



SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

**COMMUNITY
BASELINE ASSESSMENT**

ROUND 1 – FEBRUARY 2025



IOM
UN MIGRATION

GLOBAL DATA INSTITUTE
**DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX**

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Cover photo: Sun setting over IDP camp in Al-Hasakeh Governorate, Syria. © IOM Syria 2024

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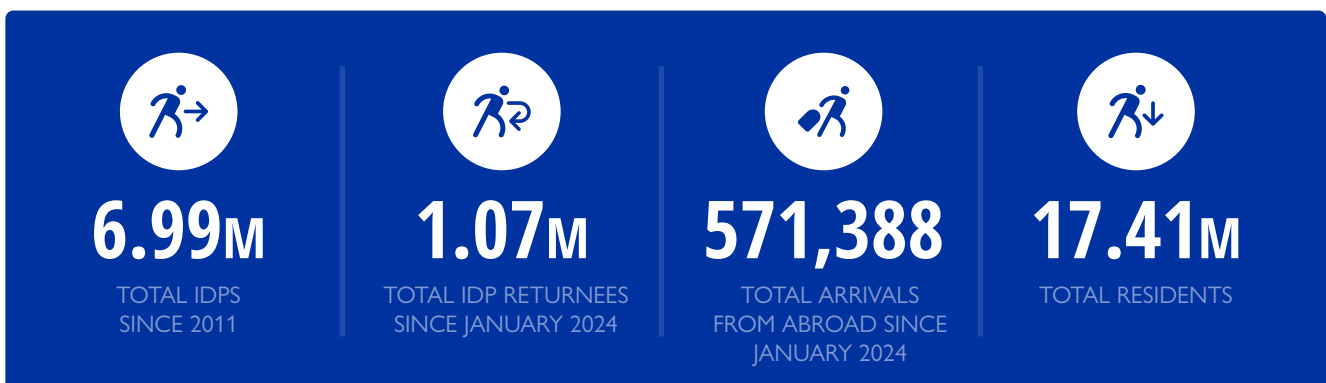
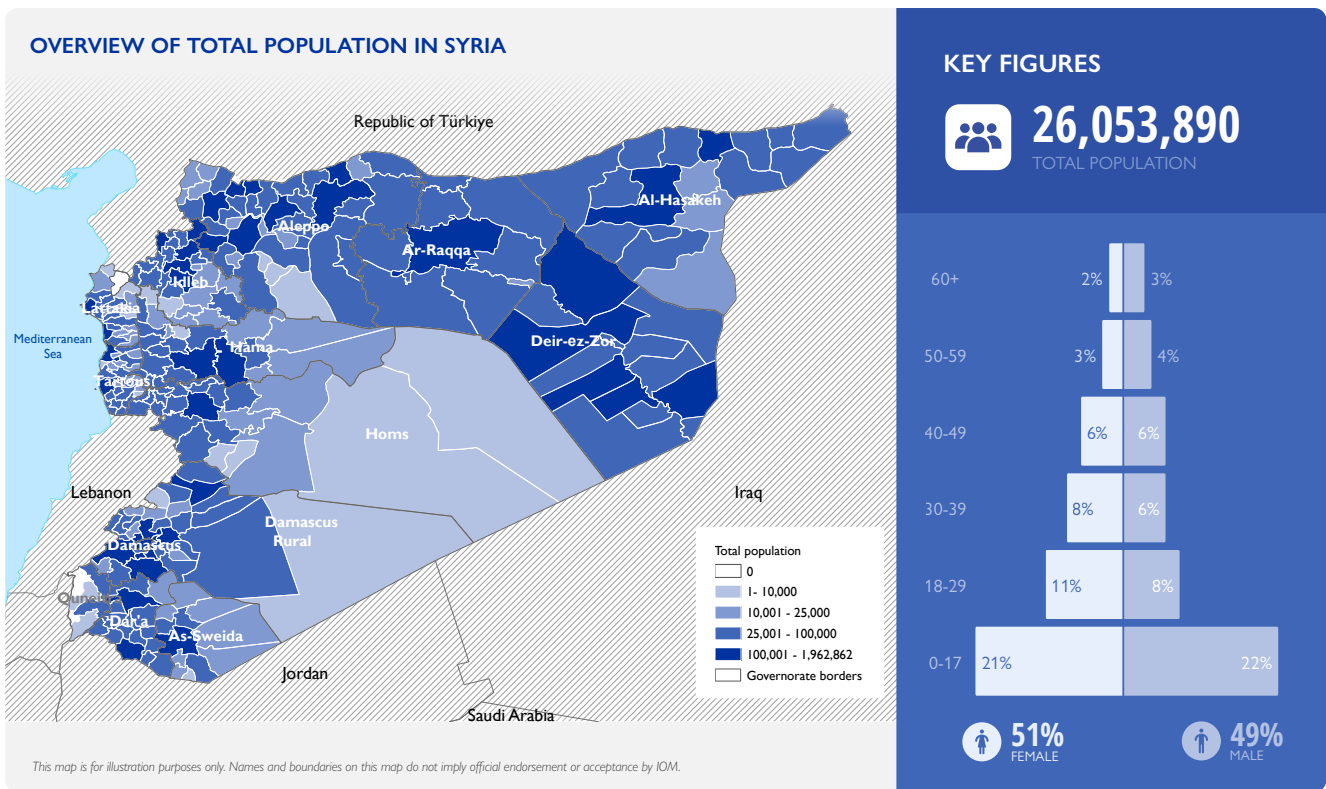
OVERVIEW

Following the rapid power shift in Damascus on 8 December 2024, Syria is undergoing a pivotal transformation, reshaping its humanitarian, political, and recovery landscape. This change has intensified population movements, exacerbating the complexities of displacement and return patterns.

As of February 2025, IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix baseline assessment marks the first in a series aimed at monitoring population movements within Syria. As a sub-component of mobility tracking, the baseline assessment provides critical data on internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees within Syria, and arrivals from abroad, whether to their place of origin or a different location. With a resident population of 17.4 million across Syria's 14 governorates, displacement and return

trends continue to shape the country's demographic landscape. IDPs remain a significant group, navigating precarious living conditions in both residential and camp settings. Meanwhile, returnees within Syria are experiencing varying shelter conditions, with some homes and dwellings completely destroyed, others partially damaged, and many in need of repairs, reflecting both reconstruction efforts and ongoing challenges.

Additionally, Syrians arriving from abroad—whether returning to their original homes or relocating to new areas—contribute to the evolving population dynamics. This assessment provides a comprehensive overview of mobility trends, offering essential insights to support humanitarian response, infrastructure planning, and long-term reintegration efforts in Syria.



METHODOLOGY

The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) is a suite of methodological tools designed to track and monitor mobility. Leveraging its formal Humanitarian Needs Assessment Programme (HNAP) experience, DTM Syria was activated on 1 February 2025 to collect primary data.

This report presents data collected from the 1 to 28 February 2025, gathered through a network of 317 field enumerators and 30,018 key informants (KIs) across 9,910 locations in Syria.

To achieve its objectives, the Community Baseline Assessment employs a community focal point methodology. Community focal points are selected based on the quality and reliability of the information they provide, their knowledge and experience regarding the needs and current situation of target population groups, and their ability to represent these groups.

The sex and age data displayed in this report has been derived from a household survey called the Demographic Calculator. It should also be noted that due to rounding and multi-select questions, some totals may fall above or below 100 per cent.

LIMITATIONS

Information provided through KI interviews can result in overestimated and underestimated figures.

DISCLAIMER

All maps in this report are for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

DEFINITIONS

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Individuals who have been forced to flee their location of origin to another location within Syria for at least one month. They may be displaced from one location in Syria to another or displaced within Syria after arriving from abroad.

IDP Returnees

Individuals who were previously displaced within Syria and have now returned to their location of origin with the intention to stay for a long period, regardless of whether they have returned to their former habitual residence.

Arrivals from Abroad:

Individuals who have been living in other countries, regardless of their status in the host countries, and have now returned to Syria, either to their location of origin or another location within Syria. Figures for arrivals from abroad are based on key informant reports inside Syria and not in the host country.

For specific queries on refugee returns, please refer to UNHCR.

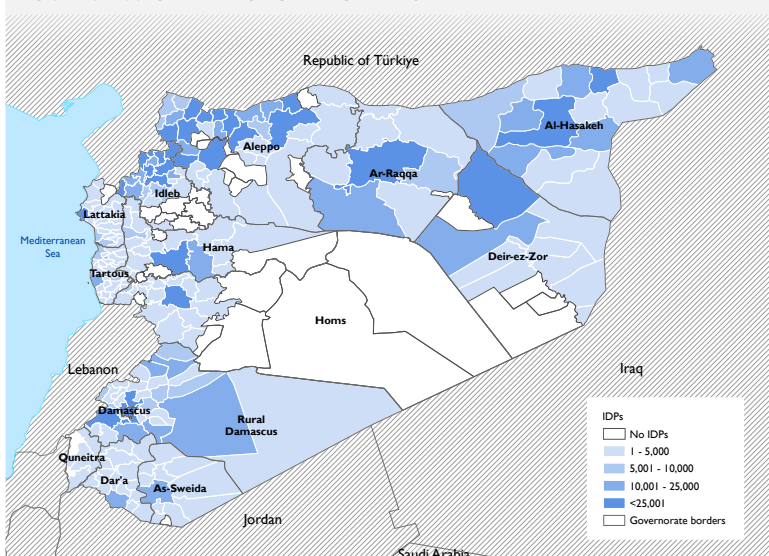
The information in this product is based on estimates and available data obtained through key informant methodology. It is intended to serve as one source of data for further triangulation with other sources by the IDP Task Force and Population Task Force.

KEY INFORMANTS PROFILE (%)

KI BACKGROUND	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	GRAND TOTAL
Local administration	23%	77%	22%	6,459
Community Leader	6%	94%	19%	5,701
Group Leader of IDP's	22%	78%	16%	4,719
Teachers	56%	44%	10%	3,086
Social Worker	48%	52%	8%	2,484
Group Leader of Returnees	19%	81%	6%	1,744
NGO/Humanitarian Aid Worker	53%	47%	5%	1,637
Health Worker	66%	34%	5%	1,391
Trader/Shopkeeper	3%	97%	4%	1,191
Religious leaders	1%	99%	2%	519
Community Based Organization Leader	21%	79%	1%	411
Other	53%	47%	2%	676
TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS	28%	72%	100%	30,018

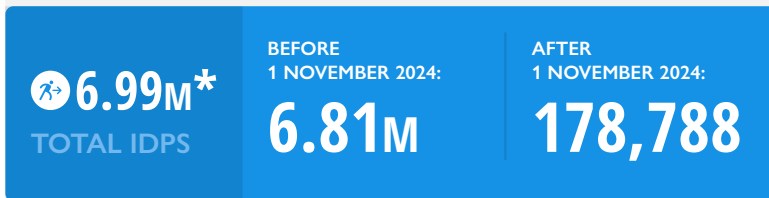
INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE (IDP)

OVERVIEW OF IDP POPULATION IN SYRIA



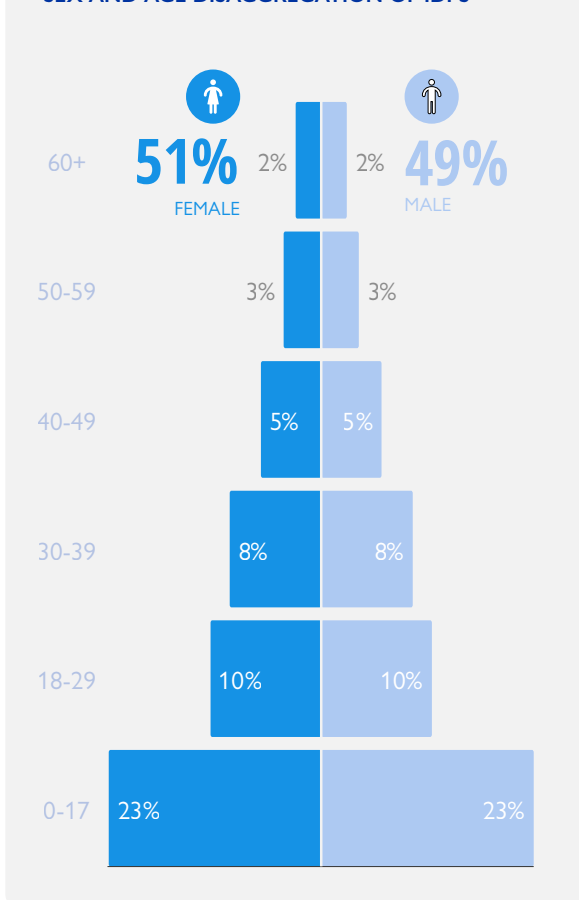
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After 1 November 2024, there were 178,788 new IDPs within Syria. Since 2011, the total number of IDPs within Syria stands at 6,994,646, with the majority (4.88 million) residing in residential areas and 2.11 million in camp settings. Most displacement movements occurred in November and December 2024, driven by intensified military operations. However, a notable decline in displacement has been observed since mid-December, indicating a relative stabilization in movement patterns. IDPs located in camp settings are predominantly from Idlib, Aleppo, and Hama; while IDPs in non-camp settings are from Rural Damascus and Aleppo.



Apartments (37%) and houses (28%) are the most common shelter types, though 20 per cent of IDPs still reside in tents, reflecting ongoing humanitarian needs. Renting (69%) and being hosted for free (42%) remain the dominant housing arrangements, with only 28 per cent as homeowners.

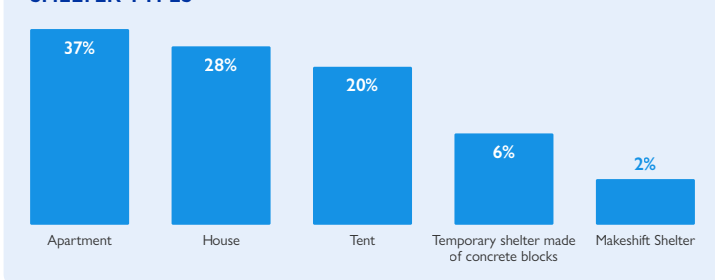
SEX AND AGE DISAGGREGATION OF IDPS



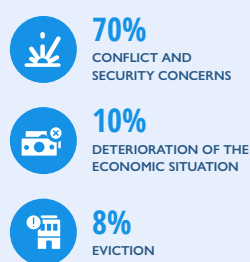
MOBILITY TREND OF IDPS



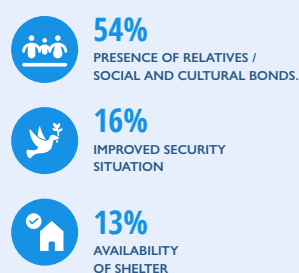
SHELTER TYPES



TOP 3 PUSH FACTORS



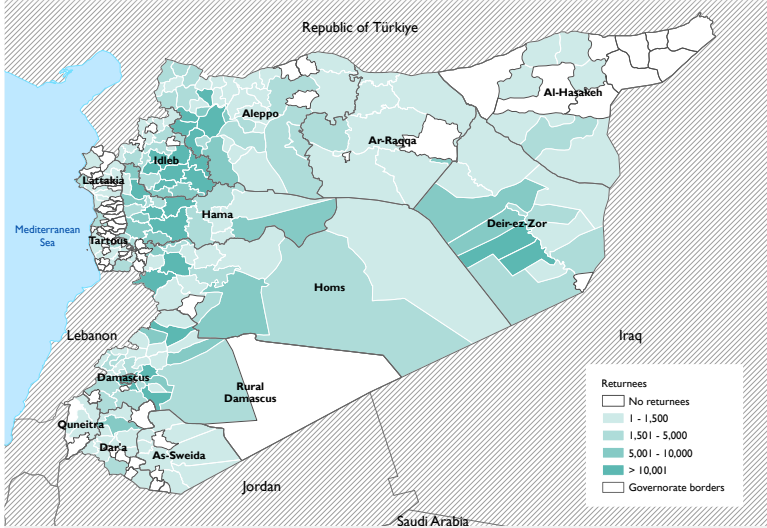
TOP 3 PULL FACTORS



* Please note, the stock figure for total number of IDPs is since 2011.

IDP RETURNEES

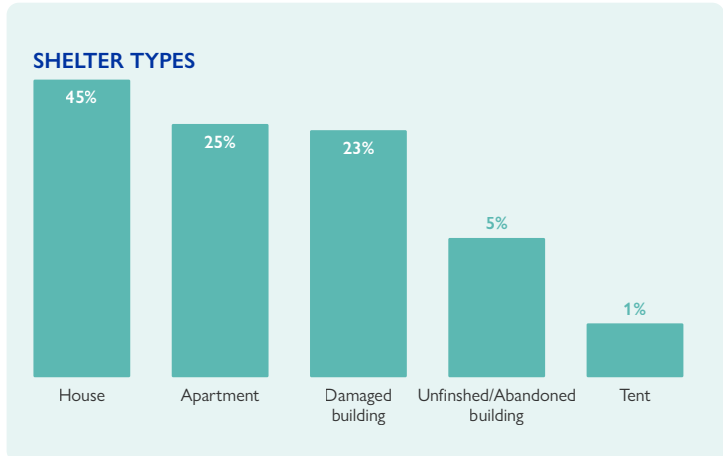
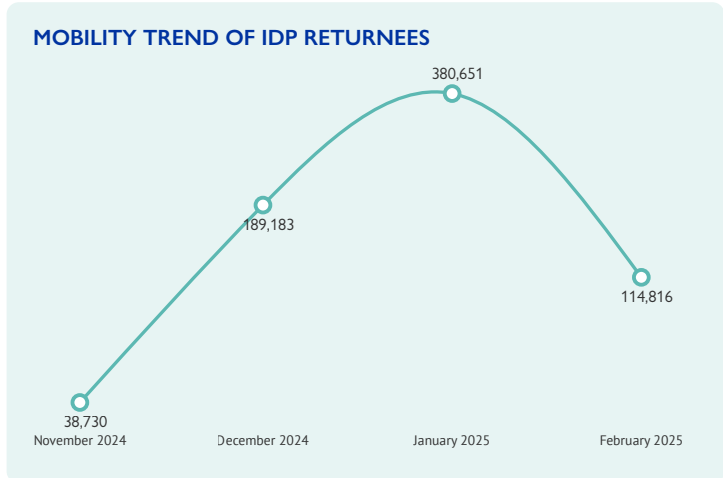
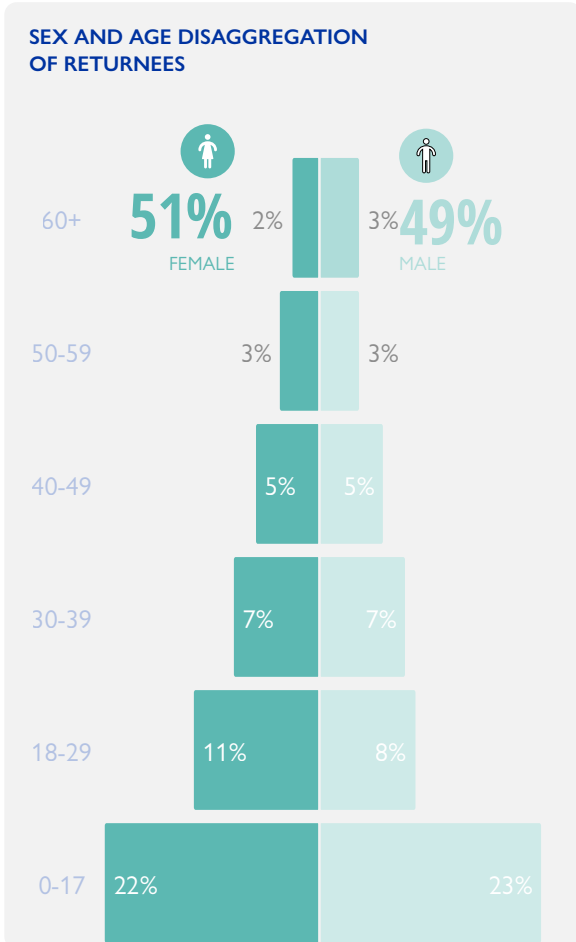
OVERVIEW OF IDP RETURNEE POPULATION IN SYRIA



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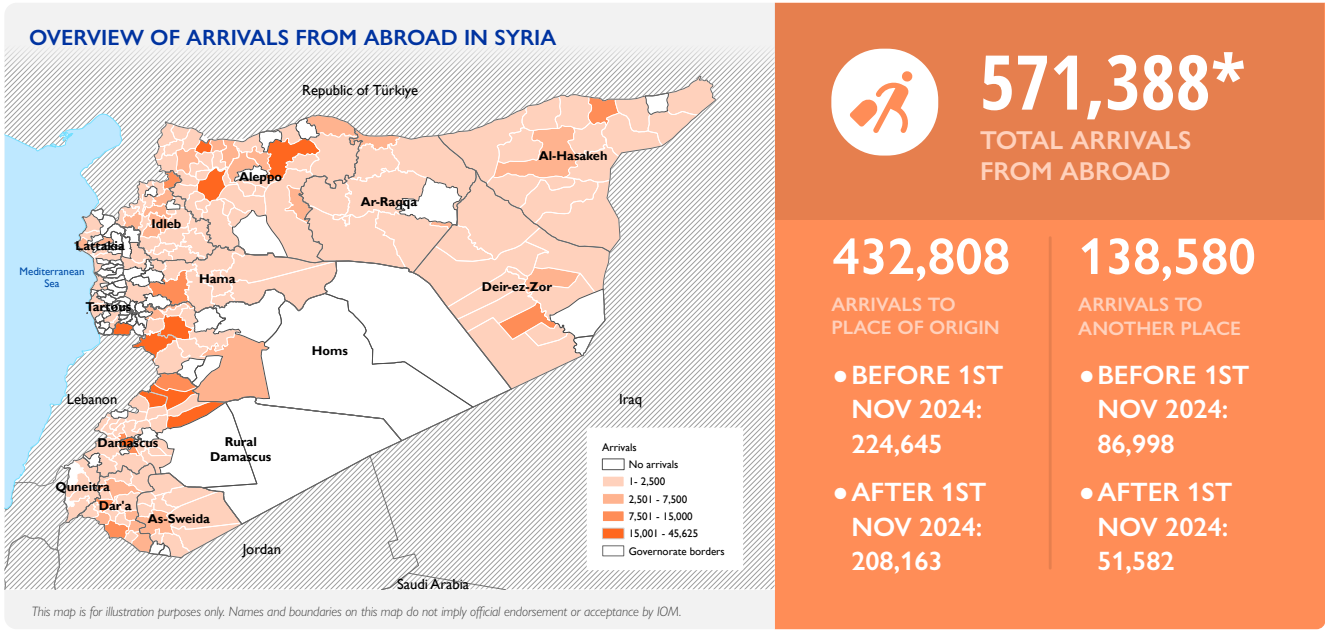
As of 1 November 2024, 723,380 individuals have returned within Syria, resulting in a total of 1,075,807 IDP returnees since January 2024. Notably, the trend of return intensified in January 2025, likely driven by both the stabilization of the country and the new authorities' promises of an inclusive government, recovery, and a clear path forward for Syria. Lattakia and Aleppo are governorates from where a large majority of IDPs returned.

The majority of returnees are homeowners (81%), which contributes to their reintegration into communities. However, a significant portion remains in precarious living conditions, such as damaged (23%) or unfinished (5%) buildings, highlighting ongoing reconstruction and rehabilitation challenges.



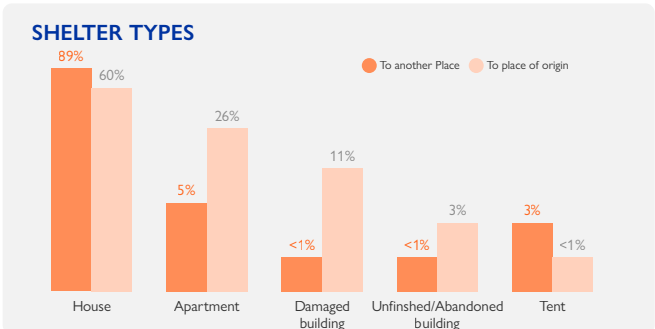
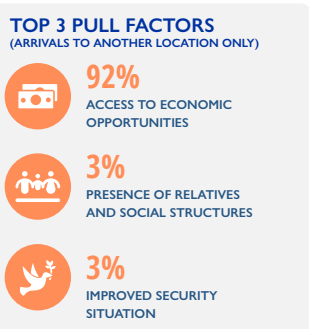
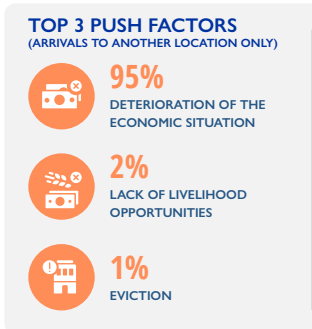
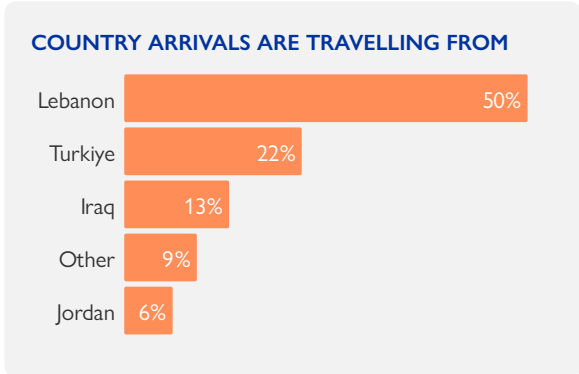
* Please note, the stock figure for total number of IDP returnees is since January 2024.

ARRIVALS FROM ABROAD



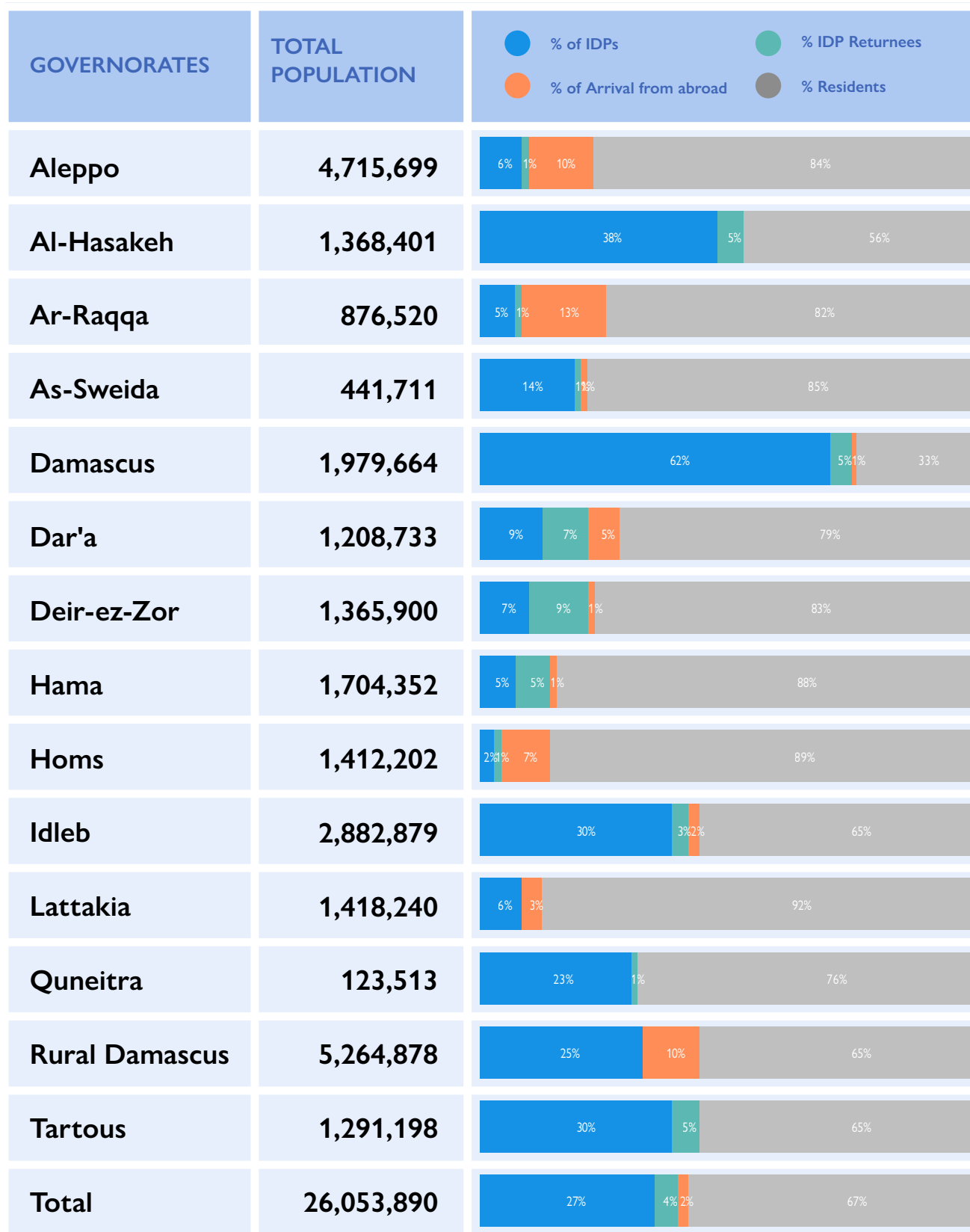
As of 1 November 2024, a total of 259,745 arrivals from abroad have been recorded. Since January 2024, a total of 571,388 individuals have arrived from abroad into Syria. The majority of arrivals from abroad returned to their place of origin (76%, 432,808 individuals since January 2024), however almost a quarter of arrivals returned to another location, different from their place of origin (24%, 138,580 individuals). Since the start of November 2024, a significant increase in arrivals from abroad to another location was reported, likely attributed to significant damage and remaining security concerns in arrivals' place of origin, hindering return.

Irrespective of return location, the majority of arrivals were reportedly homeowners (59%), with just over a quarter (27%) renting or co-renting their accommodation. Nearly three-quarters (73%) of arrivals from abroad to another location were reportedly renting or co-renting their accommodation, possibly signifying an intention to remain only temporarily in their current location, before returning to their place of origin.



* Please note, the stock figure for total number of arrivals from abroad is since January 2024.

SUMMARY CHART: MOBILITY SHARE OF TOTAL POPULATION





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