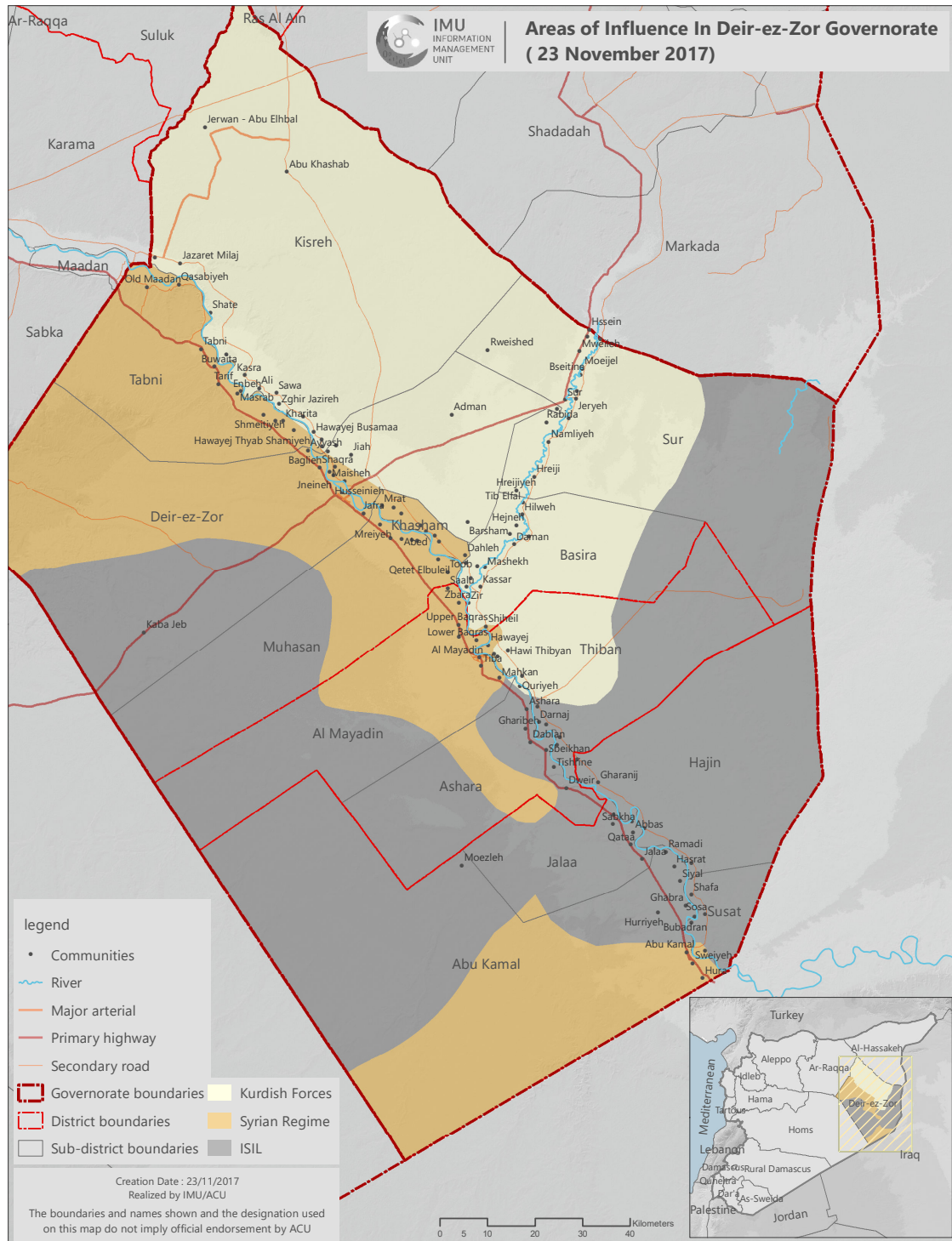
Islamic State (ISIL) seized control on Deir-ez-zor city on the 14th of July 2014 after many clashes in the countryside. ISIL arrested free army members and committed several massacres of civilians, notably the massacre in Al-Sheitat in August 2014, and the displacement of more than 100,000 civilians from the villages of Al-Sheitat in Hajin sub-district. Displacement movements out of Deir-ez-zor increased after ISIL seized its control of the whole city at the beginning of 2015 due to ISIL tightening security and the escalation of bombardment of the Syrian regime and the Russian and coalition aviation on the areas controlled by ISIL. Consequently, the population of Deir-ez-zor governorate was estimated of 1,419,566 people. in 2015.

Map 01



The Syrian regime advanced to all the neighborhoods in Deir-ez-zor city, and Mohasn and Al Mayadin sub-districts and large parts of the the Ashara sub-district in the month of October 2017, in conjunction with the Kurdish forces operating under the leadership of the PKK took control over Khasham, Basira, Thiban and parts of AlSur sub-districts after they had dominated earlier on Kisreh sub-district. As a result of the regime’s forces and PKK-backed forces, Deir-ez-zor governorate witnessed the largest displacement wave since the start of the events with a population of 985,370 people at the date of this report.

Map 02



**Ar-Raqqa Governorate:**

According to the 2011 census, the total population of Ar-Raqqa Governorate was 833,293 people. Ar-Raqqa governorate received many displacement waves from other governorates at the beginning of the events in Syria. IDPs included students, and government officials due to the functioning of the regime 's government services. Consequently, the total population of Ar-Raqqa governorate at the end of 2012 was estimated at 1,085,270. On March 4, 2013, the city of Ar-Raqqa came out of the control of the Syrian regime and was taken over by the opposition factions, which led to displacement movements from the city to the neighboring countryside. Displacement movements increased after ISIL took control of the whole Ar-Raqqa governorate in January 2013. Consequently, the population of the governorate in 2014 decreased to around 911,280 people. The governorate of Ar-Raqqa prospered again at the beginning of the control of ISIL, which tried to reactivate facilities and services in the capital of its alleged caliphate in Syria. ISIL expanded until it controlled more than 70% of Ain Al Arab in Aleppo and reached the Murshid Pinhar border gate. Consequently, the international coalition hit ISIL and enabled the Kurdish forces to regain control of Ain Al Arab city. But, the expansionist ambitions of the PKK did not stop at the restoration of Ain Al Arab and Kurdish forces also controlled Suluk and Ein Issa sub-districts.

In mid-October 2017, Kurdish forces operating under the leadership of PKK militia took control of the city of Ar-Raqqa after fierce battles with ISIL and the bombing of coalition warplanes that destroyed 40% of the city. The control of the city came after ISIL fighters were allowed to withdraw from the city under the protection of the international coalition aircraft, and the displacement of all civilians under the fire of the PKK snipers and bombardment of coalition aircraft. The Syrian Democratic Forces and (PKK) continued their progress in Al-Karamah sub-district after they had taken control of Al-Jurneyyeh and Al-Thawrah sub-districts earlier, in parallel, the Syrian regime, supported by the Russian aviation took control over Mansura, and Sabka and Maadan sub-districts. So, Ar-Raqqa governorate witnessed the largest displacement movement since the beginning of events where the population of the governorate until the date of preparation of this report was 210,450 people.



Map 03



## Second: The Most Severe Atrocities in Deir-ez-zor and Ar-Raqqa Governorates:

### Deir-ez-zor Governorate

Deir-ez-zor governorate witnessed many massacres along with blockade and displacement enforced by the Syrian regime, ISIL and the PKK militia.

1. **Al Jourah neighbourhood massacre:** This massacre took place on 25 September 2012 in the Al Jourah, Qosour, and Jubaila neighbourhoods, when the Syrian regime brought in a military campaign of the Republican Guard forces. The regime forces killed 460 civilians in the Al Jourah neighbourhood, in addition to dozens of victims in Qosour, and Jubaila neighborhood. Some of the victims were burnt alive.
2. **Graveyard Massacre:** During the military campaign carried out by the Syrian Republican Guard forces in Deir-ez-Zor in September 2012, civilians took a road between the city's tombs to flee the areas sought by the Syrian regime. A massacre was discovered between the tombs on 19 October 2012 in an area controlled by the Syrian regime, where 86 bodies were found mostly women, children and the elderly, whom the regime executed by firing squad.
3. **Al-Sheitat Massacre:** During ISIL control on Hajin sub-district, some members of the Al-Sheitat tribe refused to hand over the oil wells under their control to ISIL, prompting ISIL to clash with them. After controlling their villages, ISIL slaughtered more than 600 young men, some of them were under 18 years old, and has deported more than 100,000 civilians of the Alshaitat tribe from their homes in Kishkiyeh, Abu Hamam, and Gharanj villages, knowing that most of the members of the tribe did not participate in military actions or conflicts at the time.
4. **The siege of the city of Deir-ez-zor:** On January 16, 2015, ISIL imposed a siege on the city's neighbourhoods under the Syrian regime's control, prevented the entry of food to it, and cut off the electricity network and the lines of communication. ISIL beheaded a number of civilians who tried to break the siege through the introduction of food to the city. The city population with the starting date of the siege was more than 300,000 people. The regime contributed in tightening the blockade by cooperating with traders who monopolized the items being transferred to the city's neighbourhoods by warplanes and selling them at exorbitant prices. The city remained under siege for nearly two years, leading to the displacement of most of the population.

Syrian and Russian warplanes committed a large number of massacres in the sub-districts of the governorate during the control of ISIL, where the bombing claimed the lives of hundreds of civilians in the Al Mayadin, Khasham, Kasra, Muhasan and Abu Kamal sub-districts.

### Ar-Raqqa Governorate

Ar-Raqqa governorate suffered from ISIL control for almost four years, where it was deprived of humanitarian assistance. Vaccination campaigns, stopped several times. Being under ISIL control, the governorate was not a part of any truce or reduce the escalation agreements. Moreover, PKK imposed forced displacement on the population.

1. **The Stop of Relief Work:** Relief organizations had stopped their work in the Ar-Raqqa governorate since the control of ISIL. Knowing that the number of civilians within the governorate during ISIL control has reached 911,280 people, 60% of whom lost their sources of income. The last routine vaccine campaign was carried out in Ar-Raqqa in June 2016, where the first round of routine pediatric vaccine was applied, then vaccine campaigns stopped in the governorate.
2. **Forced Displacement:** On June 10, 2015, the PKK militia controlled the Suluk and Ein Issa sub-districts with the support of the International Alliance, which used to shell villages with heavy artillery to facilitate the PKK advancement. The PKK displaced 90% of the population of these two sub-districts including completely ethnically displacement of 39 villages under the pretext of combating terrorism. Moreover, 85% of the residents of the city of Ar-Raqqa could not return to their homes after the PKK's control over the city. Sixty percent of civilians were displaced from their homes in Mansura, Sabka and Maadan sub-districts which were controlled by the Syrian regime forces.

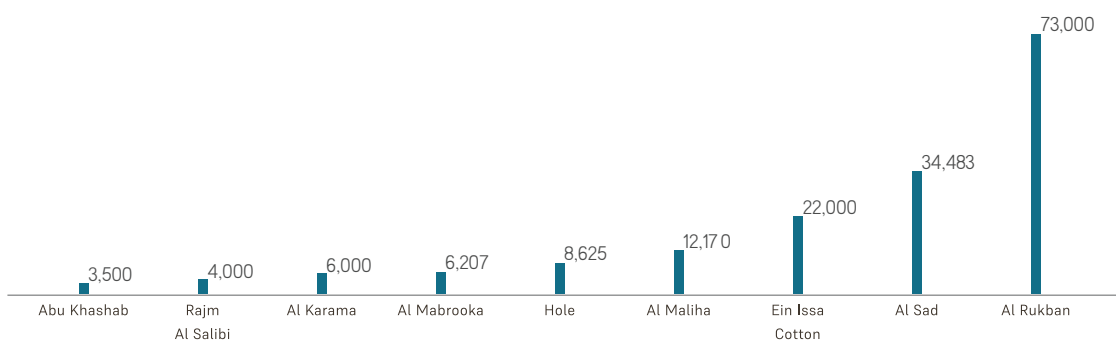
3. **The Old Souk Al HAL massacre (Andalus bakery):** Syrian warplanes bombed the Andalus bakery on 26 December 2012 killing 150 civilians as this bakery is located in a crowded market.
4. **Al Amassi Neighborhood Massacre:** In November 2015, the Syrian regime bombed the children's park in Al Amassi neighbourhood killing 60 civilians, mostly women and children.
5. **The exodus of civilians from Ar-Raqqa City:** After PKK militia imposed their control on Ar-Raqqa city in mid-October 2017, ISIL fighters were allowed to withdraw from the city under the protection of coalition air force, whereas all civilians were displaced under the PKK sniper fire and the coalition aircraft bombing that killed hundreds of civilians.

During the military operations launched by the PKK militia, Ar-Raqqa City was exposed on a daily basis to dozens of the International Coalition aerial raids that killed hundreds of civilians.

### Third: IDP Camps

The number of IDPs from the governorates of Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa in the camps was 169,580. Those IDPs are distributed in the villages of Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hasakeh and Deir-ez-zor in camps located in villages controlled by the PKK militia.

**Figure 02:** # of IDPs within camps in Eastern Governorates



#### 1. Al Sad Camp:

There are 34,438 IDPs in Al Sad camp which is located to the south of Al-Hasakeh, near the Ajaja dam. This camp is described as a detention centre for people fleeing from the ISIL-controlled areas. The camp suffers from lack of tents, where 37% of the families do not have tents and are forced to stay outdoors. Only 40% of the IDPs receive food assistance, whereas the other 60% have to buy food through traders dealing with the PKK. The camp also suffers from a lack of basic shelter materials such as blankets, mattresses and kitchen items, and unavailability of field kitchen. IDPs burn the garbage as a cooking fuel. There is no medical centre inside the camp and most IDPs are not allowed to leave the camp to Al-Hasakeh governorate for medical treatment. The camp guards of the PKK forces allow patients to escape from the camp for treatment in Al-Hasakeh city for 400 USD per person as a bribe. Poor health conditions during month of October 2017 resulted in 10 deaths due to lack of health care. IDPs peacefully protested three times during the past months. Each demonstration ended with beatings and arrests of IDPs and taking them to an unknown destination.

## 2. Al Maliha Camp:

This camp is located in Shaddadah sub-district in Al-Hasakeh governorate. The camp is a military check-point where civilians escaping from Deir- ez-Zor are gathered and interrogated, and some young men are arrested. All the civilians in this camp are treated as prisoners. They are beaten and taken in groups to Al-Sad and Al-Mabrouka camps in the event of completion of investigation procedures, which may last for a month. PKK affiliated charities, Roj Ava and Al Yamama charities distribute food rations to the IDPs in this camp. Civilians are forced to stand in a long line to receive two meals a day. There is not a medical center in the camp.

## 3. Rajm Al Salibi Camp:

This camp is situated in the southern AL-Hasakeh countryside. It is a gathering point for People fleeing ISIL-controlled areas in Syria and Iraq. This camp is described as the worst in conditions of residency and treatment. The population of this camp varies according to the displacement waves, and they are in average 4,000 IDPs. Families are gathered in some large tents. 60% of the families are forced to stay in the open or in holes to avoid the cold wind. Iraqi refugees are taken to Hole Camp. While the IDPs from Deir-ez-Zor are distributed to other camps. There is not a medical center in this camp. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recently distributed some humanitarian assistance to the residents of this camp.

## 4. Hole camp:

There are 8,625 IDPs in the Hole camp which is located in the Hole sub-district in Al-Hasakeh governorate. This camp has attracted the attention of international organizations because it contains a special section for the Iraqi refugees. The UNHCR provides tents for the displaced people in this camp, International Rescue Committee (IRC) mobile clinic visits the camp once every week, and there is a clinic affiliated with the Kurdish Red Crescent. Iraqi refugees are constantly transferred to Iraq, whereas Syrian refugees are treated badly by PKK's camp guards.

## 5. Al Mabrooka Camp

This camp is located in the Ras Al Ain sub-district. The camp is overcrowded with 6,207 IDPs because of the narrow space. The camp witnessed several protests by IDPs due to mistreatment of PKK guards. The camp lacks tents, mattresses, and blankets and the UNHCR provides tents for displaced people in this camp. Civilians are subject to extortion by the guards and administrators who oversee the assistance distribution even that they sometimes sell tents to newcomers. 20% of the IDPs do not own tents and they are forced to sleep in the open or to live with another family in the same tent.

## 6. Ein Issa (Cotton) Camp:

The camp is in In the Ein Issa sub-district in Ar-Raqqa governorate, near the previous cotton warehouses. This camp contains 22,000 IDPs, 35% of whom do not have tents and live outdoors. There is one medical center in the camp which is overseen by the Kurdish Red Crescent. The camp is supported by "Doctors without borders", and water is transferred to the camp with tanks supported by the Concern Organization.

## 7. Al Karama (Al Manaher) Camp

Located in Al Karama sub-district in Ar-Raqqa, near Al Manaher hill. The camp is composed of two parts: east and west of the hill. Most of the IDPs in the camp are from the western sub-districts in Deir-ez-Zor, and Maadan and Sabka sub-districts in Ar-Raqqa. No party provides assistance to 6,000 IDPs in this camp whose numbers are decreasing due to poor conditions in this camp.

## 8. Abu Khashab Camps:

These camps are located in Abu Khashab desert in Kesreh sub-district in Deir-ez-zor countryside, near Al-Hasakeh Governorate. Around 3,500 IDPs live in scattered tents. IDPs do not get any humanitarian assistance in the camps which do not contain a medical center.

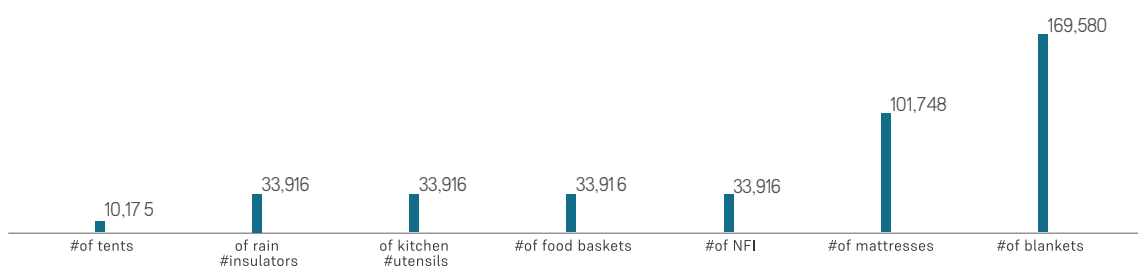
### 9. Al Rukban Camp:

It is located in the Syrian desert on the Syrian-Jordanian border. This camp extends for 7 km along the Syrian-Jordanian border in the desert, within areas controlled by the tribal army which is a military force affiliated to the opposition and descended from the governorates of Deir-ez-zor and Ar-Raqqa. There are approximately 74,000 IDPs in the camp, mostly from Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa governorates, in addition to IDPs from Palmyra and Damascus countryside. The camp is supplied with water through tankers transporting unsterilized water from recently constructed nearby wells. There are two medical centers in the camp that provide emergency services only, whereas critical medical cases are allowed to enter to Jordan to receive medical treatment and return to the camp. The limited quantities of food assistance that are distributed sometimes cover only 20% of the food needs of the camp. Security conditions are unstable in the camp because of the ongoing fighting between the tribal army and ISIL in Qalmun sub-district in Damascus countryside.

### The Basic Needs of Camps:

The camps in the eastern governorates (Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, and Deir-ez-Zor) need an urgent distribution of humanitarian assistance under the supervision of humanitarian organizations in order to protect the IDPs from the manipulation of the controlling military forces.

Figure 03: The Basic Needs of Camps



There is a need for 10175 tents in the eastern areas, where a huge number of the IDPs don't have tents. The matter which forces them to stay the night in the open air or holes. More than one family may share a tent, the thing which deprives these families of their privacy. Winter is on doors so tents need 33,916 rain insulators to protect the tents from the leaking of water. The IDPs also need utensils as they fled their houses without taking any main materials because of the battles and bombarding. They also need food baskets in addition to the baskets of detergents and cleaning materials and the materials of personal cleanliness periodically. With the beginning of winter, they also need mattresses and blankets where every family needs three mattresses and five blankets.

The IDPs in the eastern governorates burn the rubbish to cook their food because of fuel unavailability. This shows the need for distributing cooking and heating fuel. They also need heaters because their camps were set up in summer and they were not offered heaters. These camps need 5,087,000 litres of heating fuel for every month with 5 litres daily share for every family.



#### Fourth: Health Sector in the Eastern Governorates

The medical sector witnessed a deterioration in the eastern governorates since ISIL control, where all humanitarian organizations stopped providing medicines and medical equipment to the ISIL-controlled areas. Furthermore, medicines and medical equipment were subject to austere monitor and smuggling them to ISIL-controlled areas was impossible. ISIL also imposed restrictions on the medical crews and forced doctors to work within ISIL medical system. This made the majority of doctors leave the ISIL' controlled areas. Many illnesses appeared due to the deterioration of medical conditions and the discontinuation of vaccine campaigns. The following table shows the number of illnesses that are similar to poliomyelitis, pertussis and measles according to the latest statistics issued by ACU's Early Warning And Response Network (EWARN).

**Table 01:** # of discovered infections during 2017

| Governorates | Suspected measles | Laboratory-confirmed measles | Poliomyelitis | Pertussis |
|--------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Deir-ez-Zor  | 3,990             | 8                            | 67            | 2,411     |
| Ar-Raqqa     | 370               | 56                           | 2             | 570       |

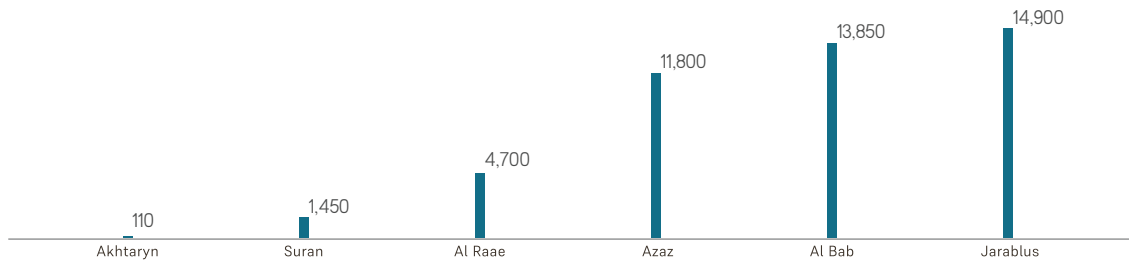
The last implemented vaccination campaign in Ar-Raqqa in June 2016 was the first round of routine vaccination of children, then these campaigns stopped. The same applies to Deir-ez-Zor where the vaccine campaigns stopped upon ISIL refusal to depend on the previous health workers in the vaccine operations where ISIL only allowed the health workers appointed by them. This also pushed the World Health Organization (WHO) to stop providing vaccines to ISIL-controlled areas. All this led to the appearance of non-wild polio pandemic of the 2nd pattern as a result of vaccine campaign stop and the low coverage of vaccine campaign in some areas caused children's weak immunity. 67 of the 70 discovered polio cases in Syria in 2017 where in Deir-ez-Zor, two cases in Ar-Raqqa and one in Sokhneh area in Homs governorate, in addition to similar cases in Menbij in Aleppo governorate during ISIL reign.

Due to vaccine stop, many illness pandemics related to vaccine appeared where 3990 suspected measles cases were informed about in Deir-ez-Zor. A random sample of 8 cases was taken, and after Lab analysis it was sure that they all were infected by measles virus and also in Ar-Raqqa 370 suspected measles cases were informed about. Laboratory analysis showed that the random sample of 56 cases taken in 2017 was were all infected by measles. 2411 pertussis cases were discovered in Deir-ez-Zor and 570 pertussis cases were discovered in Ar-Raqqa. Moreover, illnesses related to water increased in Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor where many illnesses caused by water pollution as severe diarrhea, bloody diarrhea and the acute jaundice syndrome.

### Fifth: The IDPs in the Northern Aleppo Countryside:

There are 9362 families from Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor, 6400 families of them are from Deir-ez-Zor in the areas from Jarablus in the east to Suran city in the west the area which is under the power of the moderate Syrian opposition. It is worth noting that the biggest number of Ar-Raqqa IDPs are in the camps of Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh and some of them are still trapped in Menbij sub-district in Aleppo countryside, which is controlled by PKK, waiting to move to the opposition-controlled areas.

Figure 04: # of IDPs from Eastern Governorates to Northern Aleppo Countryside



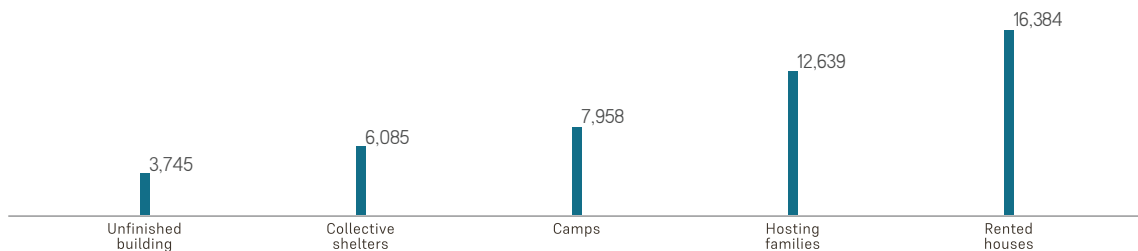
The distribution of the IDPs depended on the ways they passed through to reach the opposition held areas in the northern countryside of Aleppo. Their distribution also depends on the residence availability, where the biggest number of the IDPs from eastern governorates are in the Jarablus city because it is very near to PKK areas in Menbij city which is a crossing point for the IDPs. The residential places in Jarablus are the most available if is compared with other cities where 14,900 IDPs from Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa live.

Al Bab city which is considered the biggest city in the northern country side of Aleppo, comes second where there are 13,850 IDPs from Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor live. Despite the hectic activity of humanitarian organizations in Azaz city, only 11,800 IDPs from Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor live in this sub-district because it was overcrowded by the IDPs from Aleppo before the spark of the latest clashes in Deir-ez-Zor and the extremely high prices of houses rent.

### The Distribution Places of The IDPs In Northern Aleppo Countryside:

Huge number of the IDPs live in rented houses where the number of the IDPs from Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor who live in rented houses is 16,384. 12,639 of whom still live with host families.

Figure 05: The IDPs distribution places

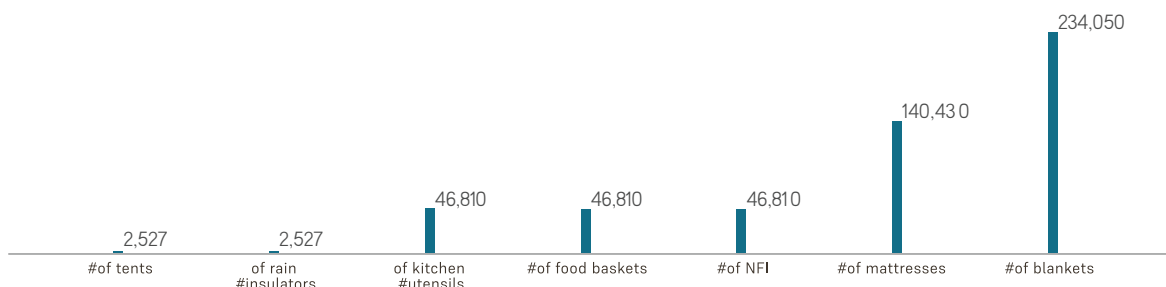


House rent differs in the Euphrates shield area according to sub-district. The highest monthly house rent was \$200 in Azaz sub-district whereas it ranges between \$80-\$120 in Jarablus sub-district. There are no local or international organization that offers monetary support for the 16,348 IDPs from Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa governorates who rented houses. There are also 12,639 IDPs who live with hosting families.<sup>1</sup> The fact that more than one family live in the same house nullifies the privacy for those families and puts an extra burden on the hosting families. There are 7958 IDPs from Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa in Jarablus camps and random camps. While there aren't displaced people from Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor in Azaz camps because they are overcrowded with other displaced people and there is no space for new people. There are 6,958 IDPs who live in the collective shelters<sup>2</sup> in the AlBab and Jarablus sub-districts. There are also 3,745 people living in an unfinished buildings where some local entities set up doors and windows for those buildings and delivered one room for every family in those buildings.


**The Basic Needs of The IDPs From the Eastern Governorates in Northern Aleppo Countryside:**

The largest percentage of the IDPs from the eastern governorates are in the Al Bab and Jarablus sub-districts where the Turkish Red Crescent provides assistance to the IDPs. The active humanitarian Organizations in the Azaz sub-district do not provide humanitarian assistance to new IDPs unless they are registered in their list of beneficiaries or unless the organization receives additional support from donors. Hence, the newly displaced families do not have the chance to receive humanitarian assistance.

**Figure 06:** The Basic IDP Needs in Northern Aleppo Countryside



All of the IDPs left their homes in Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa governorates under fire and clashes. Most of the IDPs were arrested by the PKK militias or were put under house arrest in PKK camps. They reached the opposition-controlled areas in the northern Aleppo countryside through smuggling, making them unable to take the lowest basic elements of life. One of the most urgent needs of the IDPs from the eastern governorates in Aleppo is the establishment of a camp for the IDPs in Jarablus sub-district being near the areas of the influx of IDPs. There is an urgent need for 2,527 tents and rain insulators in northern Aleppo camps and for IDPs living temporarily with hosting families taking into account that this camp needs to be expanded later as the influx of IDPs continues. Besides, there is a need for 46,810 food baskets and hygiene kits. This is the first winter for most of the IDPs from the eastern governorates in northern Aleppo countryside where each family needs five blankets and three mattresses, with a total of 140,430 mattresses, and 234,050 blankets. Moreover, there is a need for 46,810 heaters and a monthly need of 7,021,500 litres of diesel fuel.

 **46,810**  
Heaters

 **7,021,500**  
Liters of Heating Fuel

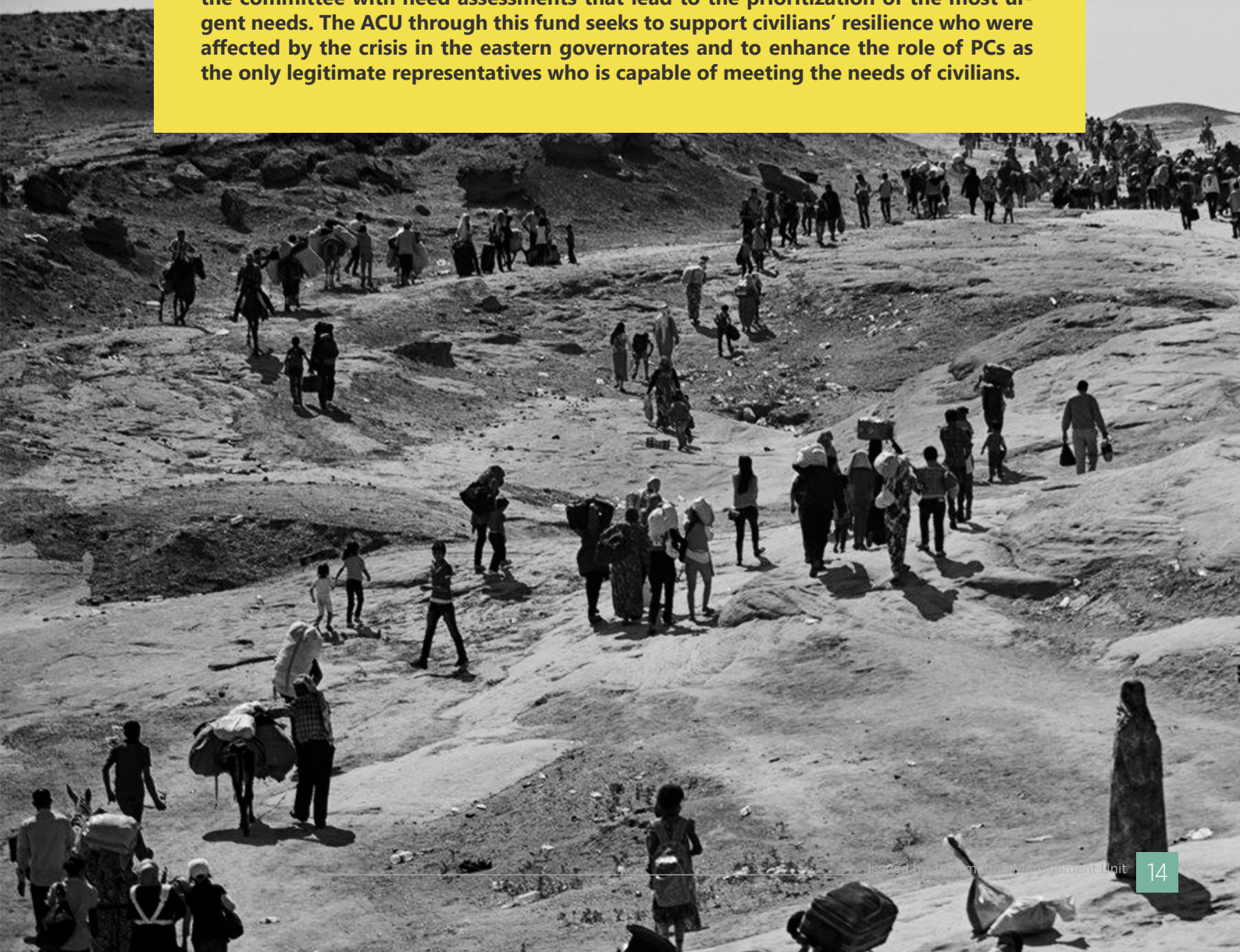
1- These hosting families are mostly displaced families from Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa at the beginning of the liberation of the northern Aleppo countryside.  
2- Most of the collective shelters are empty governmental buildings



## Recommendations

PKK militia seeks to control as much as possible of ISIL-controlled areas. PKK uses so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) to make its separatist ambitions legitimate. Moreover, PKK may go to hand over the areas under their control in Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa governorates to the Syrian regime in return for self-rule in Al-Hasakeh, north of Ar-Raqqa and Aleppo. The countries supporting the PKK militia should hand over PKK's controlled areas to elected civilian bodies and the formation of security forces from the local people after the withdrawal of PKK fighters and the introduction of these areas within any negotiations to reduce tension in Syria.

The ACU in co-operation with Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa PCs seeks to establish a support fund for IDPs from the eastern governorates within an initiative called "Their Right and Our Duty", where ACU has contributed with \$50,000. Moreover, The ACU will be the coordinator within the projects implementing committee and will provide the committee with need assessments that lead to the prioritization of the most urgent needs. The ACU through this fund seeks to support civilians' resilience who were affected by the crisis in the eastern governorates and to enhance the role of PCs as the only legitimate representatives who is capable of meeting the needs of civilians.



DISPLACEMENT AND VIOLATIONS

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December 2017  
PREPARED BY: INFORMATION MANAGEMENT UNIT

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## DISPLACEMENT AND VIOLATIONS In Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa

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