

# SYRIA IDP MOVEMENT INTENTIONS SURVEY

## Key findings

### Background:

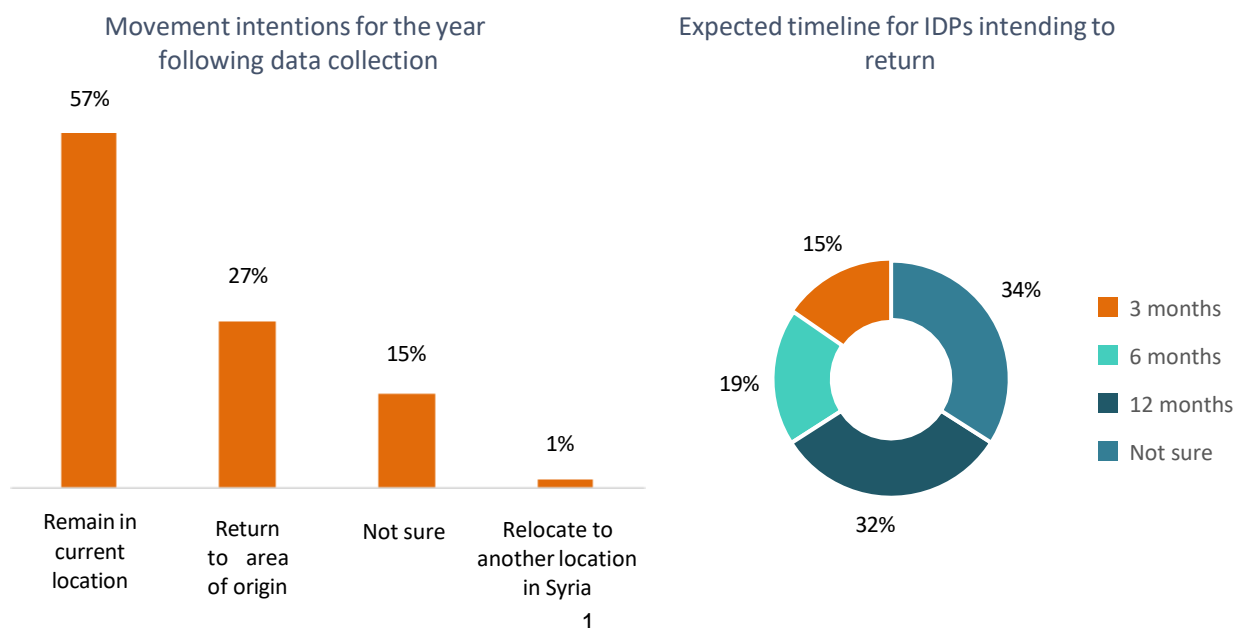
As of September 2025, approximately 1.5 million IDPs remain in 1,373 registered IDP sites and informal sites across Syria. Following the regime change in December 2024, humanitarian actors observed a wave of voluntary returns. In mid-July 2025, escalating violence in As-Sweida between local Druze factions and Bedouin militias, fueled by military interventions and sectarian tensions have triggered a new wave of displacement. By mid-August 2025, 1.69 million IDPs had returned overall, including 828,841 returning from displacement sites, and 779,473 refugees re-entering via formal border crossings.

In response, the CCCM Cluster, UNHCR, and REACH have coordinated a nationwide assessment on movement intentions within IDP sites. The objective of this assessment was to provide humanitarian actors with robust data on IDPs' movement intentions, timeline, and factors that would enable or hinder such movements. This assessment was conducted in collaboration with 16 CCCM Cluster partner organizations that collected data from over **4,663 households across 505 sites** from 07-26 September, using a stratified cluster sampling approach. Findings are representative at sub-district level, meaning they can be extrapolated to the IDP population across all sites within each sub-district.

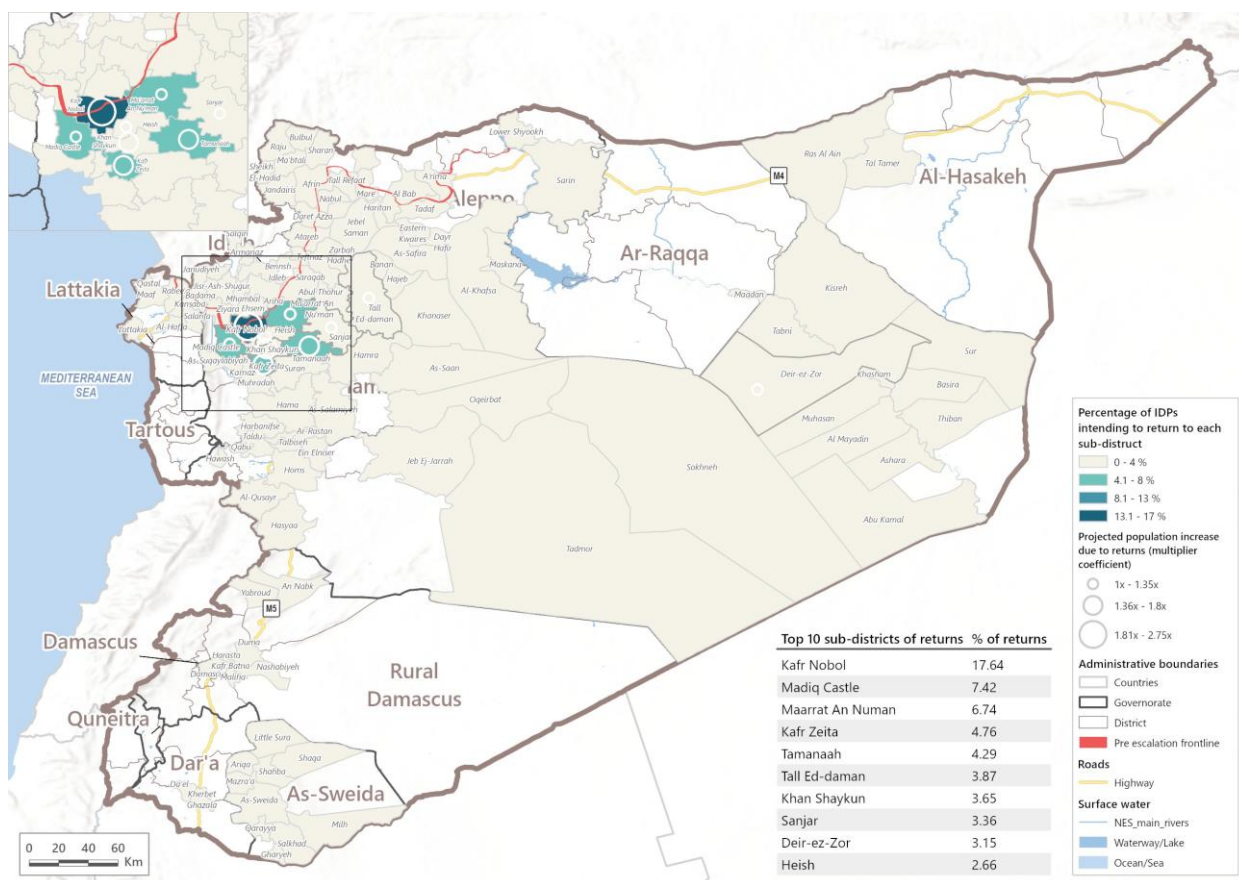
### Key findings:

The assessment revealed that over **half of IDP households in sites across Syria plan to remain in their current location (57%) in the next year**, with only 25% intending to return to their area of origin. **The total expected returns translates to approximately 378,456 returnees, with the majority expected to return to sub-districts within Idlib Governorate.** As far as movement timelines, two-thirds of returnee households reported being either unsure of their date of return or are intending to return within 12 months.

### IDP movement intentions and return timeline



**Intended returns are mostly projected to take place within northwest Syria**, with the highest percentage of returnees expected in Kafr Nobol, Madiq Castle, and Maarrat An Numan sub-districts (see map below). These subdistricts are anticipated to experience substantial population increases following return movements. In Kafr Nobol sub-district, the population is projected to grow from approximately 38,000 to 104,000, representing a 175% increase within one year. Similarly, Madiq Castle sub-district is expected to see a 34% rise, while Ma'arrat An Nu'man could experience a 20% increase in population size. These population increases would place additional strain on basic services, housing, and markets in these areas. Findings also highlight a significant level of disability among households surveyed, with 38% reporting at least one member of the household with a disability.



### Areas of intended returns (sub-district level)

In terms of the main **factors influencing return decisions**, the majority of IDPs cited a strong emotional desire to return. Households also reported that limited humanitarian assistance, restricted livelihood access, and inadequate access to basic services in their current areas of displacement are further encouraging movement. Over two-thirds of IDPs planning to return intend to move back into their former homes as their primary shelter. However, **79% of households reported that their homes were severely damaged or destroyed**, and many identified the lack of adequate housing and basic services as obstacles to return. Among available services in areas of origin, mosques, education facilities, and markets were most frequently reported suggesting partial functionality of infrastructure but persistent gaps in basic services.

**Intention to remain was the highest among households in Dana, Raqqa, and Maaret Tamsrin sub-districts.** The main barriers to return were concerns about property destruction, limited livelihood opportunities, and insufficient access to basic services (water, healthcare, electricity). Households intending to remain in their current location noted challenges in meeting their needs for food and WASH services. Many IDPs planning to stay in sites largely viewed their living conditions as average or poor, but pointed to the access to basic services, affordable housing and access to livelihood opportunities as the main reasons to stay.

## Data collection conducted by CCCM Partners:



*Acted*



*ACU*



*Care International*



*ATAA Relief and Humanitarian Association*



*Arche Noval*



*Human Appeal*



*Concern*



*Muzun*



*Bara'em Association for Children Care*



*International Humanitarian Relief Association*



*REACH*



*SHAFAK*



*PIN*



*SI*



*WVI*



*Norwegian Refugee Council*