

DURABLE SOLUTIONS FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN SYRIA





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This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) for Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq, which is supported by Czech Republic, Denmark, European Commission (DEVCO), Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, and United Kingdom. The contents of this document can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the RDPP.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Middle East Consulting Solutions (MECS) wishes to express its utmost gratitude to all those who contributed to the completion of the research on 'Durable Solutions for IDPs in Syria.' The consultancy is thankful to the global and regional experts who provided candid and honest inputs about experiences, challenges, and perceptions towards IDPs integration. MECS sends its most sincere wishes to development and humanitarian partners, hoping that the findings and recommendations included in the research will contribute to informed and proactive future planning that is capable of addressing the post-conflict recovery needs of regions in Syria.

Mohammed Shikh Aiyob, General Director, Middle East Consulting Solutions
Email: m.aiyob@meconsulting.solutions
Website: <http://meconsulting.solutions>

CITATION

This report should be cited using the following referencing style: Middle East Consulting Solutions (2018), Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons in Syria.

ACRONYMS

CCCM	Camp Coordination and Camp Management, cluster
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBV/SGBV	(Sex and) Gender-Based Violence
GoS	Government of Syria
HH	Household
HLP	Housing, Land and Property
IASC	Inter-agency Standing Committee
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
KII	Key Informant Interviews
MECS	Middle East Consulting Solutions
NGO/INGO	(International) Non-Governmental Organization
NPM	Needs Population Monitoring (IOM)
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance
SDF/YPG	Syria Democratic Forces/ Kurdish People Protection Units
SYP	Syrian Pound Currency
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The ongoing violence in Syria has resulted in mass displacement, with over 5 million Syrians having fled the country, while 6.5 million people remain displaced within Syria. As a sustainable end to the conflict remains elusive and displacement is becoming more protracted, the search for durable solutions is becoming increasingly central to providing humanitarian assistance in the coming years. With an overemphasis on return and resettlement, local integration should receive greater consideration as a solution for internally displaced persons (IDPs), especially in the cases of those who have been displaced for long periods of time and may prefer local integration over return or resettlement. The present study aims to:

- Understand the complex process of local integration within the context of protracted displacement inside Syria
- Provide in-depth insight into the profiles, needs, intentions, and push and pull factors of protracted IDPs and their respective host community members when it comes to progressing towards local integration
- Inform humanitarian programming in Syria that is geared towards addressing the needs of both IDP and host community populations

The research was conducted by Middle East Consulting Solutions (MECS) between over the course of six months spanning from November 2017 until April 2018.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a phased approach with three main axes:

1. Stage One: Review of secondary data sources and literature, in addition to conducting consultation interviews with regional stakeholders knowledgeable about durable solutions and IDP integration.

2. Stage Two: Primary data collection within three pre-selected areas in Syria, composed of household-level interviews and key informant interviews (KIIs), implemented in three sub-districts located in the governorates of Al Hassakeh, Idleb, and Latakia. The selection of the locations was based on a selection matrix which took into consideration the size of the displaced population, duration of displacement, area of control, and the possibility of having an urban/rural comparison within each selected sub-district.

Inside each selected sub-district of Al Hassakeh and Idleb, a total of 6 communities (5 rural and 1 urban) were randomly selected. In Latakia, 4 rural and 1 urban communities were selected due to access restrictions. Overall, the study surveyed 912 households, representing 5,597 individuals currently living (or displaced) in the Dana sub-district of the Idleb governorate, in the Quamishli sub-district of the Al-Hassakeh governorate, and in the Latakia sub-district of the Latakia governorate. The sample was purposefully selected to comprise of 68.4% IDPs, and 31.6% resident communities. The rationale of selecting a larger number of IDPs to interview was to focus on local integration processes from an IDP standpoint. Resident communities were included in order to shed light on the host population perspective, therefore enabling a comparative aspect of the study. To verify the results from the HH surveys, 19 interviews were held with local informants from Syria.

3. Stage Three: learning initiatives with interested stakeholders, including a Skype-held focus group discussion with INGO staff, and a final workshop for a wider audience which included external stakeholders and took place both via Skype, and in Gaziantep, Turkey.

KEY FINDINGS

According to local informants and based on the survey results, it appeared that in spite of their limited capacity to do so on the short term, IDPs generally have a strong willingness to return to their place of origin. They also have a low level of interest in integrating into their current communities on the long term - unless they are able to see immediate, tangible, and realistic opportunities for integration. This would include having basic conditions (such as safety, security, and access to livelihoods and economic opportunities) met.

The IDPs' attempts to integrate were mainly considered a short-term solution, with their interest in integration dropping over time. In fact, the study found that the majority of IDPs did not have short-term plans other than staying in their current locations, when compared to other options such as return, local integration, or further movement.

Quamishli represented an exception, where the majority of IDPs surveyed were planning to integrate on the short, medium, and long terms. The opportunity to flee the country appeared as a plan for only a small proportion of IDPs in the assessed sub-districts, and only on the long run.

According to local informants, the population living in the surveyed areas had limited opportunities to travel outside Syria due to border restrictions, high costs, and the uncertain feasibility of the journey itself.

IDPs that reached the three surveyed areas in 2012 and 2013 had the highest potential and enabling conditions to integrate, which may be explained because the local environment was better at the time of their arrival (i.e. there were better housing and economic conditions, and a lower competition over resources). On the other hand, while those reaching the areas in 2014 and 2015 were the most willing to locally integrate, they faced more difficulty and less enabling integration-related conditions.

Findings of the study show that, while weighing the feasibility of durable solutions for the displacement in Syria, the option of a return of IDPs to their area of origin is very unlikely. IDPs from all visited sub-districts reported a low capacity to go back to the homes they had prior to displacement, also perceiving the idea of return as a long-term and improbable scenario. Only in Lattakia, a minor 12% of IDP HHs mentioned the possibility of an immediate return to their homes.

In the event of a continuously protracted conflict in Syria, significant masses of populations would end up merging into small pockets inside the country, especially in and around major urban areas. This dynamic would generate tensions, higher competition over economic resources and livelihood opportunities, pressure on essential services, and a decline in the access to goods and commodities.

The impact of safety and security on IDPs' local integration is very significant. "Safety and security" was cited as the primary push factor by IDPs across all the visited sub-districts. It was also their main pull factor towards all destination areas.

"Deterioration of the economy" represented the second most significant push factor for IDPs across all visited sub-districts, while they flagged "access to adequate economic resources" as the second leading condition to remain in their current locations. It is evident that the availability of livelihood opportunities highly dominates the potential of integration in any of the sub-districts. According to informants, competition over livelihood opportunities is already a reality in the three assessed areas, even though this competition has not directly triggered any tensions. In Dana, many IDPs were reportedly capable of re-establishing the businesses they ran in their areas of origin.

Following safety, security, and economic opportunities, the data indicates that "availability of shelter" is an important consideration that affects the willingness of IDPs to integrate locally. At the same time, the assessed areas have a very limited to inexistent availability of shelter to accommodate any further influxes of IDPs. The very high cost of construction activities and the lack of economic capacity of major constructors in Syria, coupled with the uncertainty of the market, would require a significant

governmental or external intervention to accommodate both, the current and any increased future demand. Large numbers of HHs had to pledge substantial financial resources as a guarantee to access rented accommodation, especially in urban areas. Even though the population had relatively reasonable satisfaction levels and access to accommodation, renting cannot be considered a sustainable solution for the community. Local informants reported a high level of uncertainty, mainly among IDPs, regarding the availability of accommodation in the assessed sub-districts, on the long-term. The lack of financial resources to purchase houses, in addition to the inflated prices of housing in urban areas across the country - and in regions hosting large numbers of IDPs in specific - were all factors contributing to this uncertainty.

The lack of access to sufficient humanitarian assistance was considered the main source of tensions by IDPs and host communities alike. Therefore, even though the coverage of humanitarian assistance was reportedly good, a reduction of this assistance on the long-term can trigger tensions between IDPs and host communities, which will eventually impact local integration negatively. Communities benefitting from humanitarian assistance balanced between IDPs and host communities can have a wider space and better potential to facilitate integration.

Dana Sub-District - Idleb Governorate

I. IDP Profiles, History, and Intentions

- a. IDPs currently settled in Dana were mainly from other regions within Idleb, or from Hama. The majority of IDPs reaching Dana sub-district arrived in 2016 and 2017
- b. In Dana, the frequency of displacement of IDP HHs was critically higher than in other areas, reaching an average of 3.9 displacements per household, and 2 locations on average for more than 1 month
- c. Rented accommodation represented the most common type of shelter, mentioned by around 70% of IDP HHs in Dana, in urban and rural setting alike
- d. The main push factors for IDPs to leave their last place of residence included conflict and the security situation, deterioration of the economic situation, and shelter destruction. Similarly, safety and security in destination areas was also the main pull factor attracting IDPs to live in Dana
- e. A moderately low value of 30% of IDPs reported having plans to integrate into their current communities on the short-term. This willingness to integrate reportedly dropped over time, falling to 29% on the medium-term, and 18% on the long-term
- f. "Long-term safety and security" was reported by IDP HHs as the top condition to integrate into their current locations, while "adequate standards of living" and "access to employment and sufficient livelihoods" were reported as the second and third leading conditions. The average minimum living cost required by IDP HHs to meet their essential needs was estimated at around 111,000 SYP.

II. Dimensions of Local Integration - Host and Displaced Communities

- a. **Satisfaction** - HHs interviewed in Dana seemed to be very satisfied with the local levels of safety. On the other hand, they were dissatisfied with many aspects, especially humanitarian assistance, access to employment, and the justice sector.
- b. **Equality** - Respondents in Dana perceived their long-term safety and access to documentation as much better than that of other people living the same area. Over 50% of host HHs felt they had lower opportunities to participate in public affairs, and to access shelter and housing compared to other residents of the same area.
- c. **Long-term safety** - Few security threats were reported by HHs interviewed in Dana. The most common threat, in both rural and urban areas, was theft, mentioned by 3% of host HHs and 1% of IDPs.
- d. **Adequate living standards** - A reasonable number of IDPs and residents reported low access to food. The IDPs community flagged shelter and housing as their priority need. In general, 34% of IDPs and 31% of host respondents considered inadequate financial power to be the main cause behind their lack of access to basic goods.

- e. **Livelihoods and employment** - 43% of IDPs and 36% of resident respondents considered the absence of employment opportunities the main factor behind their lack of access to employment and livelihoods.
- f. **Housing, land, and property** - 50% of the assessed population (72% of which were IDPs) reported a lack of confidence regarding remaining in their current dwellings as long as they wish, and justified their feeling with the fact that they were living in rented property or in a house belonging to someone else. A minority of resident HHs also mentioned the fact that they lacked legal documentation proving their ownership of the property.
- g. **Access to documentation** - Of the assessed population, 85% reported having access to adequate personal and family documentation. The other 15% explained that they had no access primarily because the documentation was lost, because there was no legal authority responsible to issue the papers, or due to their fear of travelling to renew their documents.
- h. **Family reunification** - A critically high 50% of the assessed population reported being separated from other family members. This high percentage included 46% of host and 52% of IDP HHs.
- i. **Participation in public affairs** - Local respondents considered their opportunities to participate in public affairs to be relatively good, with 46% of displaced and 31% of host community's HHs reporting positive considerations of their equal opportunities to participate in public affairs.
- j. **Access to remedies and justice** - Locally, Shari'a courts represented the central legal referral mechanism for the population in case of legal issues, followed by local police and community leaders. The HHs surveyed reported dissatisfaction with their access to justice within a range of 40-50%, which they mainly attributed to the lack of a functional justice mechanism.
- k. **Humanitarian assistance** - The sample mentioned low levels of satisfaction with their access to humanitarian assistance, similarly among IDPs and host HHs. Food represented the main type of assistance provided.

III. Feasibility review

Drawing upon the analysis of the main findings (as listed above), the following matrix attempts to assess the feasibility and visualize scenarios of local integration for IDPs in the surveyed area:

High obstacles/constraints			
Low inequality	Potential of local integration for 64% of IDPs, conditional to the re-establishment of the access to basic services and goods for both hosts and IDPs. Integrated assistance or multipurpose cash grants should be considered.	High inequality	Low potential for local integration of 2% of IDPs. Monitoring and supporting new displacement/return waves should be considered.
	High potential for local integration of 34% of IDPs. Livelihoods and recovery programs should be considered.		
Low obstacles/constraints			

Quamishli Sub-District (Al Hassakeh Governorate)

I. IDP Profiles, History, and Intentions

- a. IDPs currently settled in Quamishli mainly originated from other regions within Al-Hassakeh, or from Aleppo. The majority of IDPs arrived at the sub-district during 2013 and 2014.
- b. On average, IDP HHs in Quamishli have been displaced 1.1 times since 2011; they stayed in 1.1 locations for the same period, and for more than 1 month.
- c. Rented accommodation represented the main form of shelter, mentioned by around 70% of IDP HHs in Quamishli, in urban and rural setting alike.
- d. The main push factors for IDPs to leave their last place of residence included conflict and the security situation, deterioration of the economic situation and shelter destruction. The vast majority of local IDPs were pulled to stay in Quamishli by the improved security situation, accessibility, proximity, and access to humanitarian assistance (pull factor).
- e. 57% of IDP HHs in Quamishli reported having plans to integrate into their current location on the short-term, which is a positive value. However, the intention of IDPs to integrate dropped over time, with 56% willing to integrate on the medium-term, and 43% on the long-term.
- f. "Long-term safety and security" was reported by IDP HHs as the top condition to integrate into their current locations, while "adequate standards of living" and "access to employment and sufficient livelihoods" were reported as the second and third leading conditions for integration. The minimum average living cost required by IDP HHs to meet their essential needs was estimated at around 84,000 SYP.

II. Dimensions of Local Integration - Host and Displaced Communities

- a. **Satisfaction** - IDPs and host communities in Quamishli scored good levels of satisfaction, and they stated a particular appreciation for their standards of living, levels of safety and security, and access to remedies and justice. However, none of the IDP respondents considered housing availability satisfactory.
- b. **Equality** - The majority of respondents in Quamishli, both resident and displaced, perceived having much better conditions in terms of long-term security compared to others living in the same area. Also, around 60% of HHs interviewed reported benefitting from the same conditions as other people living the same area.
- c. **Long-term safety** - IDPs surveyed in Quamishli reported multiple security concerns - more than their counterparts in the other surveyed areas - particularly in urban areas. The main concerns of the IDP community were theft (around 8% of cases), environmental hazards and health risks (around 6% of cases), and community conflicts (4% of cases). On the other hand, the main concerns of resident HHs were the community conflicts (3% of cases) and health risks (2% of cases). In Quamishli, community tensions seemed to be quite frequent, as affirmed by 8% of host community HHs and 11% of IDP HHs.
- d. **Adequate standards of living** - A reasonable number of HHs surveyed in Quamishli, both IDP and resident, mentioned having a need of food, healthcare, and energy. Both IDPs and host respondents considered the low safety and reliability of services as the main underlying factor for their lack of access to basic goods.
- e. **Livelihoods and employment** - 27% of IDP respondents in Quamishli mentioned lacking livelihoods because of the absence of employment opportunities. Resident respondents mentioned both high competition (23%) and low wages (also 23%) as the reasons for lacking access.
- f. **Housing, land, and property** - 43% of the assessed population (60% of which were IDPs) reported not feeling confident regarding remaining in their current dwellings as long as they wish, and justified this feeling with the fact that they were living in a rented property or in a house belonging to someone else. A minority of resident HHs also mentioned the fact that they lacked legal documentation proving their ownership of the property.
- g. **Access to documentation** - In Quamishli, a very strong 92% of the assessed population reported having access to adequate personal and family documentation. The other 8% explained that they had no access primarily because of their fear of travelling to renew their documents, or because their documentation was lost.

- h. **Family reunification** - A critically high 57% of the assessed population reported being separated from other family members. This high percentage included 65% host and 53% IDP HHs.
- i. **Participation in public affairs** - Both IDPs and host communities considered their opportunities to participate in public affairs to be low, due to corruption. Only 7% of IDPs and 3% of the host community reported positive perceptions of their opportunities to participate in public affairs.
- j. **Access to remedies and justice** - In Quamishli, local courts represented the main legal structure to solve problems, followed by community leaders. Only 10% of HHs surveyed were not satisfied with their access to justice, and this was justified with the lack of a functioning justice mechanism.
- k. **Humanitarian assistance** - The sample mentioned moderately low levels of satisfaction with their access to humanitarian assistance, both among IDPs and host HHs. Food items represented 50% of the assistance provided, followed by vouchers, nutrition, and health support.

III. Feasibility review

Drawing upon the analysis of the main findings (as listed above), the following matrix attempts to assess the feasibility and visualize scenarios of local integration for IDPs in the surveyed area:

		High obstacles/constraints	
Low inequality		Potential for local integration of 52.5% of IDPs, conditional to the re-establishment of the access to basic services and goods for both host and IDPs. Integrated assistance or multipurpose cash grants should be considered.	Low potential for local integration of 1% of IDPs. Monitoring and supporting new displacement/return should be considered.
		High potential for local integration of 46.5% of IDPs. Livelihoods and recovery programs should be considered.	
		Low obstacles/constraints	

Lattakia Sub-District (Lattakia Governorate)

I. IDP Profiles, History, and Intentions

- a. IDPs currently settled in Lattakia mainly originated from other regions within Lattakia. The sub-district hosted large numbers of IDPs arriving between 2012 and 2015, with a particularly significant influx occurring between 2013 and 2014.
- b. In Lattakia, IDP HHs have been displaced 1.7 times on average; they stayed in 1.3 locations on average, and for more than one month.
- c. Rented accommodation represented the main form of shelter, as mentioned by around 70% of IDP HHs in Lattakia, in both urban and rural setting alike.

- d. The main push factors for IDPs to leave their last place of residence included conflict and the security situation, deterioration of the economic situation, and shelter destruction. The vast majority of local IDPs were pulled to stay in Lattakia by the improved security situation and by its proximity to their area of origin.
- e. 42% of IDP HHs in Lattakia reported having plans to integrate into their current location on the short-term. The trend of IDPs to integrate, however, dropped with time, falling to 17% on the medium-term, and down to 11% on the long-term.
- f. "Long-term safety and security" was reported by IDP HHs as the top condition to integrate into their current locations, while "adequate standards of living" and "access to employment and sufficient livelihoods" were reported as the second and third leading conditions. The minimum average living cost required by IDP HHs to meet their essential needs was estimated at around 139,000 SYP in Lattakia.

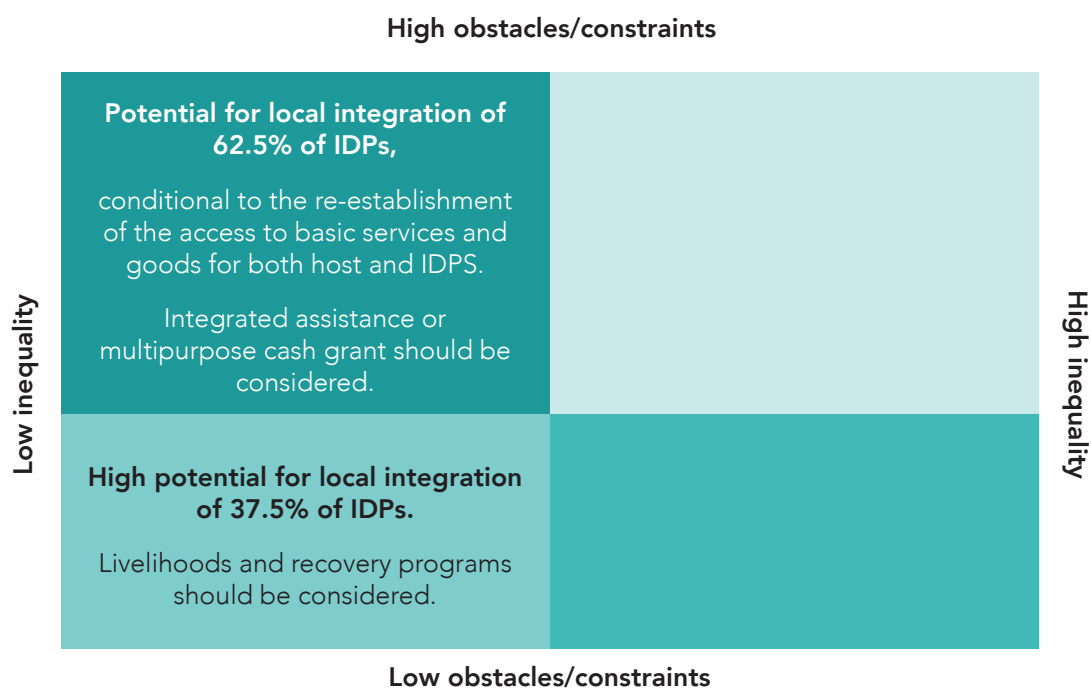
II. Dimensions of Local Integration - Host and Displaced Communities

- a. **Satisfaction** - Resident community and IDP respondents in Lattakia reported very different levels of satisfaction. If resident HHs interviewed expressed strong satisfaction with the majority of dimensions, IDPs seemed satisfied only with the local standard of living and the level of safety and security.
- b. **Equality** - 50-70% of HHs interviewed in Lattakia perceived having better access to documentation and to long-term security, compared to other people living in the same area. Around 40% of both host and displaced respondents, however, stated feeling discriminated against in comparison to other people living in the same area - for their access to housing, livelihood opportunities, justice and remedies, and participation in public affairs.
- c. **Long-term safety** - IDPs interviewed in both rural and urban areas in Lattakia felt threatened by intimidations and gang activity (around 5% of cases), while the issue was mentioned less commonly by resident HHs (around 2% of cases). It should be mentioned that 33% of the respondents in Lattakia affirmed that community tensions were triggered occasionally or frequently - which is dramatically high and concerning. The incidence of these tensions was reportedly motivated by the insufficient access to humanitarian assistance.
- d. **Adequate living standards** - HHs surveyed in Lattakia showed a significant need of food items, which ranked as a very top priority among the resident population. The displaced population also considered shelter as a strong priority need. HHs interviewed in Lattakia mentioned low financial power as the primary responsible for their lack of access to basic goods and services.
- e. **Livelihoods and employment** - 53% of IDPs and 49% of resident respondents mentioned discrimination as the main cause for their lack of access to employment opportunities and livelihoods.
- f. **Housing, land, and property** - 60% of the assessed population (87% of which were IDPs) reported not feeling confident they can stay in their current dwellings as long as they wish, and justified this with the fact that they were living in rented property, or they were being hosted for free. A minority of resident HHs also mentioned the fact that they lacked legal documentation proving their ownership of the property.
- g. **Access to documentation** - In Lattakia, 79% of the assessed population reported having access to adequate personal and family documentation. The other 21% explained that they had no access primarily because of their fear of travelling to renew their documents, or because their documents were lost.
- h. **Family reunification** - A critically high 66% of the assessed population reported being separated from other family members. This high percentage included 48% host and 77% IDP HHs.
- i. **Participation in public affairs** - Both IDPs and host communities considered their opportunities to participate in public affairs to be moderate, with 19% of the displaced and 16% of the host respondents reporting positive perceptions about their opportunities in the sector.
- j. **Access to remedies and justice** - Locally, police was the primary legal referral mechanism, followed by courts, and community leaders on a small scale. Around 40% of HHs surveyed were not satisfied with their access to justice, mainly due to discrimination.

- k. **Humanitarian assistance** - The sample reported moderately low levels of satisfaction with their access to humanitarian assistance, similarly among IDPs and host HHs. Cash-based support represented the main assistance provided (reported by 77% of host HHs and 55% of IDP HHs), followed by food.

III. Feasibility review

Drawing upon the analysis of the main findings (as listed above), the following matrix attempts to assess the feasibility and visualize scenarios of local integration for IDPs in the surveyed area:



1. INTRODUCTION

The ongoing violence in Syria has caused mass displacement, with over 5 million Syrians having fled the country, while 6.5 million people remain displaced inside Syria. As a sustainable end to the conflict remains elusive and displacement is becoming more protracted, the search for durable solutions is becoming increasingly central to providing humanitarian assistance in the coming years. As stated in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's (IASC's) Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), a durable solution is 'achieved when IDPs no longer have specific assistance and protection needs that are linked to their displacement and such persons can enjoy their human rights without discrimination resulting from their displacement.'¹ Reportedly, IDPs may achieve durable solutions through:

- a) Reintegration at the place of origin, also called **return**;
- b) **Local integration** in areas of displacement;
- c) Integration or relocation in another part of the country, also called **resettlement**.

With an overemphasis on return and resettlement, local integration should receive greater consideration as a solution for internally displaced persons (IDPs), especially when they have been displaced for long periods of time and may prefer local integration over return or resettlement. Even for Syria, it is never too soon to begin thinking about and setting the stage for durable solutions (UNDP & UNHCR, 2016). Unfortunately, in Syria, there has been no comprehensive country-wide assessment of IDPs' progress towards durable solutions on the topics that are considered conditional. Compared to the increased research interest in refugee and IDP returns, data on the local integration of IDPs remains limited. Therefore, the present study aims to:

- Understand the complex process of progressing towards durable solutions within the context of protracted displacement inside Syria, while focusing on local integration;
- Provide in-depth insight into the profiles, needs, intentions, and push and pull factors of protracted IDPs and their respective host community members when it comes to progressing towards durable solutions, also while focusing on local integration;
- Inform humanitarian programming in Syria that is geared towards addressing the needs of both IDP and host community populations.

The study's intended use is to help humanitarian organizations better understand current processes towards local integration and inform strategic programming and advocacy priorities inside Syria. The research was conducted by Middle East Consulting Solutions (MECS) in a timeframe spanning November 2017 to April 2018. For the sake of this service, MECS deployed a highly qualified team of experts based in its headquarters in Gaziantep, as well as international consultants.

¹ Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement, IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for IDPs, April 2010, p. 5.

2. METHODOLOGY

The methodology of the study is described in this chapter, detailing the rationale of the research and the analytical framework applied.

2.1 Rationale of the Study

The methodology proposed for the study on Durable Solutions for IDPs in Syria adopted a phased approach:

Stage 1

The first phase consisted of a review of secondary data sources and literature, in addition to conducting consultation interviews with regional stakeholders knowledgeable about durable solutions and IDP integration. The result of this stage was a secondary data review that was used to inform the design of the household questionnaire, the rationale for the site selection, and the analytical framework of the research.

About the Background Research

Background research represented the first phase of the study. This research process analysed a range of data about IDP integration, also assessing experiences from similar contexts in the region, to better identify the key areas that should be covered by the study, and to help the subsequent phases of primary data collection and analysis. It also supported the provision of contextualized recommendations for the reporting process, based on the opinion of experts.

The background research relied on the following components:

- **Secondary data review:** Review of key sources of information made available via the public domain. It also included a review of datasets related to the Syrian crisis, namely about population movements and IDP intentions, complemented with the review of reports shared by different agencies working on the Syrian crisis. The secondary data review process also entailed a literature review of similar regional contexts of protracted displacement, such as Turkey and Iraq, which was particularly informative for the design of the primary data collection phase.
- **Consultations with key stakeholders and experts:** A total of four interviews were conducted with senior professionals that have worked on aid programming to support IDPs, contributing extensive knowledge of durable solutions generally, and of IDP integration efforts in specific. The objective of these consultations was to collect direct technical considerations that could inform the design of the primary data collection phase of the study and gather feedback about the pre-selected sub-districts to cover during the primary data collection phase. These individuals provided their views about key research areas and considerations to be covered through this study, as well as recommendations for reporting and analysis. In addition, the informants helped in bridging information gaps and formulating coordination considerations for the assessment of IDP integration in Syria.

Stage 2

Following the secondary data review, the study moved on to primary data collection within three pre-selected areas in Syria. The primary data collection was composed of household-level interviews (a) and key informant interviews (KIIs) (b), implemented in three sub-districts of the Al Hassakeh, Idleb and Lattakia governorates. The identification of the locations (a) was based on a selection matrix, which took into consideration the size of the displaced population, duration of displacement, area of control, and the possibility of having an urban/rural comparison within each sub-district. Inside each selected sub-district, a total of 6 communities were randomly selected, 5 rural and 1 urban, with the exception of Lattakia, where only 4 rural and 1 urban communities were selected, due to access restrictions. A total of 912 household level interviews, equally-distributed, were conducted with randomly selected samples in the three sub-districts. The samples were purposely distributed amongst 2/3rd IDPs and 1/3rd host communities.

About the Primary Data Collection

The primary data collection process of this research was informed by findings of the background research. This stage represents the backbone of the research, and was based on a mapping exercise to select field locations in the three targeted sub-districts (a), in addition to conducting two levels of interviews (b, c):

1. Site Selection

The sub-districts were selected based on a thorough review of available secondary data, in addition to advice received during Stage 1. The site selection process was based on a nominated list of sub-districts, and extracted via secondary data review for relevant sub-districts that can be taken as an example for assessing potential of IDPs integration. The criteria of selecting sub-districts included the following:

- Relatively large size of IDP population;
- Relatively long history of displacement, or sub-districts that have been a destination for IDPs throughout the past 6 years;
- Sub-districts that contain both urban and rural settings;
- Sub-districts that have unique characteristics and have added value for humanitarian actors and donor agencies;
- Availability of a wide range of economic activities;
- Accessibility of sub-districts for field researchers.

The tables below outlines the key considerations which led to the selection of the above-mentioned locations across Governmental areas, Opposition-held areas, as well as Syria Democratic Forces-held areas.

SDF/YPG-held Areas

Quamishli Sub-District (Quamishli District, Al Hassakeh Governorate)

- **Population size:** 235,000 ²
- **IDP population size:** 61,354
- **History of displacement:** Quamishli has been a major displacement destination since early 2013. It has mainly hosted IDPs from Deir ez Zor and other areas in Al Hassakeh, and its population is a mix of different ethnic groups. It also has a good level of services available compared to other areas in the northeast of Syria.
- **Local settings:** The sub-district has urban, semi-urban, and rural settings in its different communities.
- **Peculiarities and humanitarian keys:** The context can illustrate the potential of integration in a setup of mixed ethnic groups.
- **Economic life:** While the nature of economic activities practiced in the sub-district is varied, IDPs have access to specific types of livelihoods only (i.e. their involvement in agriculture is limited).
- **Accessibility:** Part of the sub-district is controlled by the Government of Syria, which requires careful management of field activities to ensure carrying out activities only in SDF/YPG held areas.

Opposition-held Areas

Dana Sub-District (Harim District, Idleb Governorate)

- **Population size:** 359,000
- **IDP population size:** 273,365
- **History of displacement:** The sub-district has been hosting IDPs since mid-2012, and has witnessed a significant increase in its population size. IDPs residing in this sub-district largely originate from Hama, Aleppo, and Homs. The duration of displacement within this sub-district is long. There is a presence of new communities that started as camps, and grew significantly over the past 5 years.
- **Peculiarities and humanitarian keys:** This sub-district contains the biggest concentration of IDP camps in Syria. Large scale humanitarian operations have been taking place in this sub-district during the past 5 years.
- **Accessibility:** No limitations.

² Population data is based on IOM estimations for 2017.

GoS-held Areas
Lattakia Sub-District (Lattakia District, Lattakia Governorate)
• Population size: 824,000 • IDP population size: 393,715 • History of displacement: Since early 2012, Lattakia has been hosting IDPs mainly from Homs, Hama, Rural Damascus, Lattakia (other sub-districts) and Aleppo, reporting a long duration of displacement. • Peculiarities and humanitarian keys: Lattakia is the 4th biggest city in Syria, and has a mixed population of various religious groups. It mainly attracts IDPs from urban areas to the city, and a mix of IDPs from rural and urban areas to its surrounding villages. • Economic life: A coastal area with a wide range of economic activities, mainly trade, tourism, industry, and agriculture in the surrounding villages. IDPs are involved in a varied nature of economic activities. • Accessibility: Lack of ability to document the field work adequately. Restrictions of using mobile data collection. Has had no major security issues since 2012.

2. Household (HH) Level Survey

These interviews were conducted with both IDPs and host communities, focusing on collecting their feedback on a range of critical topics that tackle population movement in general, issues faced by both IDPs and host communities in terms of access to different services, assessing the potential of IDP integration across the targeted sub-districts, and drawing an overall image of the differences between IDPs and host communities. One section of the survey, which discussed displacement history, was not included for host community respondents. Apart from that, the survey was identical for both, IDPs and residents.

A randomly selected sample of 912 HHs was selected, as detailed in the sampling framework below. This stage involved a total of 24 field researchers distributed equally between the targeted sub-districts and supervised by one field team leader per sub-district and an overall field manager. Data was collected via smart phones using Kobo in Dana and Quamishli, and through paper-based forms in Lattakia.

The detailed sampling framework of this research is explained in the following map (Fig. 1).

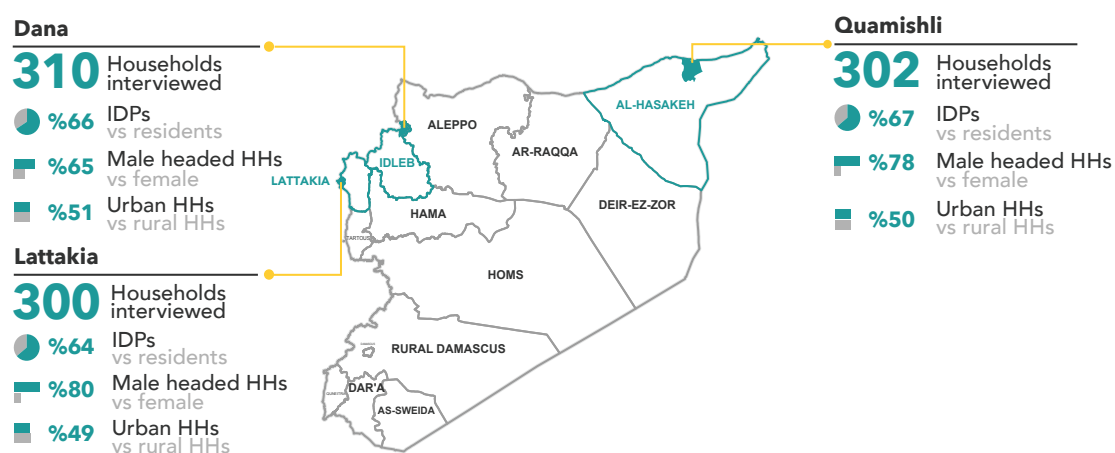


Figure 1

3. Key Informant Interviews

A number of key informants from different backgrounds were identified, including municipality and local council representatives, economists, members of local organizations, judges and lawyers, community leaders, real-estate agents, and census department staff. The role of key informants was mainly to verify and complement the analysis of this research and provide more in-depth contextual knowledge, which can help in better understanding the findings of the HH level interviews. A total of 19 key informants were selected in the three sub-districts.

Stage 2

During the last phase, the study undertook learning initiatives with interested stakeholders, including a Skype-held focus group discussion with staff from INGOs, and a final workshop for a wider audience which included external stakeholders. The final workshop, which was held in Gaziantep, also allowed online participation through Skype. The aim was discussing the key findings of the research. The meetings also facilitated an exchange of recommendations and input amongst the interested stakeholders.

2.2 Analytical Framework

Based on the background research, the following analytical framework was designed to support and guide data collection and analysis for the study.

The proposed framework encompasses the following three main dimensions:

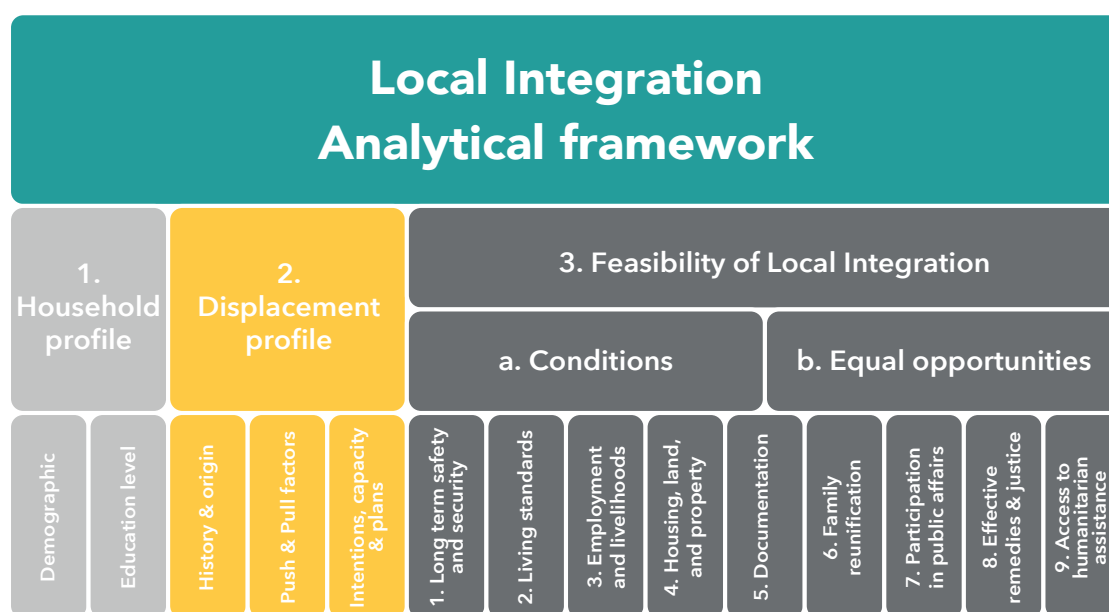


Figure 2

The proposed framework encompasses the following three main dimensions:

1. Household profile
2. Displacement profile
3. Feasibility of local integration, based on conditions and equal opportunities

The household profile (1) involved the demographics and educational level (as part of establishing a better understanding of the socio-economic background) of the household. Additional information in this pillar included the number of dependents in the household and school-aged children regularly attending school. This information was used to better understand the characteristics of the interviewed households and check whether demographic or socio-economic characteristics are drivers of particular humanitarian conditions.

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The displacement profile (2) mainly referred to the history of displacement, push and pull factors, and the intentions as well as the capacity and actual plans of the displaced families regarding local integration, return, or movement elsewhere. This information was used to look for meaningful associations between existing conditions, equality of opportunities, and displacement characteristics (e.g. duration, origin, etc.).

The feasibility of local integration (3) depended on the assessment of the conditions of the affected population, based on the eight dimensions as defined by the IASC' Global Framework on Durable Solutions:

1. Long-term safety, security, and freedom of movement
2. An adequate standard of living, including at a minimum access to adequate food, water, housing, healthcare and basic education
3. Access to employment and livelihoods
4. Access to effective mechanisms that restore housing, land, and property, or provide compensation
5. Access to and replacement of personal and other documentation
6. Voluntary reunification with family members separated during displacement
7. Participation in public affairs at all levels on an equal basis with the resident population
8. Effective remedies for displacement-related violations, including access to justice, reparations, and information about the causes of violations
9. Access to humanitarian assistance

In addition to the eight criteria, the degree of access to humanitarian assistance is also assessed in order to provide an indication of the degree and type of support received by the surveyed households.

To allow a comparison with the conditions experienced by the host population, a measure of equal opportunities was also systematically assessed for all the aforementioned criteria except for family reunification³. The inclusion of this measure provided valuable information on the inequalities faced by displaced versus host communities.

³ Family reunification was overlooked during the design process, and more focus was given to attempting to understand the current levels and reasons behind family separation, before trying to assess equal opportunities on the level of family reunification.

3. HOUSEHOLD DISPLACEMENT PROFILES

This chapter outlines the main household characteristics of the sample population participating in this study, including displaced and resident communities in the Lattakia, Quamishli and Dana sub-districts. It will also provide the IDP respondents' displacement history.

3.1 Household Profiles

3.1.1 Demographics

The study surveyed 912 households, representing 5,597 individuals currently living (or displaced) in the Dana sub-district of the Idlib governorate, the Quamishli sub-district of the Al-Hassakeh governorate, and the Lattakia sub-district of the Lattakia governorate (see also Fig. 3 below).

Purposefully selected, 68.4% of the sample included IDPs, while 31.6% was resident communities. The rationale behind selecting a larger number of IDPs was to focus on local integration processes from an IDP standpoint. To enable a comparative including the host population's perspective, resident communities were also included in the sample.

The total number of surveyed male-headed households was 677 (74%), and the total female-headed households was 235 (26%).

Almost 50% of the respondent population was between 18 and 59 years old. The other half of the sample was evenly distributed among young children (0-4 years old), children (5-11 years old), young adults (12-17 years old), and elderly (60+ years old).

Regarding marital status, the majority of the heads of HHs surveyed was married and living with their husband/wife (85% in Dana, 75% in Lattakia, 73% in Quamishli). The sample also included widow-headed HHs, particularly in Quamishli and Lattakia (20%), and to a smaller extent in Dana (10%). Evidence of single heads of HHs rarely occurred, and only in Lattakia and Quamishli (max. 3%).

The average HH size was 5 persons/HH in Quamishli, and around 7 persons/HH in both Lattakia and Dana. In Dana, 29% of assessed HHs reported having additional dependents in the HH, with an average of 2.5 dependents. This percentage was 24% in Quamishli, and the average number of dependents per HH was 2.

The lowest score of dependents was reported in Lattakia, where only 11% of assessed HHs reported having additional dependents in their HHs, with an average of 2 dependents per HH.

Arabic was the main language used by the households surveyed. In Quamishli, however, Kurdish was the main language in 37% of cases, in addition to Armenian and Assyrian, which were both rarely used by the population (0.3% and 1.7% of cases respectively). In Lattakia, a minority reported using Turkish as their main language (6% of cases). Around 70-80% of the head of HHs were married, with a peak of 87% reported in Dana. A moderate presence of widowed heads of HH was found in Lattakia and Quamishli (10% of cases).

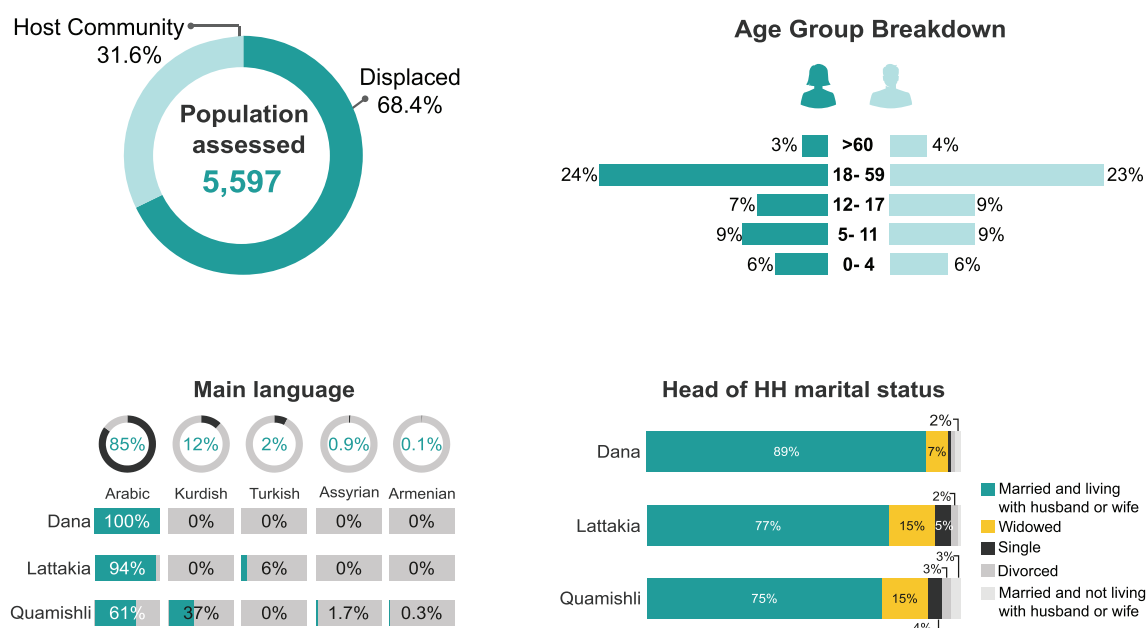


Figure 3

3.1.2 - Education level

The assessed population in the targeted sub-districts presented various levels of education (Fig. 4). In Lattakia, 62% of the HHs assessed held university degrees, while only 29% reported a university education in Idleb. Overall, the community in Idleb featured the lowest levels of education, where up to 17% of the assessed HHs had no schooling qualifications.

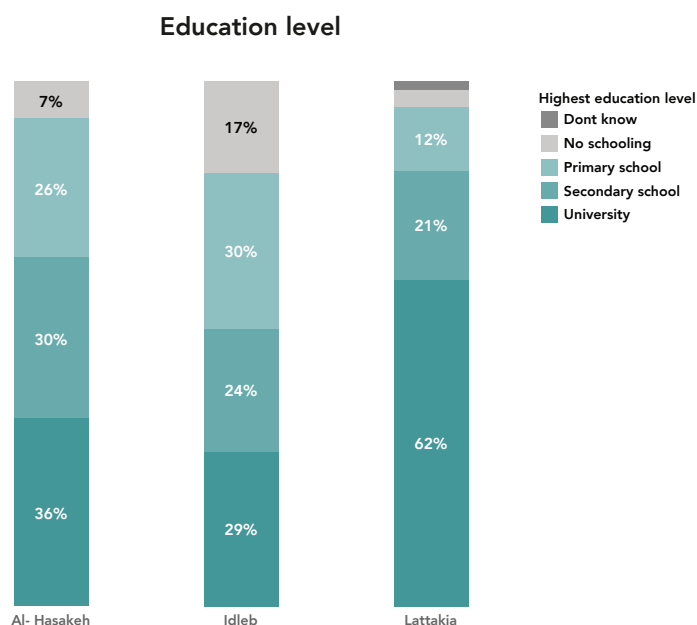


Figure 4

Access to schools for school-aged children varied between the different assessed locations (Fig. 5). Lowest rates of school attendance were recorded among IDP children in Dana (40% of cases not attending regularly), followed by displaced children in Quamishli and Lattakia (31% and 25% respectively).

The school attendance level of resident children was more regular than that recorded by IDPs. However, in Dana, 27% of resident children were not attending school regularly. The high levels of dropping out from schools among IDPs can be related to the involvement of school-aged children in child labour, the lack of financial capacity of IDP HHs, and the pressure on the educational facilities in areas hosting IDPs, due to the large numbers of students.

Children not attending to school regularly

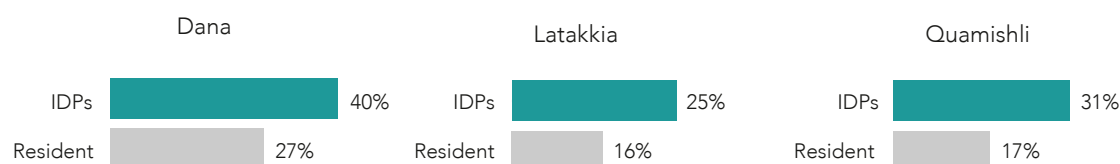


Figure 5

3.2 Displacement Profiles

3.2.1 - History and Origin

The displaced population surveyed was settled in Dana (34% of the total sample of IDPs), Latakia (32%) or Quamishli (34%). The most frequent areas of origin of the IDPs were Aleppo, Idleb, and Latakia, followed by Al-Hassakeh, Deir Ez Zor, and Hama. A few surveyed HHs originated from Damascus, Rural Damascus, Ar Raqqa, and Homs. IDPs currently settled in Quamishli had mostly fled other regions within Al-Hassakeh or Aleppo. IDPs currently settled in Dana had mostly fled other regions within Idleb or Hama. IDPs currently settled in Latakia had mostly fled other regions within Latakia.

Displaced households: origin and destination

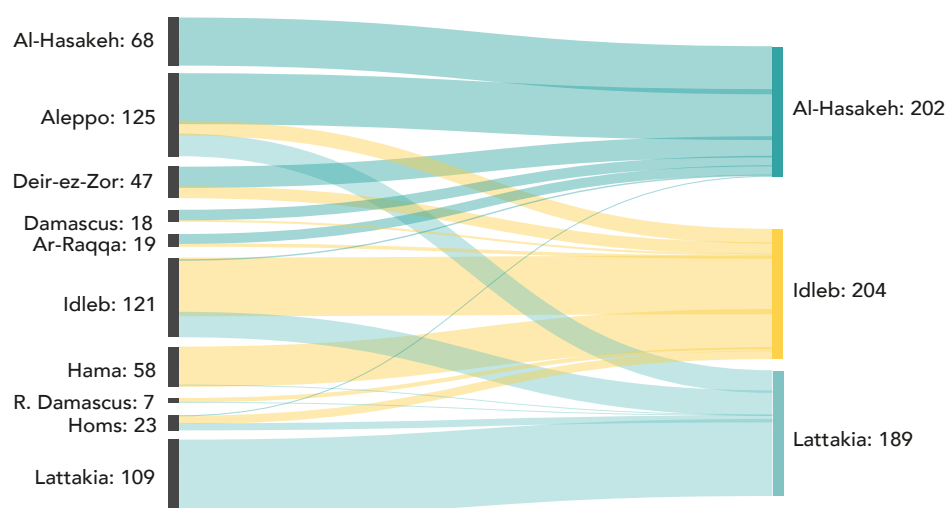


Figure 6

Based on their areas of origin and the drivers of displacement, IDP HHs reported being displaced to their current areas of residence across different timeframes. On average, IDPs in Dana reported 1.21 years of displacement per HH, while in Latakia, the average was 3.62 years per HH and in Quamishli, the average reached 3.73 years per HH.

IDPs Year of Displacement (% per year)

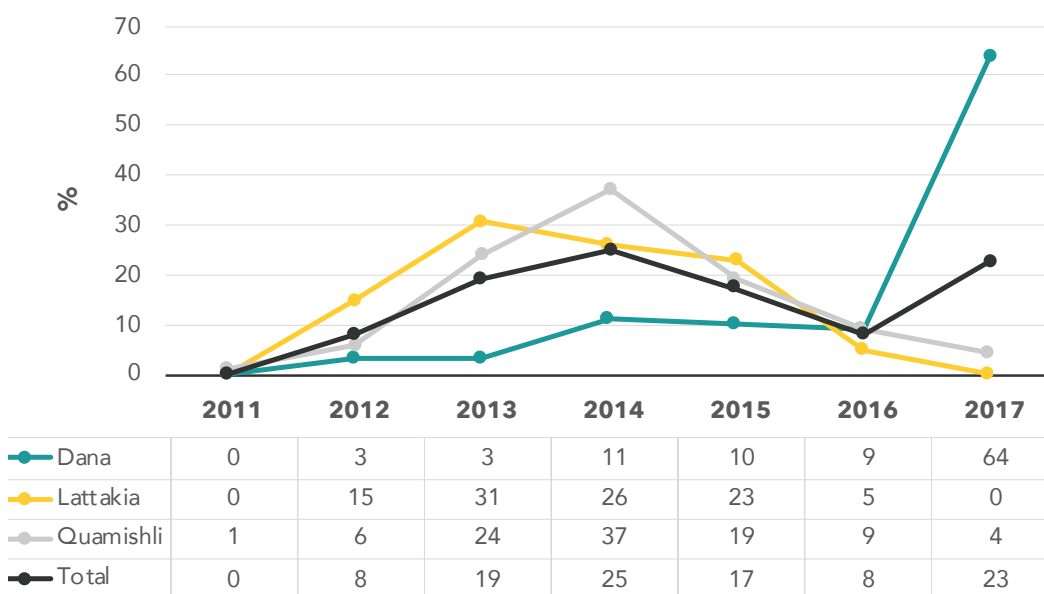


Figure 7

As shown by Fig. 7, the majority of IDPs reaching the Dana sub-district arrived in 2016 and 2017. Due to the large numbers of IDP camps, Dana has been a destination for large numbers of IDPs from Aleppo city, Rural Damascus, and Homs. In these regions, especially in 2016 and 2017, GoS forces gained control of the majority of opposition-controlled areas, either through settlements or military campaigns.

In Quamishli, the majority of IDPs arrived during 2013 and 2014. In this timeframe, large numbers of IDPs fled Deir ez Zor and the southern sub-districts of Al Hassakeh governorate (e.g. Shaddadeh and Markada) towards Quamishli, due to the high intensity of conflict.

The governorate of Lattakia hosted large numbers of IDPs arriving between 2012 and 2015, mainly entering the city of Lattakia and its close surroundings. The flow of IDPs to Lattakia in 2013 and 2014 was particularly significant. The influx was driven by the escalation of violence affecting the rural parts of the Lattakia governorate, especially the sub-districts of Al Haffah, Rabe'a, Salma, and Kansaba. In addition to this, Lattakia received IDPs from other areas exposed to high conflict intensity, such as Ar Raqqa, Homs, and Hama.

Overall, the years 2013, 2014, and 2015 witnessed the most massive waves of IDP displacement towards the assessed sub-districts. Findings from the assessment show that the peak was in year 2014, when 25% of the IDPs experienced first-time displacement, while 19% of the IDPs experienced first-time displacement in 2013, and 17% in 2015. It is important to note that in 2017, another peak in displacement was witnessed in Dana, when 64% of the IDPs arrived to the sub-district. This peak is not seen across all areas and is highly driven by the forced displacement from multiple opposition-held areas to Dana.

On average, IDP HHs in Quamishli have been displaced 1.1 times since 2011; they stayed in 1.1 locations for the same period, and for more than 1 month. In Lattakia, IDP HHs have been displaced 1.7 times on average; they stayed in 1.3 locations on average, and for more than one month. In Dana, the frequency of displacement of IDP HHs is critically higher than in other areas, reaching up to an average of 3.9 displacements per HH, and an average of 2 locations for more than 1 month. There were two unique cases of IDP HHs in Dana who have been displaced over 40 times since 2011; however, such cases are unique and involve HHs that have initiated their displacement

journey in 2011, fleeing areas with severe conflict intensity. 1 IDP HH, for instance, escaped Baba Amro neighbourhood in Homs in early 2011, towards other neighbourhoods inside the same city. Afterwards, they moved to Hama, Idleb, and Aleppo, changing multiple locations inside each of these governorates. They ended up in Dana, after the evacuation of Aleppo City in December 2016.

Generally, Idleb has witnessed higher conflict intensity compared to Latakia and Al Hassakeh, and the mass displacement waves towards and within the governorate has featured ever-changing dynamics. The patterns of conflict across all opposition-held areas in Syria have highly impacted the population movements and their direction. In this context, we should consider that Idleb has always been a destination for IDPs escaping areas where truces and evacuation agreements had taken place. For example, this was the case for many leaving Daraya in Rural Damascus (August 2016), Madaya and Zabadani in Rural Damascus (April 2017), Aleppo City (December 2016), and Al Wa'ar in Homs (March 2017).

To understand the significance brought by the year of displacement on the capacity for IDPs to integrate, MECS gathered specific feedback from three different key informants (KIs) in each sub-district, as part of the total 19 KIIs conducted in this research. These interviewed KIs have worked for local organizations providing a range of support services to IDPs, humanitarian and non-humanitarian.

Based on the inputs of these KIIs, the duration of displacement appeared as a crucial factor affecting IDP plans of integration in their current communities. According to KIs, IDPs that reached the three assessed sub-districts during 2012 and 2013 had the highest level of enabling conditions and thus the potential to integrate, based on the following facts:

- IDPs who arrived during 2012 and 2013 would most likely be capable of living in their current locations. Also, as they are still there, they have not considered leaving the area, although there was a likelihood for further displacement in Syria in 2014 and 2015, including fleeing to other countries
- Being displaced for at least 4 years, these IDPs could establish themselves, especially on the economic and business levels, since the competition towards livelihoods opportunities was less than it currently is
- Back in 2012 and 2013, the housing sector witnessed a critically high demand to which it was most capable of responding. Many IDPs had the chance to secure long-term rental contracts since rental prices were lower compared to now. The only exception occurred in Dana sub-district, where the demand for housing pushed many local landowners to build additional accommodation to rent to IDP HHs.

Interestingly, a correlation between the year of displacement and the potential of IDPs to integrate was also suggested by HH survey findings, albeit focusing exclusively on the IDPs' intentions to integrate (see also following chapter section 4.2). While looking at HHs that reported integration as their main short-term plan for the next 3 months, it was observed that 49% of them had arrived to the assessed areas between 2014 and 2015. The same pattern was also noticed among IDPs that have reported local integration to be their medium and long-term plan. This figure suggests that IDP HHs which reached their host area in 2014 or 2015 might have a higher tendency to integrate, compared to IDPs that arrived during other years. It is interesting to observe that, while communities displaced in 2012-2013 would have stronger livelihoods and availability of assets (as reported by KIs), communities displaced in 2014-2015 would be more willing to integrate locally (as reported by HHs surveyed). Such figures might indicate a growing trend in the availability of livelihoods and integration opportunities over time, and that the willingness among IDPs to integrate would reach its apex after 3-4 years of displacement and start to drop after that.

4. DECISION MAKING

This chapter discusses IDPs' push and pull factors for past displacements, their current intentions and plans, and conditions that could trigger return, onward movement, or local integration in the future.

4.1 Past: Push and Pull Factors

Push Factors

The main push factors for IDPs to leave their last place of residence included the conflict and security situation, deterioration of the economic situation, and the destruction of houses as the top three drivers of displacement towards current locations (Fig. 8).

Reasons for leaving last place of residence (% multiple answer possible, top three)

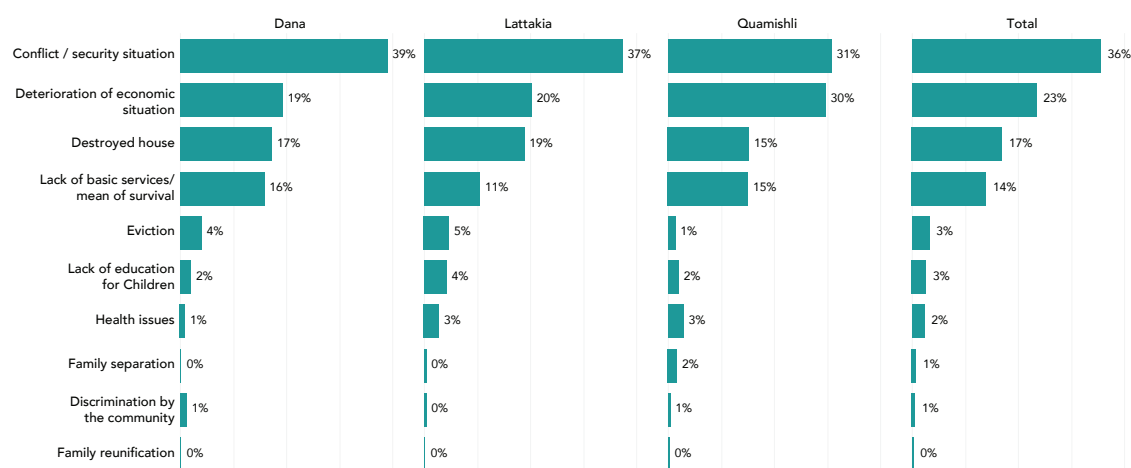


Figure 8

"Conflict/security issues" represented 36% of the top push factors reported by IDPs. This was followed by the "deterioration of the economic situation" (23%), "destroyed houses" (17%), and "lack of basic services or means of survival" (14%).

The issues of reunification, discrimination, family separation, health concerns, lack of education for children, and eviction, were generally reported at very low levels. Combined, these issues represent only 10% of the priority push factors reported by IDP HHs.

Overall, IDPs across the different assessed sub-districts reported similar push factors at close degrees, which could likely make the reported issues applicable to displaced populations in districts that were not assessed, although that is outside the scope of this research.

Based on this overview of push factors in the Syrian context, the focus should be heavily on the issues of safety and security, economic situation, levels of damage to houses, and access to basic services.

Pull Factors

The main pull factors that attracted IDPs to their current locations mainly included the better security situation, high accessibility at the time of displacement, and proximity to the place of origin (Fig. 9).

Reasons for coming to the current location (% multiple answers possible, top three)

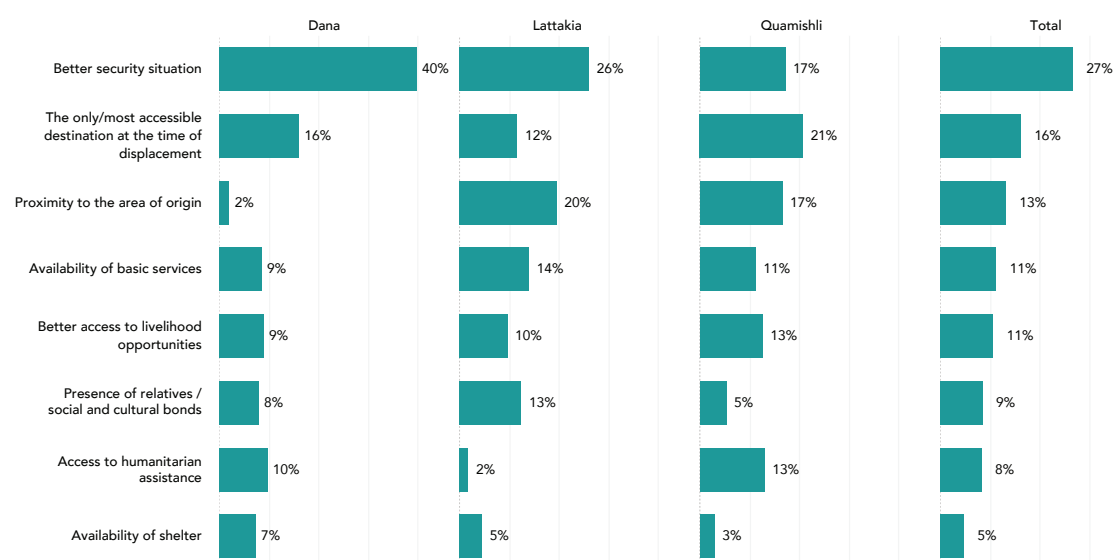


Figure 9⁴

It is evident that “safety and security in the destination area” was the main pull factor for IDPs, which is in line with the fact that the main push factor for IDPs is the “deterioration of the security situation/conflict.” Generally, “improved security situation in the destination area” represents 27% of the priority pull factors reported by IDPs. Accessibility (16%) and proximity (13%) followed as the second and third pull factors.

The data shows that there are clear differences between the different destination areas regarding pull factors, with the exception of the improved security situation. For instance, proximity to the area of origin in Lattakia represented 20% of the priority pull factors reported by IDPs residing there, and only 2% of the pull factors reported by IDPs in Dana, Idleb. Access to humanitarian assistance was an important pull factor for IDPs in Quamishli, Al Hasakeh, while it was the least significant pull factor for IDPs in Lattakia.

Another observation is that while shelter is expected to be an important pull factor for an eventual return, this was reported to be the least important element when considering moving to the area of displacement.

As a conclusion, it is important to look at pull factors as area-specific factors, with the exception of “improved security situation,” which represents the main pull factor across different areas.

4.2 Present: Intentions and Plans

Return Likelihood to Places of Origin

IDPs were asked whether they regarded it currently possible to return to their homes. In general, IDPs across all visited sub-districts reported a very low potential for return to their homes, as shown in the graph below. 74% indicated that it is extremely unlikely to return, and 15% regarded it unlikely. Not a single household regarded it extremely likely, though 4% did indicate that it would be possible for them to return. Additionally, 8% of the sample maintained a neutral opinion about the issue.

Bearing in mind that most displacement is intra-governorate, 12% of IDP HHs in Lattakia indicated the strongest likelihood of returning to their homes immediately. For both Dana and Quamishli, this was 8%. In short, return was overly perceived as an improbable scenario across all IDP HHs (Fig. 10).

⁴ It is important to note that in multiple graphs, percentages may not add up to 100%, but rather to 99% or 101%. This limitation is caused by the data analysis software used (Tableau). It occurs occasionally while rounding the decimal percentages to whole percentages.

IDPs Current Potential of Return to Home in Syria

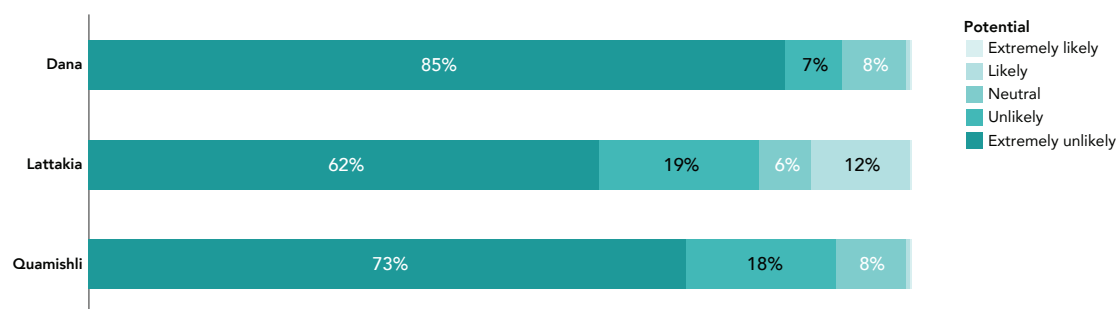


Figure 10

IDP plans

Considering that intentions are different from plans, with people possibly wanting to return but being unable to make any plans to do so, they were also asked about their plans across different time frames. The results show that the plans of IDP HHs varied between different sub-districts, and between different timeframes, as shown in Fig. 11 below.

IDPs HHs' Plans

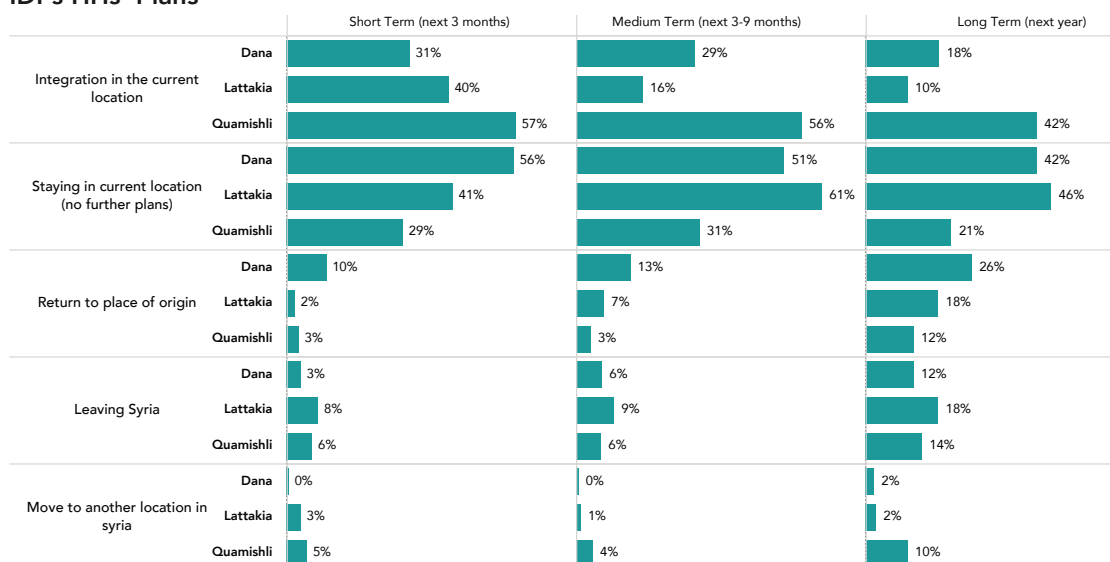


Figure 11

On the short-term, 57% of IDP HHs in Quamishli reported planning to integrate into their current location, while the same tendency was reported by 40% of IDPs HH in Lattakia, and 31% of IDPs in Dana. The intention to integrate dropped with time for all districts. In Lattakia, the tendency dropped to 16% on the medium-term, and down to 10% of the long-term. In Dana, it fell to 29% on the medium-term, and 18% in the long-term. The findings show that integration plans change over time. As local informants indicate, this may be explained due to the absence of adequate conditions, such as safety and security. People may not see the point in attempting to integrate into their current communities on the long-term if the overall security situation, access to economic opportunities, and basic services is not sustained. Focusing on local integration, Quamishli shows to have the most IDPs (42%) that would plan to locally integrate on the long term.

Looking at return, findings indicate that IDPs in Dana present the highest willingness to return, and, at the same time, the lowest tendency towards integration. Out of those IDPs stating their willingness to return, only 22 HHs, across all sub-districts, reported being able to return immediately - which is a significantly small amount.

Overall, the data shows that most people are not planning to return on the short, medium, or long terms, though these plans do increase over time, which is the same when looking at plans for leaving Syria. The tendency towards leaving Syria appears to be a long-term plan for 9% of the HHs assessed across all sub-districts. One of the comments provided by local informants included that the current abilities to leave the country across the three visited sub-districts are low, due to border restrictions, the high cost of moving outside the country, and the uncertainty regarding the feasibility of reaching other countries. If fewer restrictions were in place, we might anticipate a higher tendency to leave the country. This, however, remains uncertain as it is not assessed under the framework of this research.

The data also shows that the majority of IDPs do not have short, medium, or long-term plans other than staying in their current locations, except for Quamishli, where the majority of IDPs prioritised planning to integrate on the short, medium, and long-terms. These individuals did not have any plans and did not know what to do, even if they were displaced for another year.

To better understand the decision-making on returning, local integration, and onward movement, the next section looks at conditions and triggers that could impact people's decision-making.

Syrian IDPs' Intentions (NPM research)

IOM, through its Needs and Population Monitoring (NPM) unit, collects monthly data in Syria in relation to needs and population mobility dynamics at the lowest geographical level (NPM, 2017)⁵. Data is based on direct observations in the field and face-to-face interviews with almost 18,000 local key informants at 6,024 communities in Syria. NPM's reports provide situational overviews of populations forced to flee and present information on the needs for access to basic services. NPM has also done a population baseline assessment in July 2015 which they update regularly. NPM's reports and datasets give the most accurate information on total numbers of affected populations, population movements, and sectoral needs and gaps (NPM, 2017). However, the data does not give insight into intentions of IDPs or into drivers for movement or staying.

Fortunately, during the month of September 2017, NPM conducted a new demographic and socio-economic survey among Syrian IDP populations across all Syrian governorates, 65 districts and 270 sub-districts (NPM, 2017). Primary data was collected at the household level among 20,201 households. NPM gathered information on household composition, demographics, shelter, displacement history, economic status, assistance received, and future intentions. In the report of the study, NPM focuses on the intentions of IDPs to return to their homes, relocate, or integrate into their current place of displacement - in short, their three possible durable solutions.

The findings show that 47% or over 600,000 families have not decided on their future plans which would strengthen the image of a population that is very uncertain about its future. 27% (nearly 350,000 families) intended to return to their place of origin. 4.6% intended to move out of Syria (nearly 60,000) and 3.6% intended to move within Syria (over 45,000 families). 17.5% (over 220,000 families) indicated the intent to integrate at the current location of displacement. Over 80% (nearly 370,000 families) intending to leave their current location plan to do so before the end of 2018 while less than 20% (nearly 83,000 families) are planning to leave after 2018.

NPM's findings corroborate with the findings of this study as the majority of IDPs do not have short, medium, or long-term plans other than staying in their current locations, except for Quamishli.

⁵ Access to NPM reports and datasets is currently not possible but in the future might again be obtained on request by contacting npm-syria@gmail.com or registering at <http://npm-syria.org>.

4.3 Future: Conditions for Return, Onward Movement and Local Integration

4.3.1 - Return Conditions and Triggers

While the vast majority of IDPs (89% across the entire sample of IDP HHs) reported not having the ability to immediately return to their place of origin, 35% of IDP HHs considered the “improvement of the security situation” to be the main condition triggering their potential return (Fig. 12). Next to the “deterioration of the security and economic situation at the place of origin,” the destruction of houses proved to be an important push factor for IDPs to leave their place.

Conditions to facilitate or trigger return

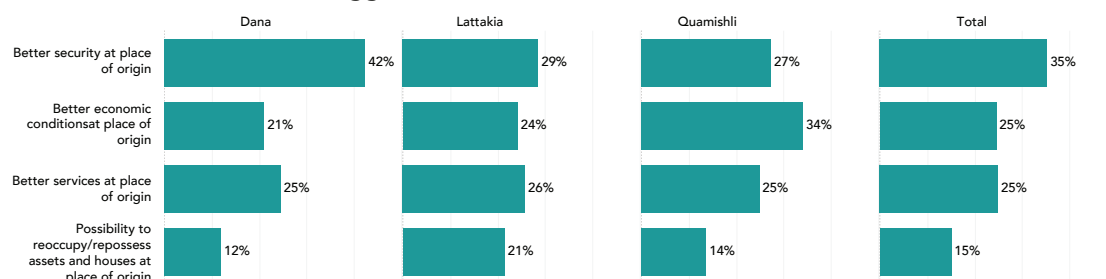


Figure 12

A factor that allows us to better understand the conditions that forced people to leave and might allow people to consider returning to their place of origin is the “availability of shelter.” Therefore, the study asked people whether they had information about the status of their property in their place of origin. Findings indicated that the status of the IDPs’ property in their places of origin was highly related to the location. The majority of the IDPs’ areas of origin have witnessed (or are still witnessing) high conflict intensity (e.g. aerial bombardments and shelling) and have severely damaged or destroyed properties. The graph below visualizes the status of IDPs’ property in their place of origin (Fig. 13). IDPs seemed to have kept following up as 91% indicated to have information about their property back home. However, only 8% knew that their property was still intact. 44% responded that they knew their property was destroyed, 28% that it was partially damaged, and 10% that it was occupied.

Status of Property in Place of Origin- IDPs

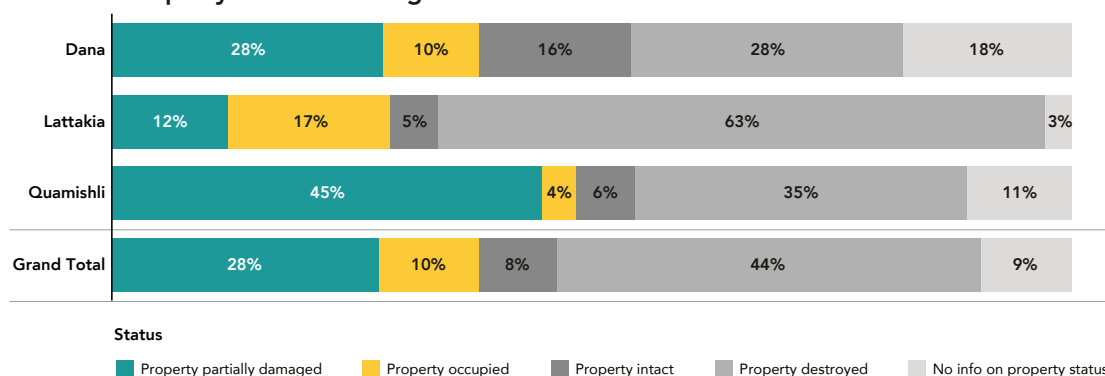


Figure 13

Next to the status of the property in the place of origin, tenancy rights may influence IDPs' likelihood and willingness to return. IDPs reportedly held different degrees of tenancy rights (Fig. 14). Namely, only 59% of IDPs in Dana affirmed having tenancy rights in their place of origin, against 95% in Lattakia. For IDPs, having access to tenants' rights can be a pull factor to return to their place of origin, and can influence their plans to stay in their current locations. This factor, however, is not sufficient to conclude whether a specific HH - potentially eligible with tenancy rights - could be said more likely to return to the place of origin than those who do not indicate to have this right.

Rights of Tenancy in Place of Origin- IDPs

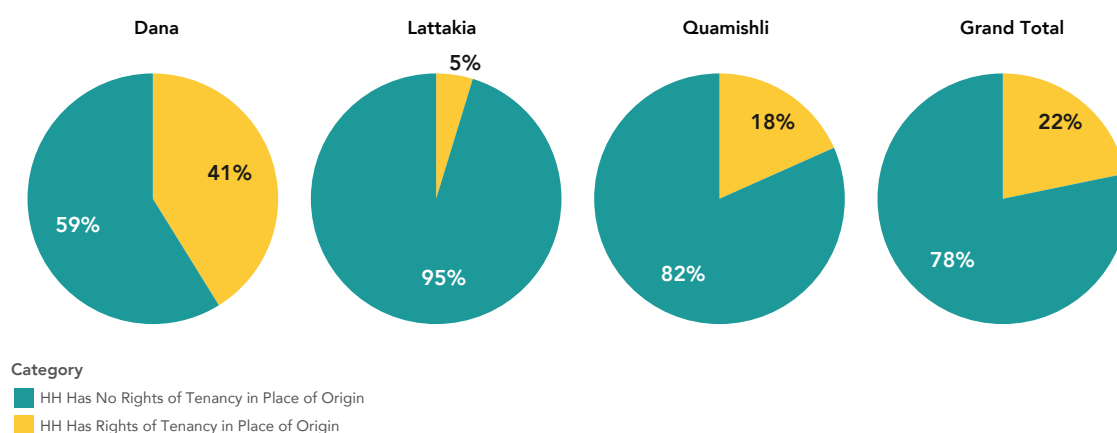


Figure 14

4.3.2 - Onward Movement Conditions and Triggers

IDP HHs may consider further displacement towards other areas, based on the situation in their current communities (Fig. 15). The "deterioration of security situation" in the current locations of IDPs is going to trigger further displacement for IDPs towards other areas, as reported by 34% of IDP HHs.

Another major potential push factor from IDPs' current locations is the "deterioration of the economic situation," as reported by 27% of IDP HHs. Other push factors from current locations include the availability of economic opportunities in other areas (15%), social tensions (12%) and lack of access to basic services (10%).

Conditions to leave current location

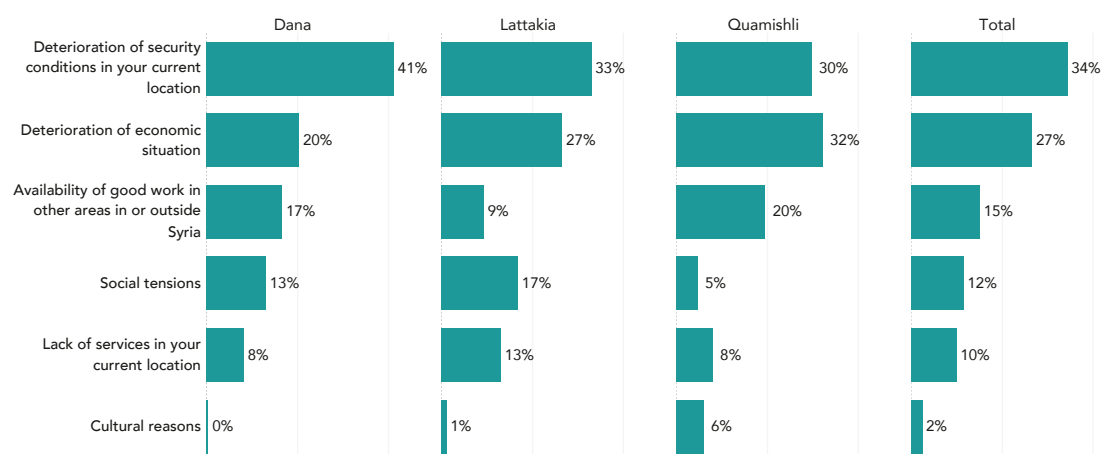


Figure 15

Next to the abovementioned conditions and triggers, we can expect that these considerations are the same as those reported to the question about why people left their place of origin in the first place (See Fig.8).

4.3.3 - Local Integration Conditions and Triggers

Priority conditions for IDPs to integrate into their current locations included mainly “long-term safety and security,” “adequate standards of living” and “access to employment and sufficient livelihoods” as the top three conditions for IDPs to integrate (see Fig. 16).

Priority Conditions for IDPs to Facilitate Integration in their Respected Locations

		Dana	Lattakia	Quamishli	Grand Total
First Priority Conditions	Long term safety and security	93.1%	82.9%	83.6%	86.6%
	Adequate standard of living	1.5%	7.3%	10.9%	6.5%
	Access to employment and sufficient livelihoods	2.5%	4.7%	3.0%	3.3%
	Access to housing, land and property	2.9%	5.2%	1.5%	3.2%
	Participation to local life and affairs			0.5%	0.2%
	Documentation, family reunification			0.5%	0.2%
Second Priority Conditions	Long term safety and security	2.0%	10.5%	7.0%	6.4%
	Adequate standard of living	22.5%	62.1%	40.8%	41.3%
	Access to employment and sufficient livelihoods	43.1%	13.2%	34.8%	30.8%
	Access to housing, land and property	29.4%	7.4%	8.0%	15.1%
	Participation to local life and affairs	2.0%	4.2%	6.5%	4.2%
	Documentation, family reunification	1.0%	2.6%	3.0%	2.2%
Third Priority Conditions	Long term safety and security	2.0%	3.2%	4.0%	3.0%
	Adequate standard of living	58.1%	10.6%	34.7%	35.0%
	Access to employment and sufficient livelihoods	21.2%	61.9%	33.7%	38.4%
	Access to housing, land and property	15.3%	9.5%	10.4%	11.8%
	Participation to local life and affairs	2.5%	9.5%	15.8%	9.3%
	Documentation, family reunification	1.0%	5.3%	1.5%	2.5%

Figure 16

“Long-term safety and security” was reported as the top condition to integrate into current locations by 87% of IDP HHs across the three visited sub-districts. This fact is another indication that the population movements in Syria are still heavily influenced by conflict dynamics. Even though the three sub-districts assessed have generally been witnessing low conflict intensity, and a small number of security incidents, “safety and security” remain a significant concern even for the Syrian population living in areas that are considered fairly safe.

“Adequate standards of living” and “access to employment and sufficient livelihoods” were reported as the second and third leading conditions for IDPs to integrate.

NPM (2017) also asked questions on push and pull factors as drivers for intentions. The data shows that security is the main decision-making factor for return, moving out of Syria, or local integration. When looking specifically at local integration, the good security situation at the current location proved to be the main pull factor for 35% of the IDP families. The economic situation and prospects as well as the availability of a housing or shelter are complementary driving the direction of intentions, in terms of both push and pull factors. Another pull factor is the availability (10%) of services and the cultural bonds (10%) at the current displacement location. Families wishing to locally integrate are also pushed by the loss of all properties/assets in the location of origin (9%) and by the belief that they would not feel safe at their place of origin (7%). Legal obstacles/concerns in the place of displacement are a relevant push factor for less than 1% of families intending to move to integrate at the current location of displacement.

To better understand the costs and minimum income people deemed necessary, people were asked to provide an estimated minimum amount. Area-based differences were reported by IDPs as follows: 84,000 SYP (163 USD) in Quamishli; 139,000 (270 USD) in Lattakia; and 111,000 (215 USD) in Dana. Comparing rural and urban areas shows that the average minimum income is 107,000 SYP (208 USD) in rural and 115,000 SYP (223 USD) in urban areas, which demonstrates only a slightly higher minimum average in urban areas. The average across all areas is 111,000 SYP (215 USD).

The data on conditions and triggers shows that any decision is largely dictated by conflict and economic dynamics. Supporting local integration, return, or resettlement elsewhere would need to take these two elements into consideration as top priorities. Programmatically, this could help to draw scenarios on population movements by monitoring the stability of the security and economic conditions in the areas of displacement and those of origin.

Based on the data collected in this research, it proved not possible to specify or group different HHs that have higher potential of integration based on their household profile, plans and intentions, or the current conditions for them to facilitate integration, since no critical differences or clear patterns were observed under this research. For instance, no critical differences between rural and urban areas, neither between female-headed nor male-headed HHs were observed, on the levels of tendency towards return or towards integration.

NPM's findings (NPM, 2017) show that the number of displacements that families have experienced does not seem to have a significant effect on the intention to return, to locally integrate, or to remain temporarily displaced. The only thing that NPM was able to conclude was that the greater the number of displacements families had undergone, the more likely they were to intend to move again in the future within Syria. Also, those who had been displaced recently were the most likely to express the intention to move again, but longer durations of displacement did not seem to significantly impact the willingness to locally integrate.

Vulnerability affects intentions, but also especially return and indecisiveness. The data indicates that the very vulnerable IDPs are less likely to return than non-vulnerable households (13% versus 28%). Also, very vulnerable IDPs are more likely to be indecisive than non-vulnerable households (58% versus 47%).

5. DIMENSIONS OF DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Across both displaced and resident communities, this chapter provides a comparative analysis of levels of satisfaction and degrees of inequality experienced on all eight Durable Solutions dimensions as defined in the Global Framework, as well as access to humanitarian assistance. This will help the measure the feasibility of local integration in each of the assessed areas.

5.1 Satisfaction and Equal Opportunities

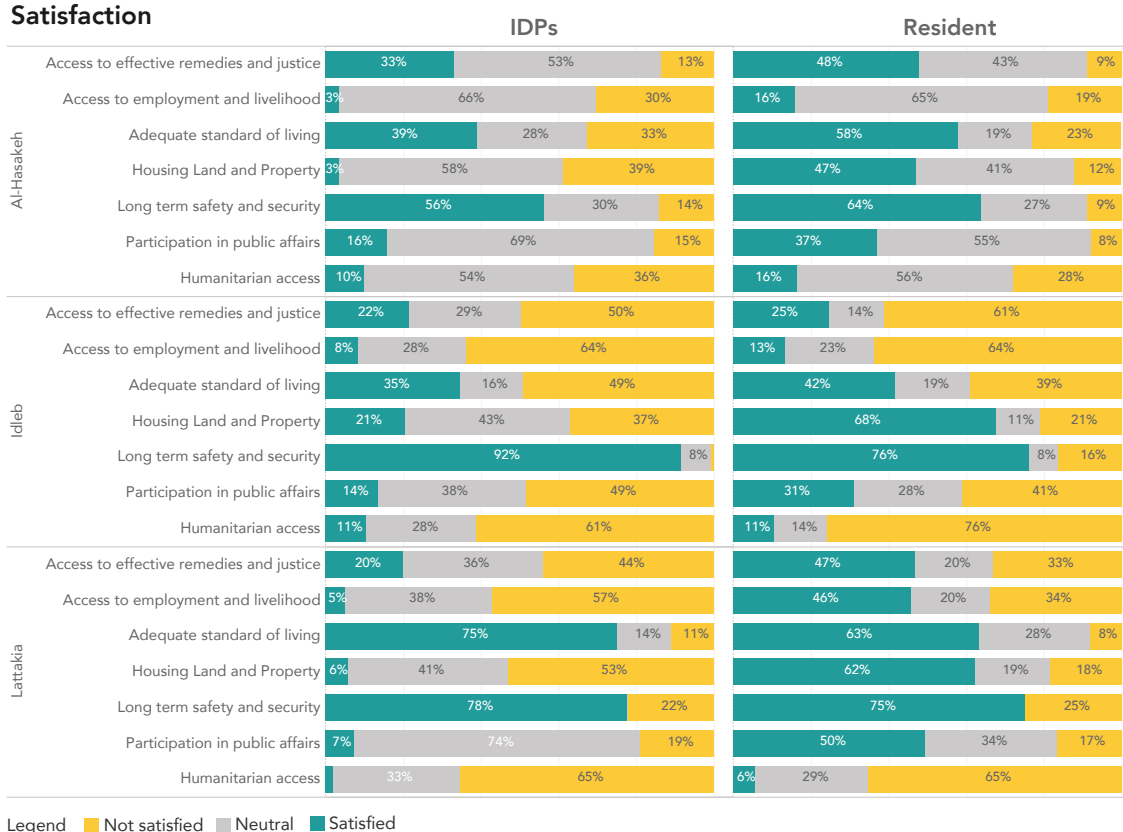
5.1.1 - Level of Satisfaction

The levels of satisfaction of both population groups (displaced and host communities) towards humanitarian conditions were assessed and compared. The calculation was based on the satisfaction levels reported by the surveyed heads of households for each of the following categories: long-term safety and security; adequate standard of living; access to employment and livelihood; housing land and property; participation in public affairs; access to effective remedies and justice; and access to humanitarian assistance. Beyond satisfaction - sometimes considered a subjective measure - a more objective measure of the severity of conditions faced by both population groups was captured with the Livelihood Coping Strategy Index ⁶, which is discussed separately in section 5.2.3 (a series of questions regarding the household's experience with livelihood stress and asset depletion during the 30 days preceding the survey). These indices were used to understand the stress and insecurity faced by households, and describe capacity regarding future productivity. All strategies have been classified into three broad groups, namely stress, crisis, and emergency strategies:

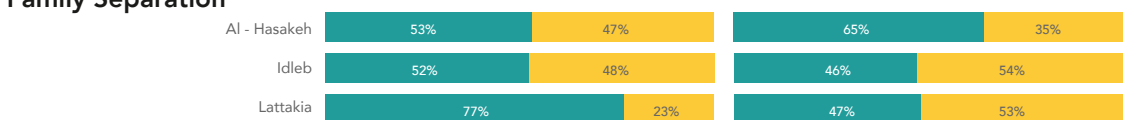
- Stress strategies, such as borrowing money or spending savings, are indicative of a reduced ability to deal with future shocks due to a current reduction in resources or increase in debts
- Crisis strategies, such as selling productive assets, directly reduce future productivity, including human capital formation
- Emergency strategies, such as selling one's land, affect future productivity, but are more difficult to reverse or more dramatic in nature.

⁶ For more information and guidance on the Livelihood Coping Strategy Index and how to adapt it to each context, please refer to the consolidated approach for reporting indicators of food security (CARI) from WFP.

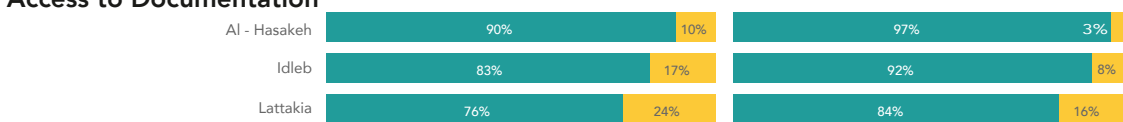
Satisfaction



Family Separation



Access to Documentation



Legend: ■ No ■ Yes

Figure 17

The displaced and resident communities in Quamishli showed the highest degrees of satisfaction, while those in Dana appeared to be the least satisfied (Fig. 17). As a general pattern, respondents from the host community showed stronger satisfaction levels than IDPs living the same area. However, this was not always the case - for instance, when looking at the satisfaction of long-term safety and security and the adequate standards of living. In Lattakia, most notably, IDP respondents mentioned higher satisfaction about the long-term security and the standards of living, compared to the resident population of the same area. IDPs reported being more satisfied with the long-term security than their host counterpart in Dana as well. Although the study could not find a proper reason for this, one of the hypotheses suggests that IDPs reaching Dana in the past 2 years would have fled very highly insecure areas, and their security standards might be lower than those of the host community in Dana. When answering this question, IDPs may have compared the current situation with the situation in the area of origin, where security is poor. Also, the security and safety situation was exactly the reason why most IDPs left their areas of origin and moved to the displacement area. This may also explain the higher satisfaction among IDPs when compared with residents.

Generally speaking, HHs interviewed in Dana expressed a stronger level of dissatisfaction,

compared to the other sub-districts, both for resident and displaced respondents. The most tangible criticalities that arose were around the local access to justice, access to employment and livelihoods, access to humanitarian assistance, and participation in public affairs. Around 40-50% of respondents (resident and displaced communities alike) in Dana mentioned not being satisfied at all with how basic goods and services were met at local level. It is interesting to observe that the host community in Dana expressed particularly strong dissent related to its access to humanitarian assistance - which was more negative than reported by IDPs in the same area. Regarding access to humanitarian aid, it should be noted that no respondents expressed positive feedback regarding this matter, except for the 10% of respondents in Quamishli who seemed satisfied.

The local access to employment and livelihoods was not satisfactory for almost every community interviewed - both host and displaced populations. The only exception was the resident community in Lattakia, who reported being satisfied with their access to employment in 46% of cases. An elaboration of the livelihood coping strategies is provided in section 5.2.3.

Host and displaced communities reported different levels of satisfaction with the housing, land, and property rights available in their area. Most resident populations seemed to be fully satisfied with their access to housing, land, and property (i.e., 61% of cases in Lattakia; 67% of cases in Dana; 47% of cases in Quamishli). On the other hand, the displaced community rarely showed signs of satisfaction with this dimension (none in Lattakia and Quamishli; 20% in Dana).

The access to justice scored relatively low levels of satisfaction among respondents in the three sub-districts. However, while satisfaction rates were similar between resident and displaced communities living in Quamishli and Dana, this was not the case in Lattakia, where only 19% of displaced respondents seemed satisfied with their access to justice (lowest value amongst the three sub-districts), while the residents stated their satisfaction in a strong 47% of cases. Findings from IDPs and host respondents in Lattakia were also different concerning the local participation in public affairs, deemed satisfactory for up to 50% of the residents, against none of the IDPs interviewed.

Each of the categories mentioned above will be discussed in detail in section 5.2, including family separation or reunification, and access to documentation.

5.1.2 - Degree of Inequalities

The degree of inequality in the access to equal opportunities as experienced by displaced versus host population was assessed across all areas. The respondents reported their own perspective on the level of inequality experienced. The degree of inequality was measured by calculating the percentages of people's perceptions regarding their access to certain services or opportunities to be equal to other people in the same area (Fig. 18). These services and opportunities include access to effective justice, access to employment and livelihoods, adequate standards of living, housing and land, long-term safety and security, participation in public affairs, humanitarian access, and access to documentation.

Degree of inequality

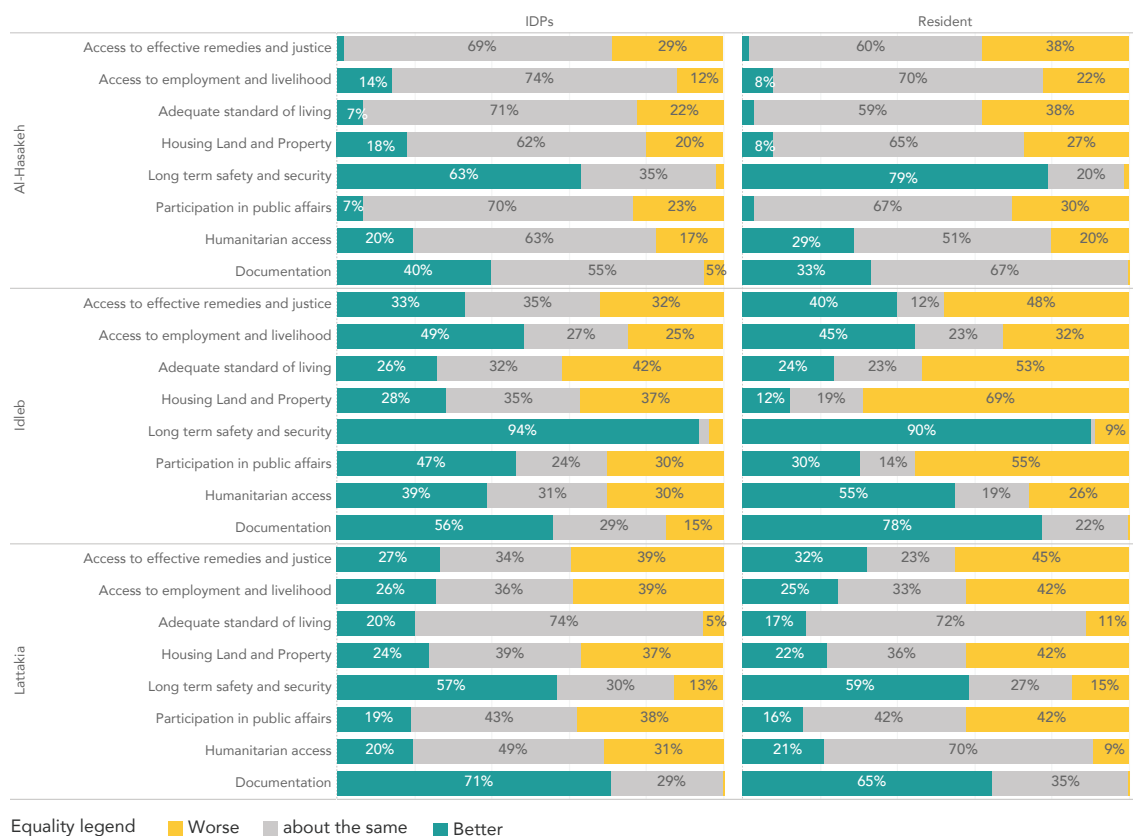


Figure 18

Interestingly, more than half of the respondents considered that they had the same opportunities as other people living in the same area. Occasionally, IDPs even reported to benefit from a privileged position in accessing certain services, compared to the host community, and vice versa, where host communities occasionally mentioned having more favourable access to services compared to IDPs.

Another interesting finding is that, for most dimensions, compared to IDPs, local residents felt that their situation worse than others' in the area. Particularly, this trend was observed in the access to remedies and justice, access to employment and livelihoods, adequate standards of living, and housing, land, and property: resident communities across all surveyed districts appeared more resentful than IDPs, as they perceived a more unequal access to such dimensions.

It should be noted that, in Idleb, large proportions of resident respondents mentioned suffering from a high level of inequality when compared to IDPs in the same area. A striking 69% of resident respondents (versus 37% of IDPs) perceived their access to housing, land, and property as unequal to that of others in the same area, while another 55% of them (versus 32% of IDPs) considered their level of participation in public affairs unfair. The unequal access to adequate standards of living was also a trigger of dissatisfaction for the resident respondents in Idleb, as reported by 53% of cases (versus 42% of IDPs). Also, a strong 48% of the resident sample felt a lack of equality in their access to justice and effective remedies (versus 32% of IDPs).

Each of the categories mentioned above will be discussed in detail in section 5.2.

5.2 Dimensions of Durable Solutions Compared across Populations and Areas

The upcoming sections present and analyse findings from key informants and resident and displaced HHs in the surveyed sub-districts, on matters related to the eight dimensions as defined by the Global Framework on Durable Solutions:

- Long-term safety, security, and freedom of movement (5.2.1);
- Adequate standards of living, including a minimum access to adequate food, water, housing, healthcare, and basic education (5.2.2);
- Access to employment and livelihoods (5.2.3);
- Access to effective mechanisms that restore housing, land, and property or provide compensation (5.2.4);
- Access to and replacement of personal and other documentation (5.2.5);
- Voluntary reunification with family members separated during displacement (5.2.6);
- Participation in public affairs at all levels on an equal basis with the resident population (5.2.7);
- Effective remedies for displacement-related violations, including access to justice, reparations, and information about the causes of violations (5.2.8).
- In addition to the topics above, the review covers the 'access to humanitarian assistance' axis (5.2.9).

5.2.1 - Long-term Safety and Security

Findings show that the satisfaction of the population towards their current access to safety and security in their sub-districts was quite high. For the HHs that reported moderate to low levels of satisfaction towards general safety and security in their sub-districts, concerns were varied among different population groups, and between various sub-districts (see section 5.1.1).

The surveyed HHs, in general, perceived a very positive sense of equality in their access to long-term safety and security, and in the majority of cases both IDPs and host communities expressed having better access to this dimension compared to others in the same area. Only limited proportions of the sample expressed their sense of inequality in accessing long-term safety and security, which ranged from a minimum 8% (host respondents in Dana, Idleb) to a maximum 15% (host respondents in Lattakia) (See section 5.1.2).

Safety and Security Concerns

26% of the respondents reported being dissatisfied or moderately dissatisfied with the security situation and indicated thefts as the primary concern. This feeling seemed to be more common amongst urban communities than rural communities. Abuse and intimidation were mentioned in Lattakia mainly, and more frequently by IDPs than host community. Respondents in Dana and Quamishli rarely cited these events. Environmental and health risks were mainly reported among IDPs in Quamishli, while respondents in Lattakia and Dana rarely reported them. According to local key informants, health and environmental risks in Quamishli might be linked to the low availability of health services in the sub-district. Armed violence (gunfire, shelling, etc.) was mainly reported in Dana, and on a smaller scale in Lattakia and Quamishli.

Reported Types of Security Concerns- % of Total Number of HHs

	Dana				Lattakia				Quamishli			
	Rural		Urban		Rural		Urban		Rural		Urban	
	Host Community	IDPs	Host Community	IDPs	Host Community	IDPs	Host Community	IDPs	Host Community	IDPs	Host Community	IDPs
Theft	3.0%	0.7%	3.3%	1.3%	2.0%	1.3%	2.0%	1.6%	2.0%	7.5%	1.3%	8.5%
Community conflicts	1.3%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	1.0%	1.3%	0.3%	3.9%	3.3%	2.3%	4.6%
Intimidation-abuse	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	5.9%	2.6%	3.9%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.3%
Environmental risk (toxic spill, landslides etc.)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	1.3%	4.9%	2.0%	6.9%
Health risks (epidemics, household poisons etc.)	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	2.3%	4.6%	1.0%	5.9%
Gang activity	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%	4.6%	2.3%	4.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Discrimination	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%	0.3%	2.3%	2.3%	1.3%	0.0%	1.6%	0.0%	0.0%
Armed violence (gunfire, shelling etc.)	1.0%	1.6%	0.7%	0.7%	1.3%	0.7%	0.0%	0.7%	0.3%	1.0%	0.3%	0.3%
Conflict over ration/ assistance	1.3%	0.3%	0.7%	0.7%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	1.0%	0.7%	2.6%	0.7%	0.0%
Abduction-kidnapping	1.0%	0.7%	1.0%	0.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Safety hazards (open well, rusty nails etc.)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.3%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	1.3%	0.7%	2.6%
Home invasion (armed or forced entry)	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	1.0%	0.7%	0.7%	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%	0.3%
Sexual assaults	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.7%	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	1.6%
Animal attack	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Physical assault	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Calculation
Low High

Figure 19

Exposure to Exploitation, Violence, and Travel Restriction

Host communities and IDPs were also asked about their exposure to exploitation, violence, and travel restrictions. The perception of exposure to different safety concerns varied slightly between host and IDPs communities (Fig. 20). Only low percentages of IDPs and host community HHs reported that they were feeling more exposed to exploitation and violence than others. Regarding travel restrictions, IDP HHs, except for those in Quamishli, mentioned feeling much more exposed to travel restrictions than others in their communities.

Population Perception on Exposure to Safety Concerns Compared to Others in the community

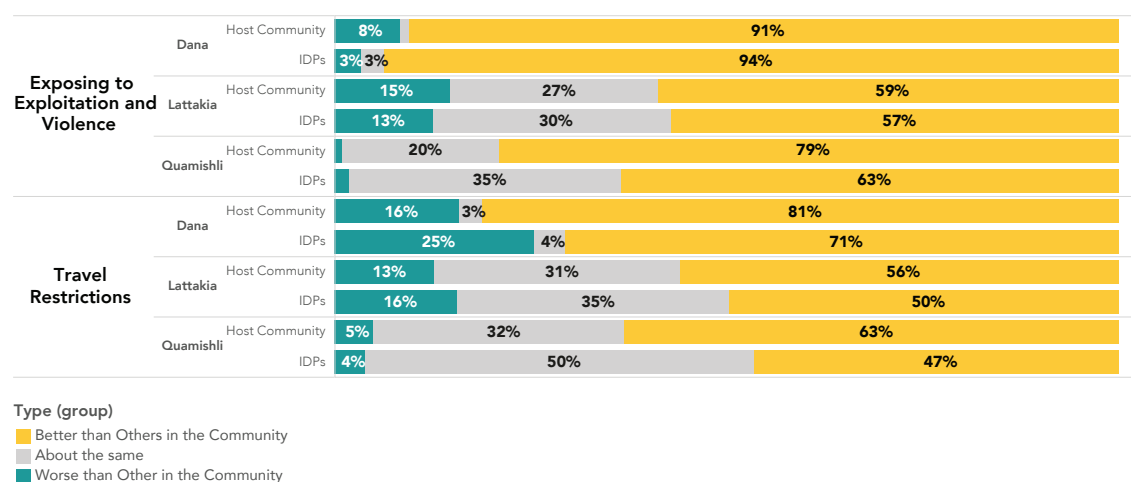


Figure 20

Tensions between IDPs and Host Communities

Tensions between IDPs and host communities were reported in a slightly different manner by host and displaced communities (Fig. 21). In Dana, for instance, 10% of the host community HHs affirmed that such tensions were between occasional and very frequent, while only 4% of IDP HHs mentioned this. In Quamishli, tensions were deemed to be very frequent, as this was affirmed by 8% of host community and 11% of IDP HHs. The sub-district where the frequency of tensions was reported most was Lattakia. There, 33% of the respondents cited the occurrence of tensions occasionally or very frequently.

Reported Tension Between IDPs and Host Communities- Separated Perceptions

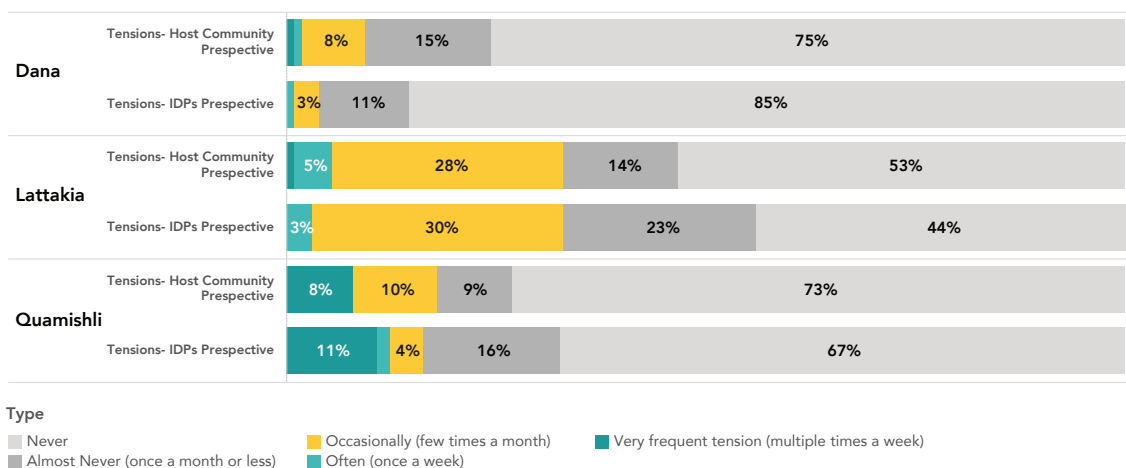


Figure 21

Reasons for Tensions

As Fig. 22 shows, a few reasons for tensions were reported (Fig. 22). Respondents reporting the incidence of these tensions on occasional, weekly, and frequent bases (19% of the overall sample), affirmed that one of the main causes was the insufficient access to humanitarian assistance, which represented 41% of the tensions reported by IDP and 42% by host community HHs across the visited sub-districts. The second main reason for tensions was the lack of available goods and services, followed by the feelings of discrimination and denial of rights.

Main reasons for tensions between IDPs and host communities

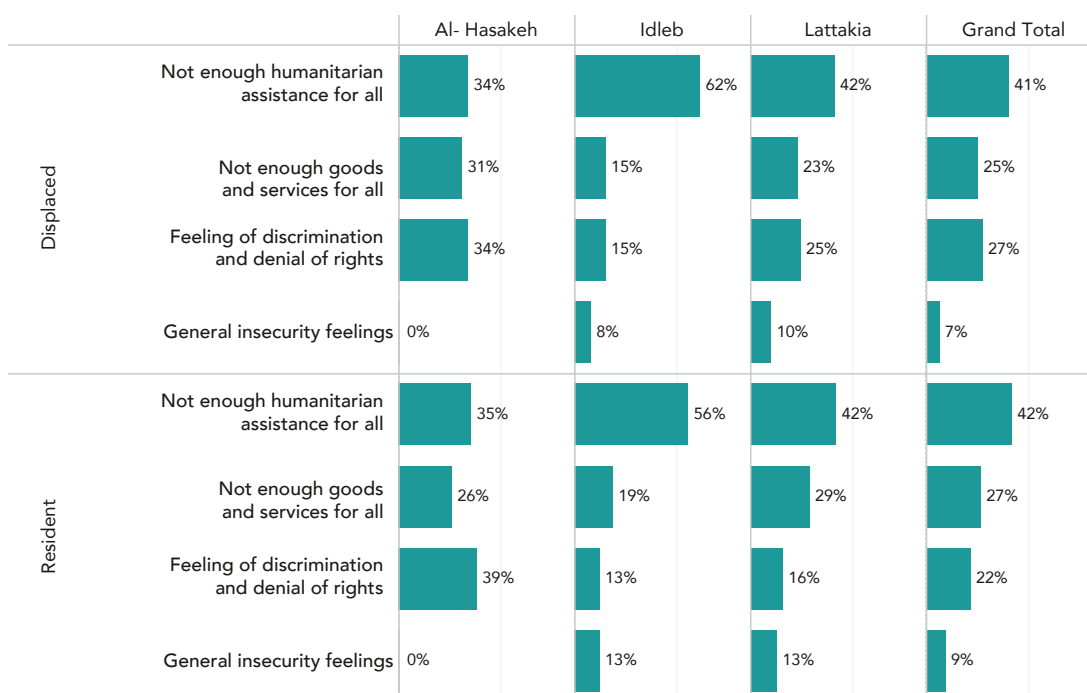


Figure 22

According to interviewed KIs across the assessed sub-districts, in light of the current availability of services, humanitarian assistance, and economic opportunities, there would be a low-to-moderate risk of community tensions igniting among IDPs and host communities. However, it should be anticipated that the situation may deteriorate at any moment, with tensions increasing accordingly. According to a senior Syrian economist who is currently leading a major local organization, “both economic and political dynamics across the country are rapidly changing, and the differences between geographic areas on the levels of security and economy in specific, can be considered quite large based on the type of authority, power, and governance structures in place. The presence of small pockets in different areas of the country that are deemed safe may trigger further influxes of displacements towards these pockets. Those movements would be driven by perceived security, economic stability, and availability of services. If the conflict in Syria extends for another few years, we shall expect very high concentrations of population in small pockets in the country, especially in major urban areas, where the situation will eventually lead to tensions, higher competition over economic resources and livelihoods opportunities, additional pressure on basic services, and worsening access to goods and commodities.”

The impact of safety and security on local integration of IDPs would be quite significant. Safety and security was stated as the main push factor for IDPs across all visited sub-districts and was also the main pull factor towards all destination areas. Supporting local integration in any specific location needs to take into consideration the necessity of maintaining positive security conditions in the area. An attempt to improve security conditions can include supporting judicial and police authorities to exert their roles, just and balanced distribution of humanitarian assistance to avoid tensions between IDPs and host communities, and supporting peace-building and social cohesion initiatives where disputes are reported, processed, and resolved at a local level and as early as possible before escalation.

Actual or perceived improvement in safety or availability of services may trigger influxes of people to areas of displacement and origin. Next to IDP influxes, returning IDPs and refugees may also put additional strains on the availability of, and access to, basic services. Although not all of them are necessarily returning to their homes, some refugees have returned to Syria.

UNHCR reports 293,193 self-organized refugee returns to Syria from 2015 until February 2018 (UNHCR, April 2018). 77,000 of these refugee returns were in 2017. Internal displacement remains prevalent as the majority of returnee households (around 94%) had been internally displaced (OCHA, June 2017). Sudden new influxes of refugee returnees might in the future furthermore strain almost exhausted resources of host communities and impede progress towards a durable solution.

5.2.2 - Adequate Standards of Living

The study assessed the access to adequate living standards in the sub-districts surveyed, which was reportedly as moderately high, with the exception of respondents in Dana, Idlib. While HHs in Lattakia affirmed being generally satisfied by their access to adequate living standards (confirmed by 75% of IDPs and 64% of resident respondents), in Dana, around half of the sample appeared not satisfied (42% of IDPs and 53% of resident respondents). In Quamishli, host HHs seemed rarely unhappy with their standards (12% of cases), while this occurred more frequently among IDP HHs (33%) (see section 5.1.1).

The surveyed HHs, in general, perceived a negative sense of equality in their access to adequate standards of living, and the proportion of respondents satisfied with this dimension never exceeded 26% of the total (reported among IDPs in Idlib). Interestingly, in Lattakia, the majority of the sample shared a neutral opinion about their sense of equality in accessing living standards, although with preponderance toward the positive rather than the negative opinion. On the other hand, the sample in Idlib shared common feelings of inequality, as mentioned by 42% of IDPs and 53% of resident respondents. In Quamishli, also, the surveyed HHs shared the feeling of inequality, although to a lesser extent than those in Idlib. (See section 5.1.2).

To better understand the primary concerns experienced in Quamishli, Dana, and Lattakia, both resident and displaced populations were asked if they felt that a hypothetical halt in external assistance would negatively impact their standards of living in the following three months. Based on this analysis, it seemed that host and displaced communities in Dana had the most substantial concerns, which demonstrates a high dependency on external assistance, and low resilience.

As shown by Fig. 23, respondents in Dana expressed their concerns towards a halt in assistance in the upcoming three months regarding coverage of all their basic needs: communication, education, energy, food, healthcare, HH commodities, hygiene items, (potable) water, housing, and transportation.

Reported Degree of Concerns of HHs for the Upcoming Three Month

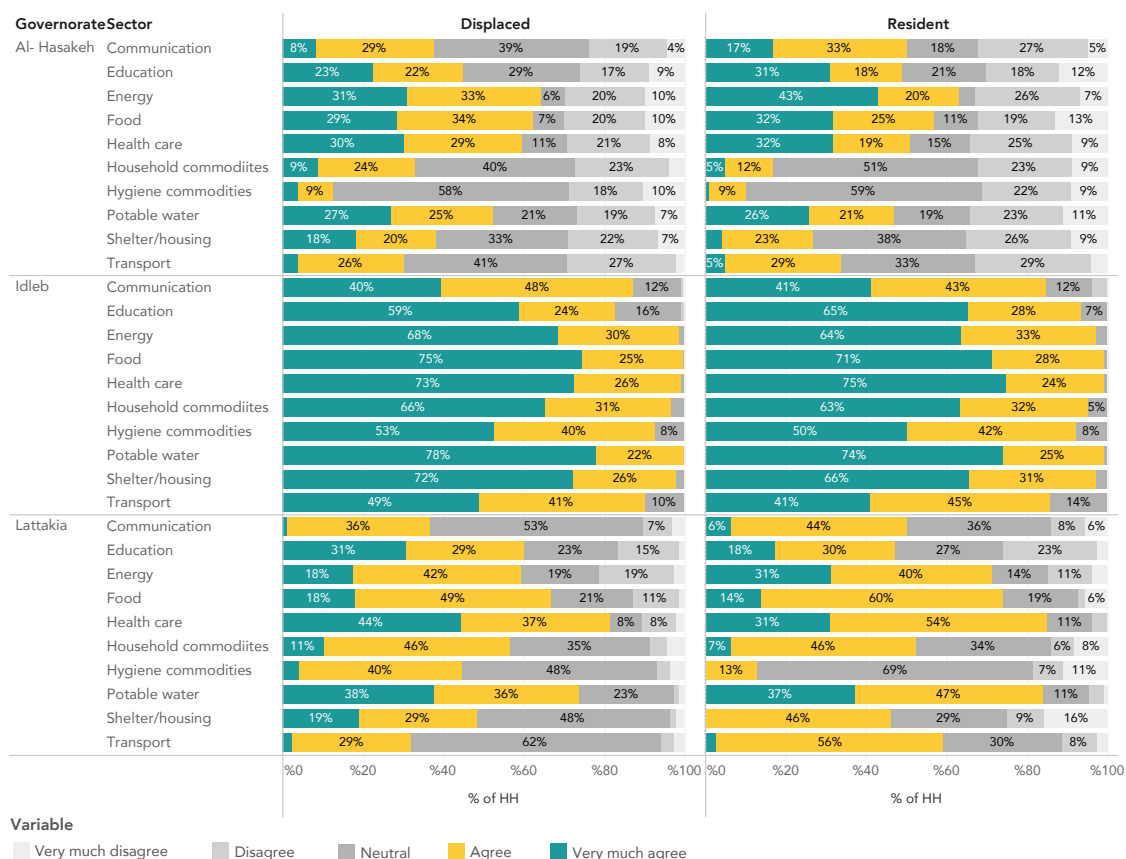


Figure 23

The respondent population in Lattakia showed multiple concerns in case of a hypothetical halt in the assistance received, but with a lower frequency than in Dana, and differentiated by the types of aid. The strongest concerns arose around the cessation of healthcare and clean water assistance, as mentioned by around 80% of the sample. Although with limited variation, it should be noted that this aspect seemed to preoccupy the resident communities more than the IDPs living the same area.

Around 50-60% of the IDPs respondents in Lattakia reported concerns around their access to education, energy, food, and household commodities, when these services would not be supported. On the other side, communication, hygiene items, shelter, and transportation were reportedly provoking concerns across 40-50% of the displaced community in Lattakia. It is interesting to observe how the access to transportation caused more significant worry across the resident population in Lattakia (60% of cases) than among IDPs (30% of cases). The host community in Lattakia, however, seemed to have low levels of concerns regarding their access to hygiene commodities, which was defined as critical according to only 10% of cases.

The resident and displaced respondents in Quamishli reported lower degrees of concerns than their counterparts in Dana and Lattakia. Around 60% of the interviewed HHs showed concerns related to food, healthcare, and energy assistance, which seemed to be the strongest object of worry amongst the sample. Communication, education, shelter, and potable water were instead causing concern to 40-50% of the IDPs interviewed in Quamishli. Resident communities reported similar worries. However, if compared to the displaced respondents, they seemed to be slightly more concerned by communication assistance, and less concerned by shelter availability.

Both IDPs and residents seemed to be limitedly concerned by a halt in the provision of hygiene commodities, which worried 10% of respondents in the timeframe of the next 3 months.

Parallel to the concerns related to the assistance needed on the medium term (3 months), the study analysed the top 3 priority needs currently reported by the respondent communities⁷ (see Fig. 24).

Reported Top Priority Needs for the Next Three Months

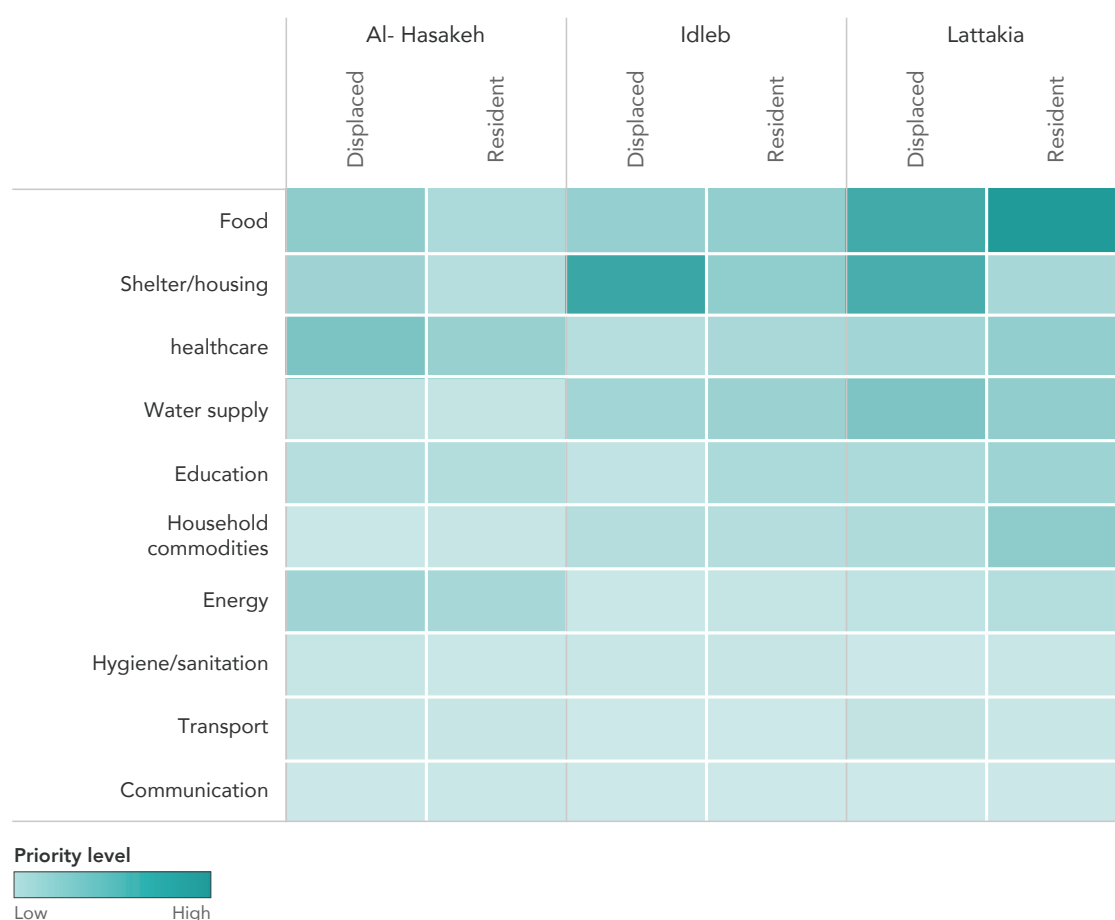


Figure 24

Looking at the three sub-districts of Quamishli, Dana, and Lattakia combined, food and shelter appeared as the most urgent need, followed by healthcare, water, education, HH commodities, and energy. Sanitation, transport, and communication did not score high in the priority scale listed by the respondents across the sub-districts surveyed. Each sub-district, however, presented crucial differences regarding the priorities reported by the local community of residents and IDPs.

⁷ The questions from which the ranking heat tables are extracted always imply a preference, based on top three rankings. The calculation is derived from the theory of election systems, the Borda count. The measurement scale is ordinal. While there is a rank order in the numbers assigned to the categories of the variable, the "distance" between the preference levels is not equal or known. Note also that a "lower" ranking, demand, priority, or preference does not imply an "absence of need". It only means that other items or interventions are requested, preferred, and given more importance and that the item does not qualify regularly in the top three preferences as expressed by the population. Therefore, the heat tables display only the most frequently mentioned "top three" items (ACAPS, heat maps as tools to summarize priorities)

The case of Lattakia showed a significant need in food items, which ranked as a very top priority among the resident population. In general, in the three sub-districts, the displaced population considered shelter as a strong priority need, while this seemed less urgent for the host communities. IDPs in Quamishli flagged healthcare as their priority need, while IDPs in Dana and Lattakia cited shelter and housing.

In Quamishli, both IDPs and resident respondents mentioned having a reasonable need of healthcare and energy. In Dana and Lattakia the local community seemed to have a moderate demand of water supplies and household commodities.

Findings show that 48% of the surveyed HHs considered their access to essential services not sufficient enough to meet their needs. Namely, 20% of the respondents believed their access to be barely sufficient, 21% not sufficient, and 7% entirely insufficient. There were various reasons for the basic needs of their HH to not be met. The chart below (Fig. 25) outlines the main (underlying) factors responsible for such gaps, as reported by these 48% of the respondents.

Main Underlying Factors Contributing to Low Living Standards

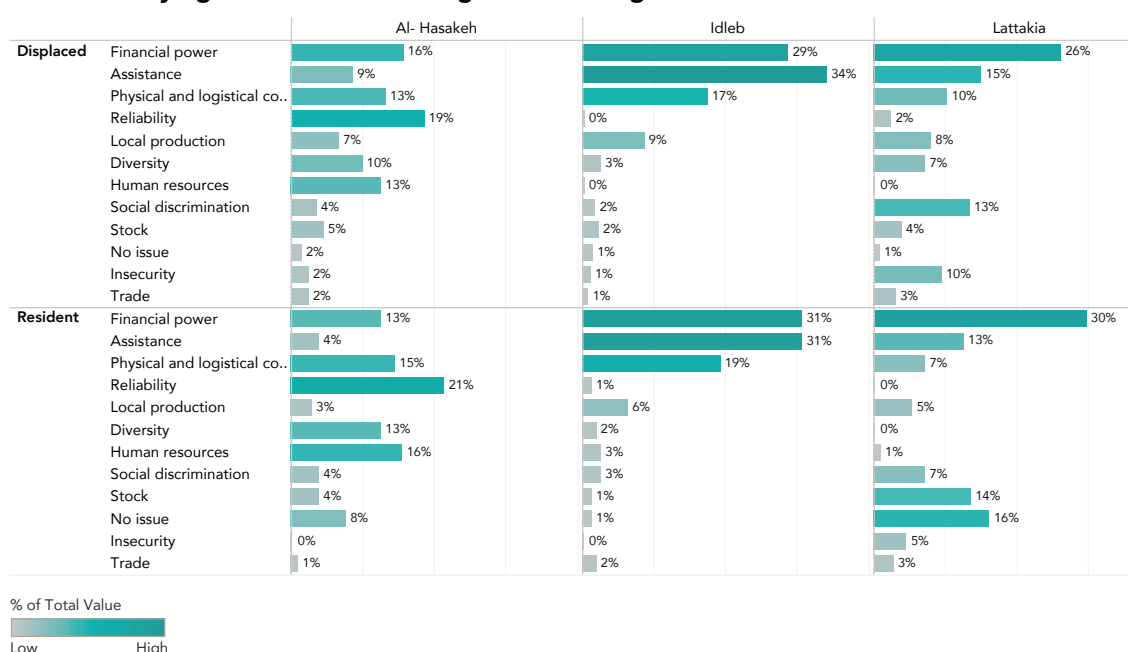


Figure 25

In general, the most frequently mentioned factors contributing to low living standards were the insufficient availability of financial resources, the inadequate assistance provided by government/community, the physical and logistical constraints to access markets/service providers (e.g., distance, roads blockades, etc.), and the lack of safety or reliability of the provided goods or services. Each of the surveyed sub-districts referred to these aspects with a different frequency. Displaced and host communities also expressed different opinions on these matters.

For instance, host and displaced communities reported similar issues in Dana. They indicated inadequate financial power as the main factor responsible for their lack of access to basic goods (34% of IDPs and 31% of host respondents). Similarly, following financial aspects, the respondents in Dana blamed the levels of assistance received, reported by 29% of IDP and 31% of host HHs.

In Lattakia, respondents also mentioned low financial power to be primarily responsible for the lack of access to basic goods and services. However, besides this factor, they cited a variety of other reasons, which were different for the host and displaced communities. For instance, the IDP population in Lattakia flagged the low levels of assistance received (15%), the social discrimination hindering access to markets (13%), the physical and logistical constraints (10%), and the general insecurity (10%). On the other hand, according to the host population, the lack of access to basic

goods was exacerbated by the low levels of local reserve/resource/stock/facilities (14%), and by the inadequate assistance (13%). Interestingly, 16% of the host community respondents found no reason for their lack of access to basic services.

In Quamishli, the underlying factors were similar amongst the host and displaced respondents. Compared to the other sub-districts, the sample interviewed in Quamishli did not blame the low levels of assistance in the first place. Both IDPs and host respondents considered the low safety and reliability of basic services as the main underlying factor, followed by the lack of financial power, and logistical constraints. It is worth mentioning that HHs in Lattakia also blamed the lack of diversity of goods provided and the low competence of the service providers for not being able to fulfil basic needs.

Overall, after more than six years of conflict, infrastructures across the country have been severely damaged, and the delivery of basic services (health, education, water) has been severely disrupted, if not stopped, in most conflict-affected parts of the country (see Annex B showing damage levels affecting basic service provision). The humanitarian caseload amounts to over 13 million people, 5.5 million of whom are in acute need of assistance. According to the World Bank, across Aleppo, Dar'a, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs, Idlib, Ar-Raqqa, and Rural Damascus – the most conflict-affected governorates - 9% of housing units are estimated to have been destroyed and 23% partially damaged countrywide. NPM's study (NPM, 2017) reports that "half of all medical facilities in the eight governorates studied in this report have been partially damaged, and about 16% of them were destroyed. The results are similar in education sector facilities." Similar consequences have been reported for the WASH and power infrastructures (OCHA, 2017; World Bank, July 2017).

Countrywide humanitarian needs remain staggering in terms of scale, severity, and complexity, indicating little improvement in the situation (OCHA, 2017). Access to basic services therefore appears severely disrupted, hence hindering opportunities for local integration. However, intents shown by IDPs to integrate locally are not primarily dependent on the status of education, shelter, or health facilities available in the displacement area.

5.2.3 - Access to Employment and Livelihood

Both IDPs and host communities across the assessed sub-districts reported low levels of satisfaction regarding their access to employment and livelihoods, except for the host population in Lattakia. Compared to IDPs, host communities stated being more satisfied with their access to jobs and livelihoods, even though the satisfaction levels remained very low (See section 5.1.1).

The surveyed HHs perceived a moderately low sense of equality in their access to employment and livelihoods, and very few differences were observed around the opinion of IDPs and resident HHs in the same area. Interestingly, the sample surveyed in Dana reported more positive feeling of equality in livelihood access (mentioned by 45-48% of cases), compared to the other sub-districts. The higher sense of inequality was mentioned by respondents in Lattakia (mentioned by 39-42% of cases) (See section 5.1.2).

The "deterioration of the economy" represented the second most significant push factor for IDPs across all visited sub-districts, while access to adequate economic resources was cited as the second leading condition for IDPs to remain in their current locations. It is evident that the availability of livelihoods opportunities highly dominates the potential of integration in any of the sub-districts. Besides, it is important to note that even though host communities had slightly higher levels of satisfaction with livelihoods and employment, the differences between IDPs and host communities were limited, except in Lattakia, which makes competition over economic opportunities a probable scenario. According to key informants interviewed in the three assessed sub-districts, the competition over economic opportunities is already a reality, even though this competition has not directly triggered any tensions. In Dana, key informants reported that many IDPs who had fled to the sub-district were capable of re-establishing the business that they used to practice in their areas of origin. This opportunity contributed to generating new types of economic activities that the population of the sub-district was not practicing before, especially small workshops and handicrafts, and even some harvesting of specific types of crops.

It is evident, across all assessed sub-districts, that IDPs are practicing livelihood coping strategies on a higher scale compared to host populations. There are also clear differences between different sub-districts, in terms of major livelihood coping strategies applied by population, as elaborated in the chart below (Fig. 26).

Livelihoods Coping Index

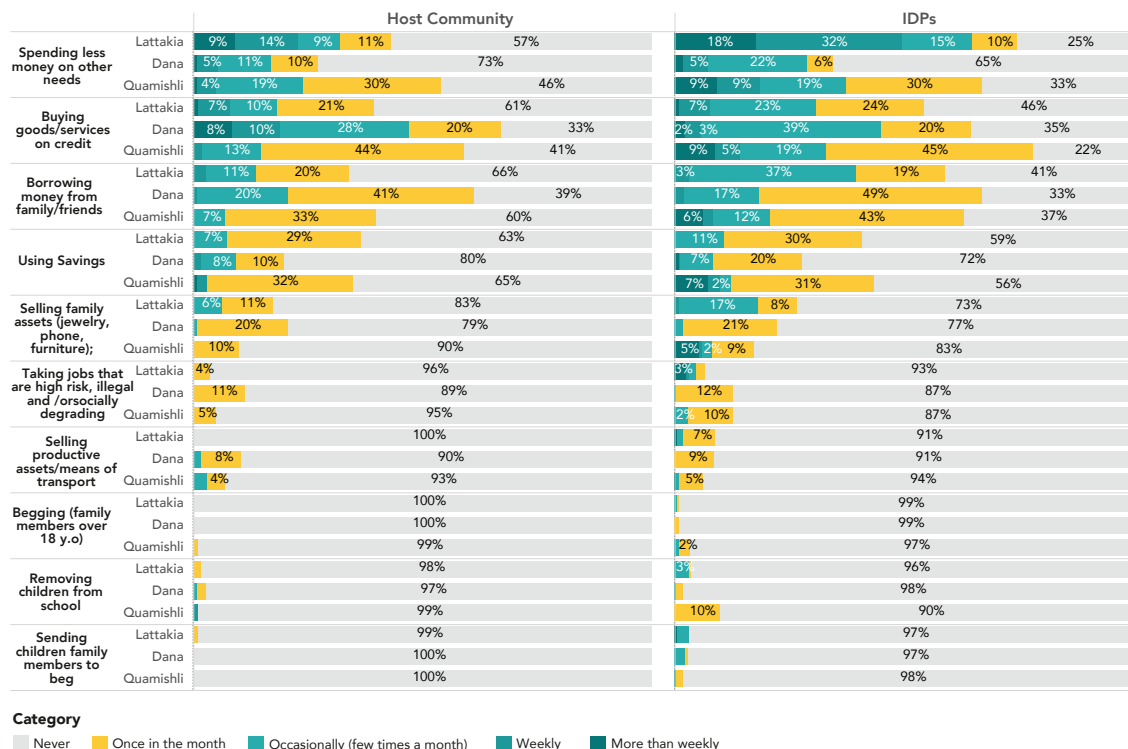


Figure 26

Spending less money on basic needs is the main coping strategy reported on a frequent basis by the assessed population. The second main livelihood coping strategy is buying goods on credit, followed by borrowing money from friends and family.

The Livelihoods Coping Strategy Index values reveal clear differences between IDPs and host communities in both Lattakia and Quamishli, and relative similarities in the application of livelihoods coping strategies between IDPs and host communities in Dana.

In Lattakia, it is evident that IDPs have been applying different levels of coping strategies, significantly higher than host communities. In total, 87% of IDP HHs in Lattakia have applied at least one of the coping strategies, compared to only 51% of host communities.

In Quamishli, a total of 93% of IDP HHs have been applying at least one of the livelihoods coping strategies, during the past month, compared to 76% of host community HHs. In Dana, there were no significant differences recorded between IDPs and host communities regarding the application of different livelihoods coping strategies.

In general, there is a very wide application of coping strategies across all visited sub-districts. For instance, only 10% of IDP HHs and 9% of host community HHs in Dana were not facing conditions forcing them to apply any coping strategies. It is important to note that the table below does not reveal duplications in the application of various coping strategies, for example, one HH can be applying stress, crisis and emergency coping strategies all together at the same time. In other cases, it is possible to find some HHs applying radical coping strategies falling under emergency category, and at the same time not applying the less radical coping strategies falling under stress category for instance.

The findings of the livelihoods coping strategies index can explain to a large extent why access to livelihoods is the second main condition required to facilitate IDP integration. The assessed IDP HHs have been largely applying various coping strategies, to meet their essential HH needs, and some of the applied coping strategies can have a significant impact on HHs' economic stability on the long term, such as depending on debt and credit for meeting needs, which is largely applied, and consuming family savings and assets.

Variable	Dana		Quamishli		Lattakia	
	IDPs	Host Community	IDPs	Host Community	IDPs	Host Community
Stress Strategies	86%	87%	89%	68%	81%	48%
Crisis Strategies	40%	39%	77%	57%	76%	43%
Emergency Strategies	16%	11%	15%	5%	9%	4%
None	10%	9%	7%	24%	13%	49%

According to KIs, there is a noticeable reduction in population dependency on selling their assets in the past two years, compared to the early years of conflict. This reduction of dependency on selling assets is likely caused by the following:

- HHs have consumed their assets throughout the years, to cover their needs, especially IDPs
- Or, HHs are holding onto whatever assets they have as their last resort to cope with any critical situations or crisis

KIs have also reported, based on their observations, that the population in general, and IDPs in specific, have significantly reduced their standards of living by pressing their expenses to the maximum extent possible, and focusing mainly on spending their money on food and shelter more than other sectors. Spending money on food and shelter comes at the expense of other sectors, such as health and education mostly.

Although it is difficult to measure in light of these research findings, the change in population perception towards what is considered a decent living standard is very important. An interviewed Syrian economist makes the following comment: "The mentality of an average Syrian family towards decent living is now based on very low standards compared to pre-crisis." According to the Syrian economist, a sound gap would stand between different population groups, with the vast majority of the population being economically vulnerable and forced to practice severe livelihoods coping strategies.

An average of 1.5 people of working age per HH was reported across the entire sample of HHs, while the average HH size across the entire sample was 6.3 people/HH. This rate was identical between IDPs and host community. Access to training or practice aiming to improve labour skills of working age individuals was limited. In Dana, for instance, only 0.3 individuals/HH had access to such training. The rate in Lattakia is 0.4 individuals/HH, and 0.5 individual/HH in Quamishli. Such low rates exposed a significant knowledge and experience gap as one of the leading obstacles faced by people in working age to access the labour market.

Whereas having access economic opportunities is identified as a main condition for integration, the working group among the IDP population is relatively small. NPM compared its 2016 and 2017 population data, which showed that the number of IDPs between 20 to 34 years old is sharply declining, especially among men (17% of all men, compared 26% of all women). For example, in Ar-Raqqa and Quneitra, more than 1 out of every 2 households had no member working during the three months before the data was collected. Young male adults face higher mortality and are keen on leaving the country. This may have a significant constraining impact on livelihoods as this age group is the main labor force (NPM, November 2017a). Clearly, this limits the economic capacities of many IDP HHs and makes it difficult for them to access the labor market and provide their own income.

Other obstacles faced by respondents (in the age of employment) to access labour market included the scarcity of livelihoods opportunities and the high competition over available opportunities (see also Fig. 27 below).

Main reasons for lack of access to employment and livelihood opportunities

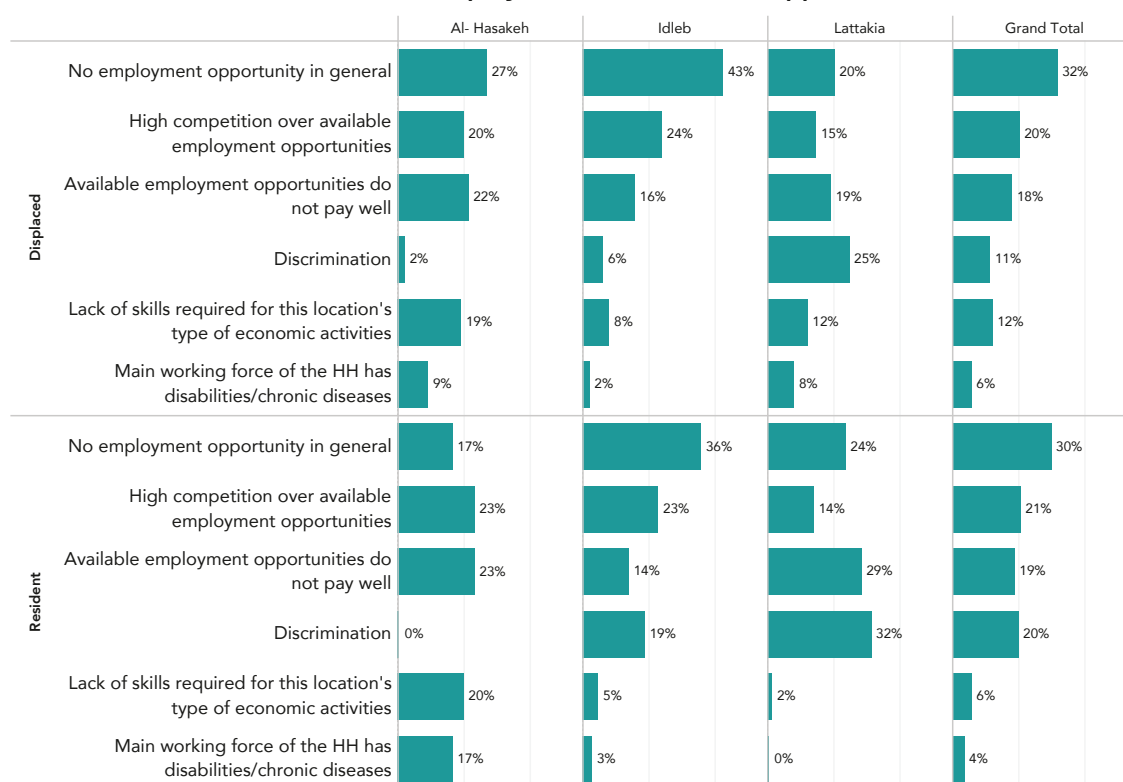


Figure 27

According to 32% (IDPs) and 30% (host population) of cases, the lack of job opportunities represented an obstacle. The lack of employment seemed more critical in Dana than in Quamishli and Lattakia. Discrimination was significantly problematic in Lattakia for both IDPs and host communities when trying to access employment and livelihood opportunities. The issue represented 32% of the obstacles faced by the host population, and 25% of those faced by IDPs. It was reported on a smaller scale in Dana as well and was almost non-existing in Quamishli.

5.2.4 - Housing, Land, and Property

The satisfaction levels of access to housing, land, and property was different across population groups. IDPs with their current housing conditions vary between the different sub-districts. Generally, and across all assessed sub-districts, the satisfaction levels of IDPs with their housing conditions were moderate, while the satisfaction levels of host communities were high (see section 5.1.1).

Also, the perceived equality of conditions and opportunities, as observed by IDPs and host communities at the level of housing, land, and property, slightly differs across the different sub-districts, with no significant differences to report (See section 5.1.2).

Types of Shelter

To better understand people's access shelter, IDPs were asked about their types of shelter. Currently, IDPs dwell in different types of accommodations, with only slight differences between those residing in urban and rural settings (Fig. 28).

Reported Types of Shelter- IDPs

	Dana		Lattakia		Quamishli		Grand Total
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	
Rented accommodation	64%	87%	80%	72%	60%	65%	71%
Host family (no rental fee)	8%	2%	15%	20%	23%	7%	12%
Unfinished/abandoned building	0%	0%	0%	2%	10%	24%	6%
Informal collective center	13%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%
Own house (non-damaged)	1%	0%	5%	4%	3%	0%	2%
Organized camp	8%	2%	0%	1%	0%	0%	2%
Self-settled camp	0%	0%	0%	1%	5%	3%	2%
Formal collective center	7%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Own house (damaged)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%

% of Total Value
 Low  High

Figure 28

Rented accommodation represents the primary form of accommodation for IDPs, as mentioned by 71% of IDP HHs across the three assessed sub-districts. Following, 12% of IDP HHs said they resided with a host family without paying rent. The availability of shelter is an important consideration that can affect the willingness of IDPs to integrate. For the sake of this study, MECS interviewed real-estate agents and municipality employees in the three targeted sub-districts. In their opinion, there would be a very low to inexistent availability in the shelter sector to accommodate further influxes of IDPs reaching the surveyed areas. The construction of houses in Syria is complicated due to the lack of available construction materials and the increasing cost of key construction inputs, namely iron and cement, which have witnessed critical jumps in prices (> 1000% since the onset of the conflict in Syria). For instance, 1 ton of construction iron which was sold for around 9,000 SYP in 2010 reached about 350,000 SYP in 2017 (Al Hal Al Sori).

The very high cost of construction and the lack of the major construction companies' economic capacity has added to the uncertainty of the market in Syria, and would require significant external intervention (governmental or organizational) to accommodate the demand.

The issue is multi-faceted and not easy to tackle. Large numbers of IDPs, and even host communities, reported being uncertain about their futures because they did not own their shelters of residence (see section 6.1.5). Another layer of complexity is related to the fact that large numbers of HHs, according to KIs, have to pledge significant financial resources to ensure access to rented accommodation, especially in urban areas. A long-term solution to this issue is essential to increase the capacity of the host population to accept IDP integration. Such a long-term solution might include the actual construction of houses or other support to the housing sector. Short-term solutions might include financial support to IDPs, which is currently being provided by a few small charities in Lattakia and Quamishli, and is occasionally also implemented by some INGOs and local NGOs in Idlib.

Confidence Regarding Staying in Current Dwelling

51% of the assessed population reported not being confident that they can stay in their current dwellings as long as they wish. The vast majority of these are IDPs, who reported not being confident that they can stay in their current dwelling for as long as they want in 75% of cases, adding another layer of uncertainty to the situation of IDPs on the long-term.

As shown by Fig. 29, the lack of confidence to stay in their actual place of residence is due to lacking property/owned shelter, and in particular due to renting (reported as a motivation by 66% of IDPs and by 43% of host communities).

Main reasons for not feeling confident to stay

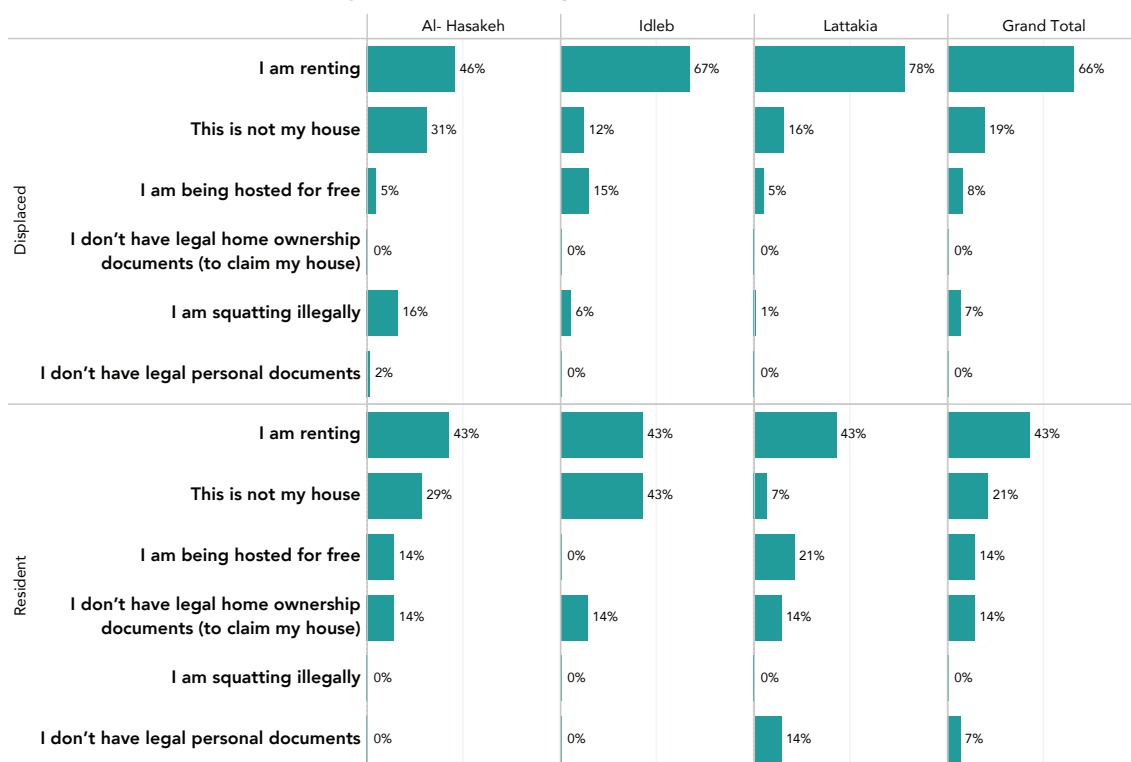


Figure 29

It is evident that, even though the population had relatively reasonable satisfaction levels and access to accommodation, renting is not considered as a sustainable solution for the local community. According to local informants in the assessed sub-districts, there was a high level of uncertainty, mainly among IDPs, regarding the availability of accommodation on the long-term. The lack of financial resources to purchase houses, in addition to the inflated prices of housing in urban areas across the country, and in the regions that host large numbers of IDPs in specific, were all factors contributing to this uncertainty. Even among host communities, significant amounts of family members were forced to live under the same roof or to move in with other family members because they could not afford their own accommodation. Unfortunately, there are no official numbers at municipality level on people's access to housing.

Housing, Land, and Property Support in Areas of Displacement

IDPs were asked whether they had access to HLP support. In Dana, 45% of IDP HHs reported having access to programs and support to restore or improve their access to land and housing in their current areas, and the same percentage (45%) was scored among IDPs in Lattakia. In Quamishli, this rate dropped to 27%. The total support for all IDPs across the districts is 39%.

From the 75% of the IDPs who indicated that they are not confident they can stay in their current dwelling, 33% reported having and 67% reported not having access to support, meaning that there is potential for more humanitarian support on HLP for IDPs. It is important to note that this support would most likely need to focus on cash for rent as this was reported the primary reason for not feeling confident to stay (Fig. 29).

Documentation for Reclaiming Property in Areas of Origin

46% of IDP HHs in Quamishli reported having access to necessary documentation to reclaim property and possessions in their places of origin. This percentage was higher in Dana and reached 50%, while in Lattakia, around 80% of IDP HHs reported having access to the necessary documentation. The total access for all IDPs across the districts is 58%, which means that 42% of the IDPs may require some form of support to reclaim their property in their areas of origin if they return.

The access to documentation to reclaim property in places of origin is anticipated to represent a critical issue in the future of returnees, according to local key informants. For instance, one official from the self-administration in northeast Syria reported that the latest conflict-driven population movements occurred between August and December 2017. People moved from Deir Ez Zor towards Ar Raqqa and put pressure on the limited housing available in urban areas, such as in Ath Thawra. As a result, large numbers of IDPs live in abandoned or destroyed buildings whose owners have fled due to the intensity of conflict between January and May 2017. In the future, when the local population will return, housing issues and disputes might arise on both social and legal levels, and the presence of adequate documentation to reclaim the ownership of property will prove to be a crucial verification method.

5.2.5 - Access to Documentation

HHs access to necessary documentation, entailing the access to public services in their respective areas, varies significantly between different sub-districts. In Dana, 85% of the assessed population reported having access to adequate personal and family documentation, while in Quamishli, the percentage reached 92%, and in Lattakia, 79% (See section 5.1.1). Across all areas and respondents, 86% had access to documentation.

All the resident HHs surveyed by the study confirmed perceiving a full sense of equality in their access to documentation, and the same was reported by IDP HHs in Quamishli. On the other hand, IDP HHs in Dana and Lattakia perceived a moderately high sense of inequality (mentioned by 35% and 29% of IDP HHs in Dana and Lattakia respectively) (See section 5.1.2).

By and large, IDPs had lower access to documentation compared to host communities. Across the different sub-districts, around 16% of IDP HHs reported not having access to adequate documentation that facilitates their access to public services, while only 9% of host communities said they were missing documentation.

People who indicated to not have access (24%) were asked about their primary reasons for lacking necessary documentation. The data shows that the main reasons were loss of documentation and fear of travelling to issue new documents (fear of arrest, unsafe travel, etc). Combined, the lack of access to and availability of a legal authority that can issue documentation was the third main reason. The magnitude of each different reason is shown in the chart below (Fig. 30).

IDPs seemed to be more affected by the loss of documentation than residents (50% compared to 29%) while residents seemed more affected by the fear of traveling than IDPs (47%). Stolen documents were a bigger issue for IDPs (6%) than residents (3%), while expired documents were a bigger issue for residents (3%) than IDPs (0%).

There were also strong differences across areas; the residents in Lattakia and Quamishli seemed particularly afraid to travel. Compared to other areas, both IDPs and residents in Dana were especially affected by the lack of access to and availability of a legal authority that can issue

documentation. The latter seemed less of an issue in Lattakia and Quamishli. Stolen documents were especially an issue for IDPs in Lattakia (8%) and Quamishli (10%), and for 6% of the residents in Dana.

Main Reported Reasons for Lacking Documentation

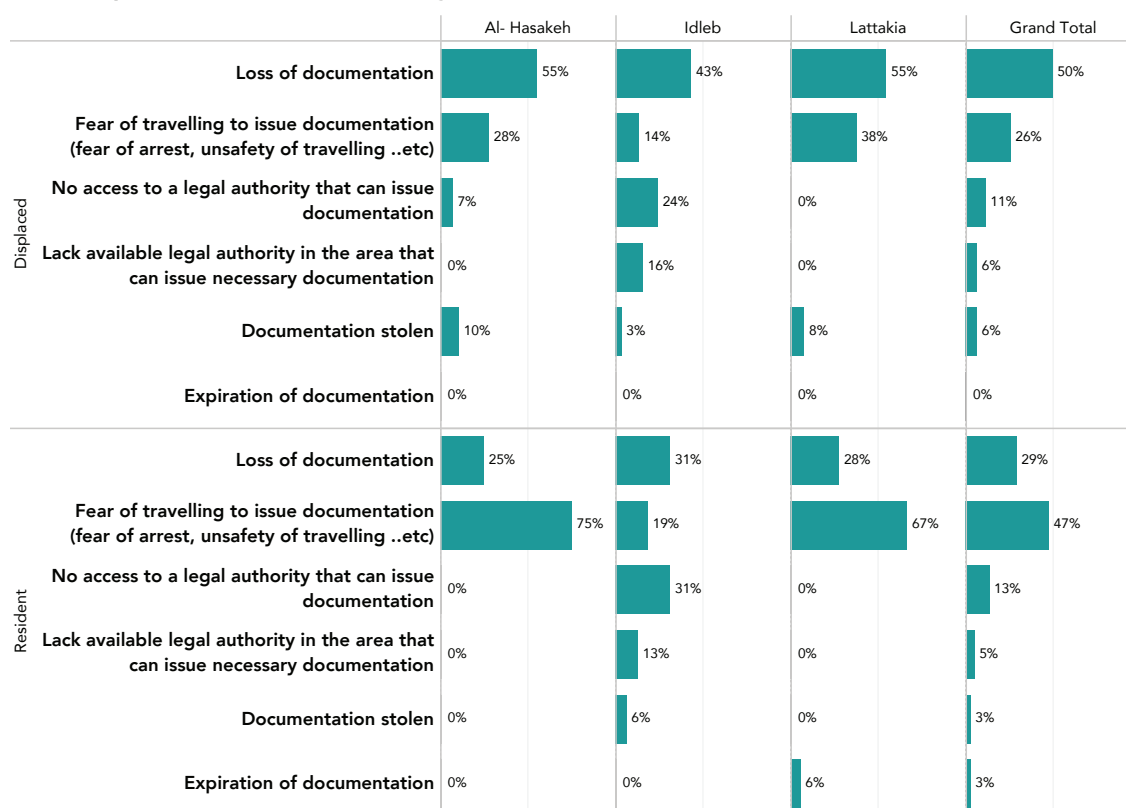


Figure 30

"Access to adequate documentation is a serious issue that impacts the population's ability to maintain their rights, and receive support," as reported by one of the key informants with a legal background. According to this legal expert, the long-term impact of lack of adequate documentation, and hence of access to services that can provide certified and legally-accepted documents to the population, is expected to be severe. The division of Syria into various areas of control caused the application of various modes of governance in the country. Each local authority attempted to create its own system of documentation. As a result, Syria today has no centralized system of documentation and no supervising national jurisdiction. Especially in areas not controlled by the Government of Syria, local authorities created their own systems to document personal matters, and deal with birth and death certificates, contracts of property purchase and sale, marriages and divorces, and vehicles documentation. It is not clear if and how alternative documentation systems would be considered valid once the conflict in Syria ends.

5.2.6 - Family Reunification

A critically high 58% of the assessed population reported being separated from other family members (52% host and 61% IDP HHs).

For those respondents mentioning being separated from other household members, the majority of these members were reportedly outside Syria (61%), while another 14% indicated having other members elsewhere inside Syria. Additionally, 5% of the respondents separated from other family members reported that these members were either missing or in jail, while another 5% said they were engaged in fighting.

Among IDPs that reported being separated from other family members, 49% reported that they would recommend their other family members to reunite with them in their current areas, with no significant differences between the sub-districts. At the same time, 65% of host community HHs that have reported being separated from other family members mentioned they would recommend that these family members relocate and reunite with them.

Resident population across all assessed sub-districts reported high levels of welcoming IDPs to bring their separated family members to their current locations, as reported by 86% of host community HHs.

5.2.7 - Participation in Public Affairs

The satisfaction levels of both IDPs and host communities regarding access to participation in public affairs were relatively low across all assessed sub-districts. Compared to IDPs, however, the resident population in all assessed sub-districts reported higher levels of satisfaction with their involvement in public affairs. In Lattakia, for instance, 50% of host community HHs mentioned being satisfied with their level of participation, while only 7% of IDP HHs reported satisfaction (See section 5.1.1).

Both IDPs and host communities considered the equality of their opportunities to participate in public affairs to be moderate, except for respondents in Dana, where 46% of displaced and 31% of host community HHs seemed positive about their equal opportunities to participate in public affairs. In Lattakia, 19% of the displaced and 16% of the host respondents reported positive perceptions about their equal opportunities, while only 7% of IDPs and 3% of the host community reported the same in Quamishli (See section 5.1.2).

Primary reasons for the lack of satisfaction differed significantly between different sub-districts, and between IDP and host communities. In Quamishli, for instance, the interviewed sample of the host community that was unsatisfied with their participation in public affairs considered corruption to be the primary obstacle (see Fig. 31 below). The same issue was cited by 48% of IDP HHs who were unsatisfied. In Dana, lack of money was the main obstacle perceived by both IDPs and host communities who were unsatisfied, while in Lattakia they mainly indicated discrimination and corruption as main reasons.

Main reasons for lack of participation to public affairs

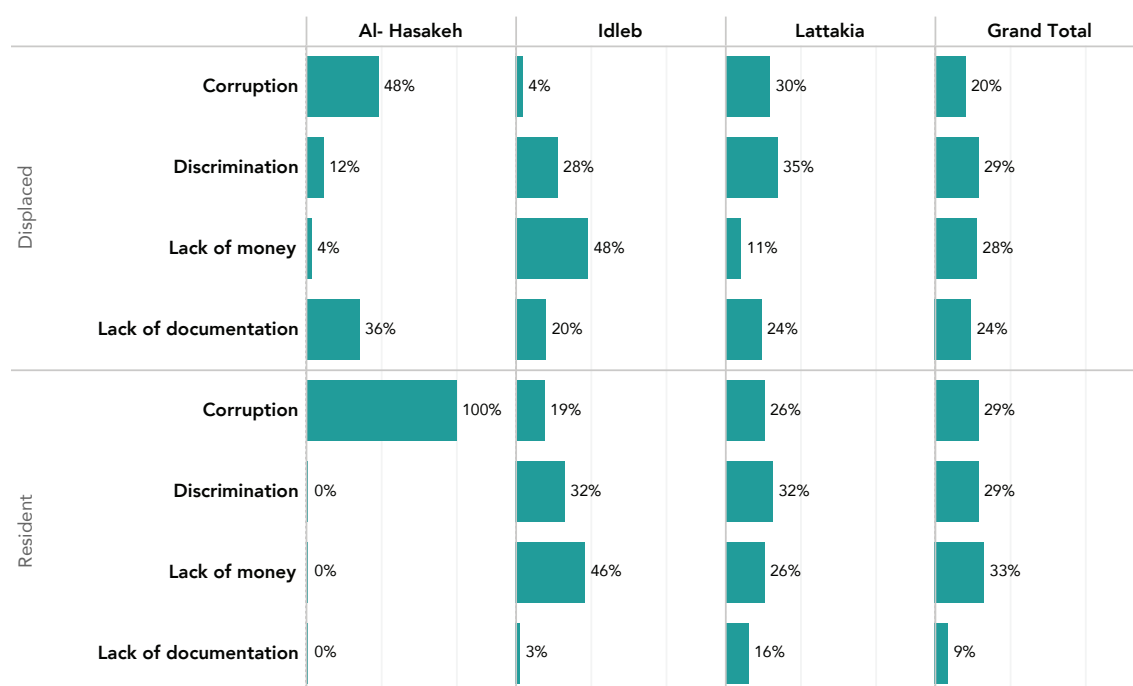


Figure 31

Among all IDPs, only 22% knew about obstacles and restrictions for IDPs to vote or be employed in the public sector across the assessed sub-districts. Also, 87% of the host community seemed to acknowledge the right of IDPs to vote, to be elected, and to work in public services in their areas.

5.2.8 - Access to Effective Remedies and Justice

The satisfaction shown by the assessed HHs regarding their access to remedies and justice was lower among IDPs than host communities. There were also apparent differences in the satisfaction reported across the different sub-districts with the available judicial systems and services. For instance, respondents in Dana and Lattakia recorded lower levels of satisfaction compared to HHs in Quamishli (See section 5.1.1).

Perceptions of equality in the access to legal services and national protection mechanisms varied significantly across the assessed sub-districts, and between IDPs and host community (See section 5.1.2). The most notable fact was that host communities have reported lower levels of equality in access to justice, compared to IDPs. In Quamishli, 38% of assessed host community HHs reported having less equality in access to justice compared to others in the community, while only 29% of IDPs reported this low level of equality. The same pattern was noticed in Dana, with 48% of host community HHs compared to 32% of IDP HH, and in Lattakia, where 45% of host community, and 39% of IDP HHs reported low levels of equality.

Available litigation, justice, and safety mechanisms across the three sub-districts are critically different. In Idlib, Sharia courts represented the central legal referral mechanism for the population in case of legal issues, as reported by 58% of the assessed HHs in Idlib, followed by local police and community leaders, reported by 50% of the assessed HHs for each. In Lattakia, the vast majority of the population reported that police were the primary legal referral mechanism (92% of assessed HHs), followed by courts (67%), and community leaders on a small scale (32%). Lattakia had functional police and judicial systems, where the Ministry of Interior and Justice still covered functional roles, limiting the involvement of other unofficial social structures on the rule-of-law level. In Quamishli, local courts represented the main legal structure to solve problems, as reported by 83% of assessed HHs in Quamishli, followed by community leaders (61%), who had a significant role in community-based conflict resolution, according to local key informants. The considerable role of community leaders was highly related to the ethnic-based structure of the society in Quamishli, which contains multiple ethnicities and different tribal groups. Historically, such types of structures attributed a vital role to community leaders: promoting social cohesion and resolving local disputes. Following the others in terms of importance, the local police (Asayesh) was cited as the main legal mechanism in Quamishli.

As shown by Fig. 32 below, the low satisfaction with the available legal structures and services was caused mainly by the lack of justice mechanisms in both Dana and Quamishli. Both sub-districts did not have any official governmental institutions in function for justice but relied on local legal systems and security forces that did not fall under the jurisdiction of the official ministries of the Syrian government. In Lattakia specifically, discrimination was perceived as the most significant problem hampering the access to litigation, justice, and safety mechanisms.

Main reasons for lack of access to litigation, justice or safety mechanisms

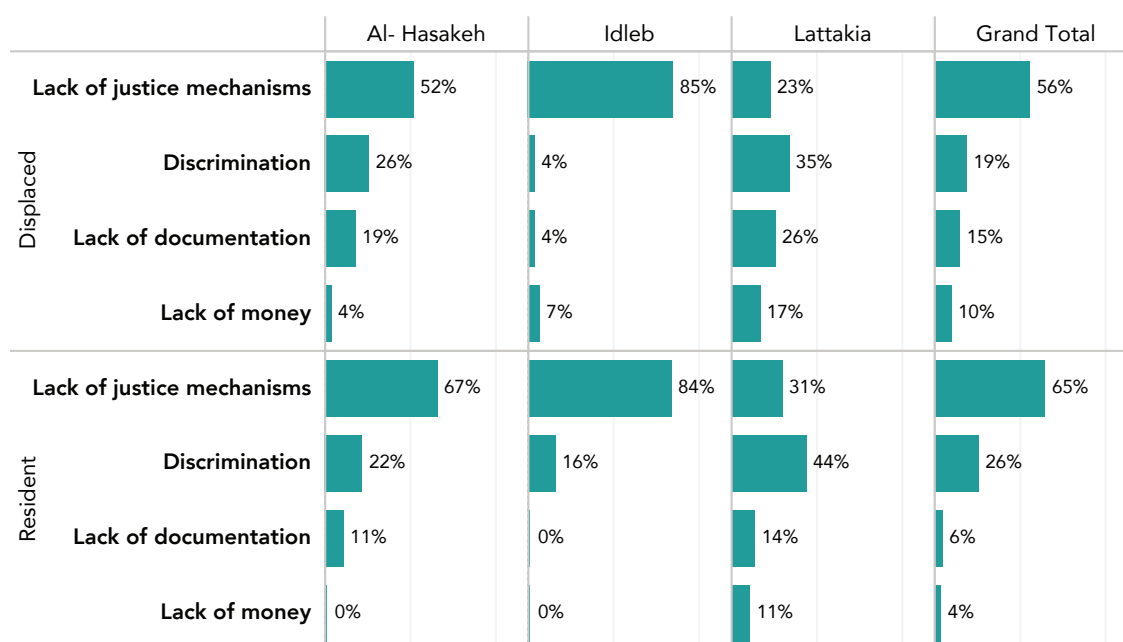


Figure 32

5.2.9 - Access to Humanitarian Assistance

Across the entire sample, 78% of assessed HHs reported having access to different types of humanitarian assistance. This percentage proves a good level of coverage of humanitarian assistance for both IDPs and host communities. However, IDP HHs reported higher levels of access to humanitarian assistance, as reported by 83% of them across the three sub-districts, while at the same time, 68% of host communities' HHs reported having access to humanitarian assistance (See section 5.1.1). The levels of satisfaction with access to humanitarian assistance provided for both IDPs and host communities across the assessed sub-district were relatively similar, but not positive. The assessed population in Dana, Idleb reported the lowest levels of satisfaction with the provided humanitarian assistance compared to Latakia and Quamishli, Al Hasakeh (See section 5.1.1).

The sense of equality towards assistance provided did not score any significant differences between IDPs and host communities. In Dana, both IDPs and host communities reported positive levels of equality of opportunities to access humanitarian assistance. The levels of equality were lower in Latakia and Quamishli, compared to Dana, but these were generally moderate (See section 5.1.2).

For HHs that have reported receiving humanitarian assistance during the past three months prior to the data collection, the main types of assistance provided included food primarily, followed by cash, vouchers, and nutrition support (Fig. 33). In Dana, food assistance represents 94% of the reported assistance provided to host communities, while it represents 70% of the reported assistance by IDP HHs. The reason behind this could be that there are types of assistance provided to IDPs exclusively, such as vouchers and shelter in Dana, and vouchers and nutrition in Latakia. In Quamishli, both IDPs and host communities have reported receiving similar types of assistance on relatively similar levels.

Reported Types of Humanitarian Assistance

	Dana		Lattakia		Quamishli		Grand Total
	Host Community	IDPs	Host Community	IDPs	Host Community	IDPs	
Food	94%	70%	17%	18%	49%	50%	43%
Cash	0%	0%	77%	55%	2%	6%	22%
Vouchers	0%	7%	0%	8%	25%	13%	11%
Nutrition	0%	3%	0%	9%	14%	10%	8%
Health	6%	0%	6%	4%	7%	13%	8%
Shelter	0%	13%	0%	3%	0%	1%	3%
Hygiene	0%	3%	0%	2%	2%	4%	3%
Water	0%	5%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%
Livelihoods	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	2%	1%
Sanitation	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

% of Total Value
 Low  High

Figure 33

INGOs (referred to as “assistance providers” by 36% of HHs that reported receiving humanitarian assistance), private donations (35%), local charities (32%) and local NGOs (20%) represent the top four sources of assistance provided to IDPs and host communities, with no obvious differences between the two population groups, and no significant variances between geographic areas. Other assistance providers included mainly Local Councils and SARC.

The findings show that the level of coverage of humanitarian assistance is generally positive with a relatively better availability of assistance to IDPs compared to host communities. Not having access to sufficient humanitarian assistance is considered, by both IDPs and host communities, to be the main source of tensions (See section 5.2.1).

This leads to the conclusion that even though the coverage of humanitarian assistance is good, the reduction of this assistance on the long-term can result in increased tensions between IDPs and host communities, which would eventually have a negative impact on local integration. It can be expected that communities with balanced humanitarian assistance between IDPs and host communities can have a better potential and a more conducive environment for local integration according to the opinion of a few KIs interviewed. There is no conducive environment to locally integrate in any given community without taking into consideration the fair and equal access to humanitarian assistance for both IDPs and host communities. This requires the effort of service providers and humanitarian agencies to facilitate equal access across all populations groups that are in need.

5.3 Assessing the Feasibility of Local Integration

To assess the feasibility of local integration in each sub-district, a methodological approach was applied to create a feasibility matrix for each sub-district. In the feasibility matrix, the degree of obstacles or constraints to local integration is calculated based on the degree to which interviewed households considered themselves satisfied with their current conditions across the seven key dimensions of local integration:

- Long-term safety and security
- Adequate standards of living
- Access to employment and livelihoods
- Housing, Land, and Property
- Participation in public affairs
- Access to effective remedies and justice
- Humanitarian access

Each dimension is attached a score from 1 (High satisfaction/Low degree of obstacles) to 5 (Low satisfaction/High degree of obstacles), with the notable exception of the Living standard metric, which is based on an index representing the degree of concern of the interviewed population regarding access to basic services or goods in the next three months. These basic goods and services include:

- Communication (Phone, credit, etc.)
- Education (uniforms, shoes, stationery, books, transport, fees, teachers, etc.)
- Energy for heating, cooking, lighting and charging electronic appliances
- Food
- Healthcare (Health staff, centers, drugs, etc.)
- Household commodities (Utensils, mats, blankets, mosquito nets, cooking sets, etc.)
- Hygiene (toilets, showers, baths, clothing, soap, toothbrushes, pads, diapers, etc.)
- Potable water (including Containers or cisterns, treatment, etc.)
- Shelter/housing (rent, purchase, furniture, etc.)
- Transport

Following the methodology used for the Basic Needs Approach from the Cash Working Group in Nigeria in 2017⁸, the final score was calculated based on the median value obtained from all reviewed items.⁹ At this stage, the methodology employed provides 7 summary metrics (which could be expanded in future studies).

To calculate the final degree of obstacle/constraints, the median value is again used across all seven dimensions. The final values, from one to five, are then recoded to be placed on the feasibility matrix.

- Score 1-2.5 are recoded as low degrees of obstacles
- Score 2.5-5 are recoded as high degrees of obstacles.¹⁰

A similar process is followed to estimate the value related to inequality in the feasibility matrix.

The same approach allows for a comparison of obstacles across Locations (Al-Hassakeh, Idlib and Lattakia) and Population types (Residents and IDPs). The main differences have been discussed in the previous Section.

8 See pilot report at <https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/basic-needs-response-analysis-framework-report-pilot-assessment-and-around-informal>.

9 In the future, a system of weighting by criticality of items could be introduced, similarly to what the lessons learnt from the pilot in Nigeria recommend. The metric could be established using community group discussions where each item is rated based on its perceived importance to the basic life of households.

10 This logic excludes both documentation and family reunification, due to the difference in the approach applied to measure both of these dimensions, compared to the dimensions included in the feasibility matrix. For family reunification, the focus was made to understand the extent to which there are cases of family separation, while in documentation, the focus was made around assessing the availability of necessary documentation that allows the population to access main services, without looking at these dimensions for the feasibility of integration. Future studies could take a different approach.

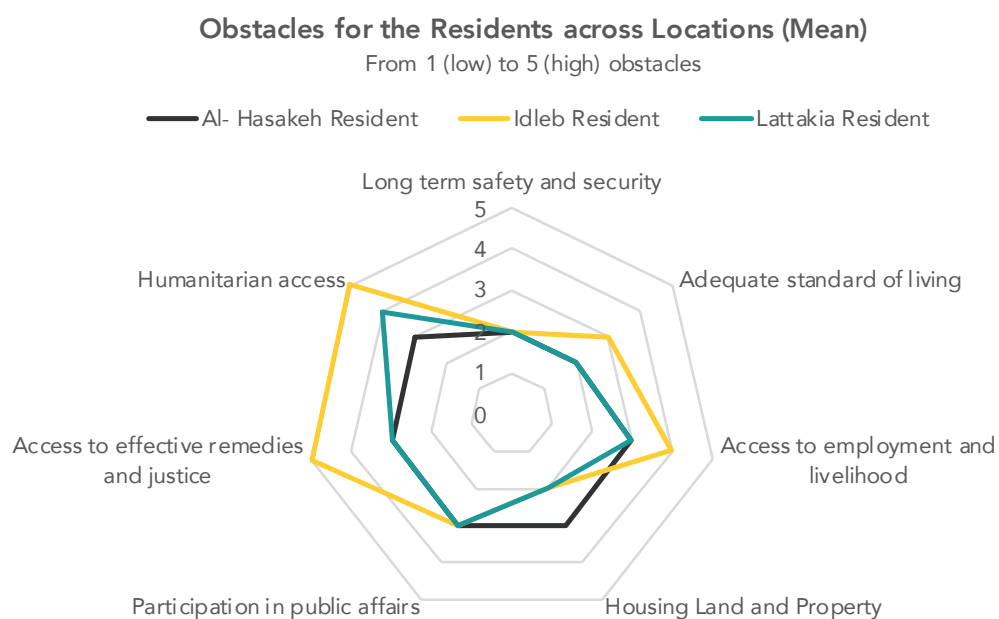


Figure 34

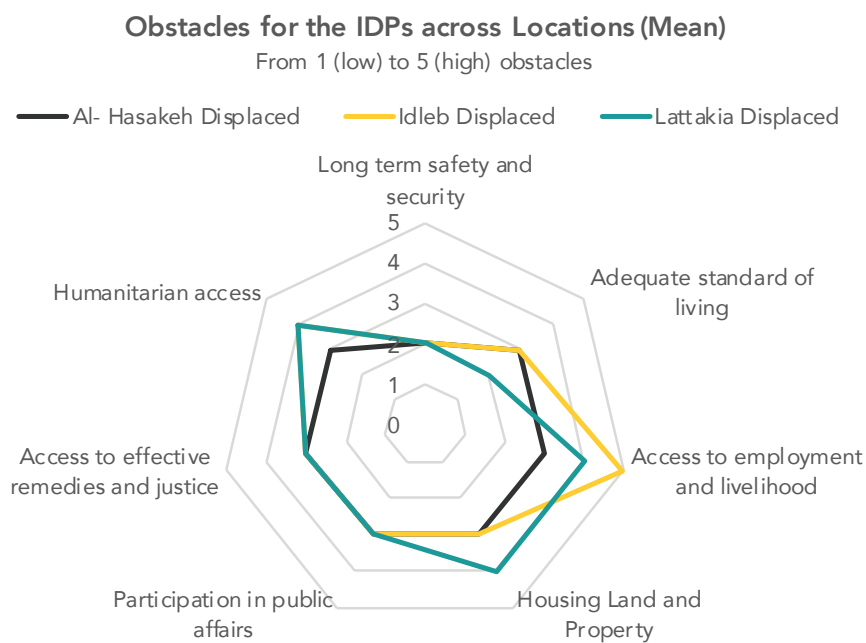


Figure 35

Obstacles for IDPs vs Residents in Idleb (Mean)

From 1 (low) to 5 (high) obstacles

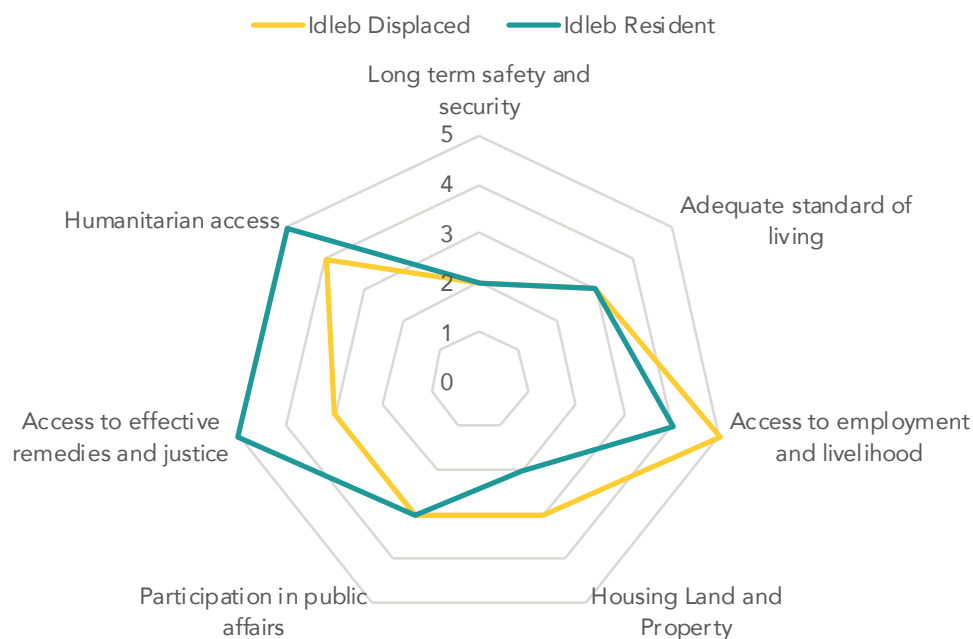


Figure 36

Obstacles for IDPs vs Residents in Lattakia (Mean)

From 1 (low) to 5 (high) obstacles

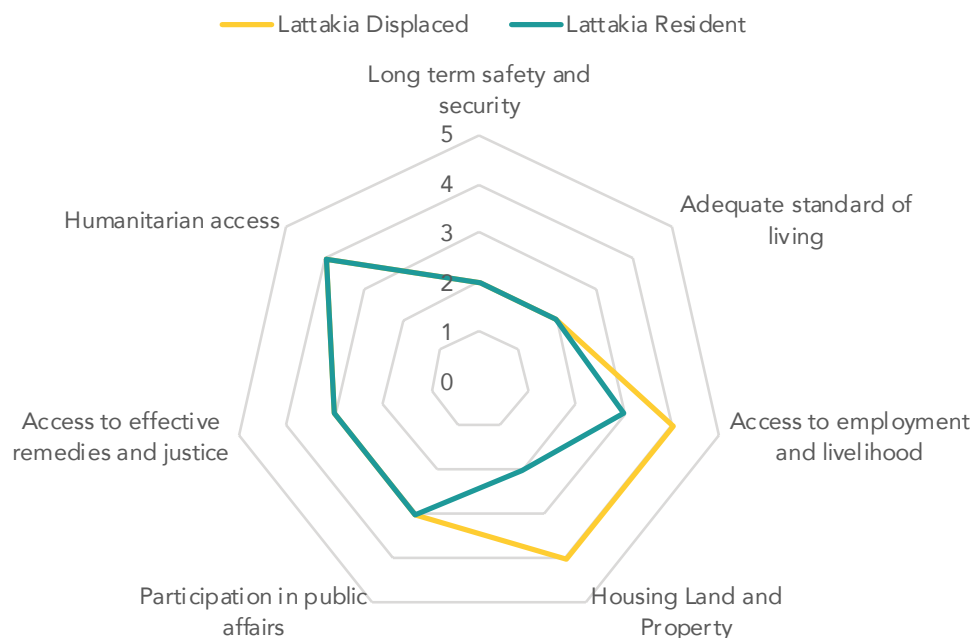


Figure 37

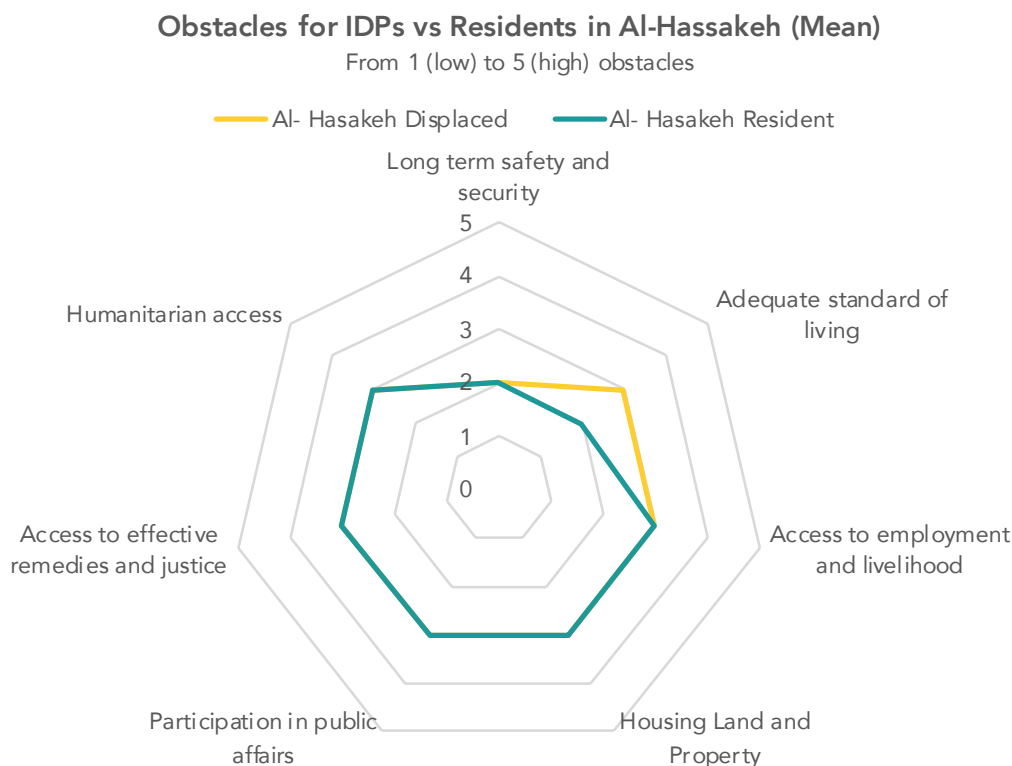
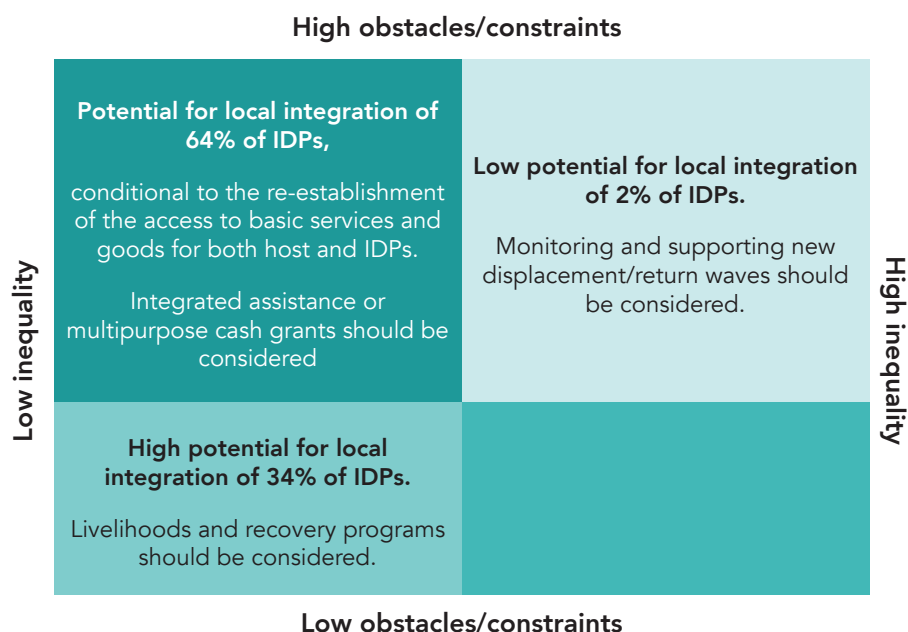


Figure 38

5.3.1 - Idleb Governorate - Dana Sub-District

All in all, 28% of residents interviewed in Idleb faced low obstacles and constraints in accessing essential services or goods. In comparison, only 14% of displaced people enjoyed similar conditions. 43% of IDP households reported binding restrictions, against 38% in the host community. This proportion is the highest across the three visited areas.

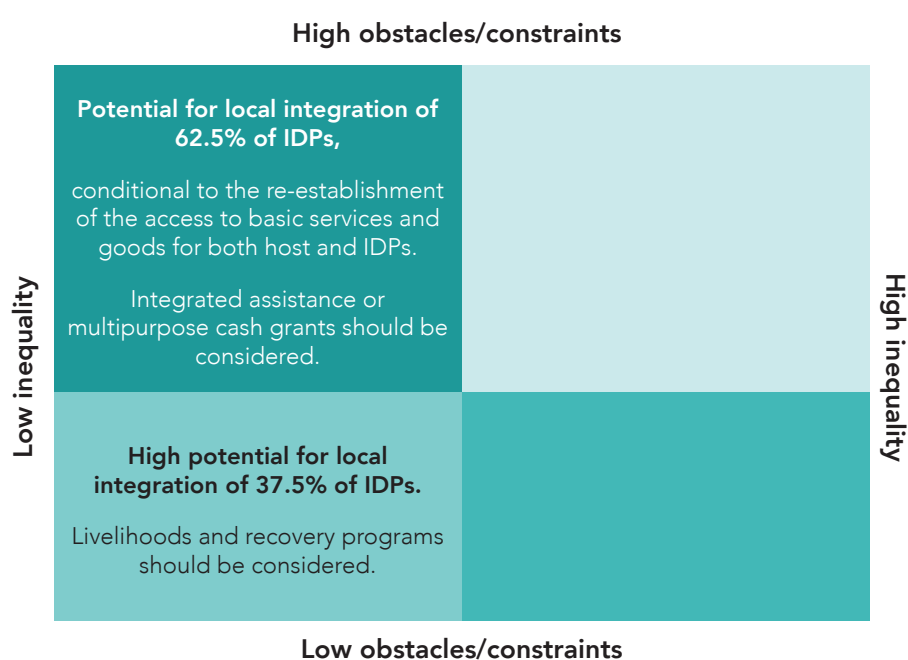
Local integration feasibility: 34% of the visited IDP households in Dana sub-district met the conditions required to ensure appropriate local integration. This 34% includes IDPs experiencing a low-to-medium level of obstacles, and low-to-medium inequality, across all seven key dimensions of local integration. The rest of the IDP community in Dana did not meet the conditions and faced either a high level of obstacles and high inequality (2% of cases) or high obstacles and low-to-medium inequality (64% of cases). Considering the conditions faced by both IDPs and host communities, integrated assistance to both affected groups are recommended to avoid tensions and social exclusion.



5.3.2 - Lattakia Governorate - Lattakia Sub-District

All in all, 55% of the residents interviewed in Lattakia faced low obstacles/constraints in accessing basic services or goods. In comparison, only 10% of displaced people enjoyed similar conditions, which is the biggest gap in living standards registered across the three visited areas. 35% of IDP households experienced high constraints and obstacles against 24% in the host community.

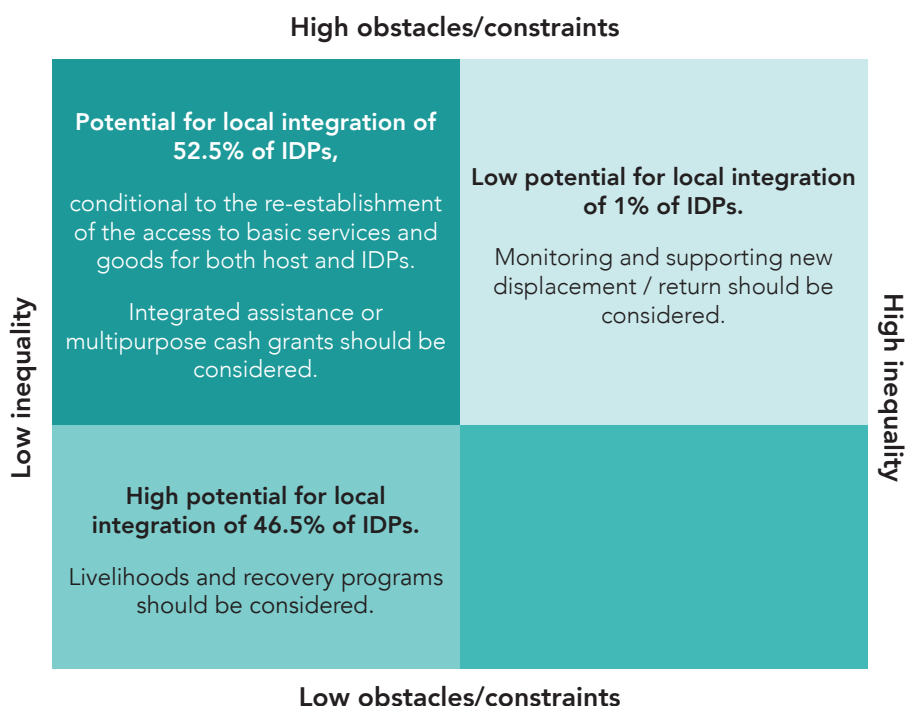
Local integration feasibility: 37.5% of IDPs in Lattakia met appropriate conditions for local integration, namely those reporting low-to-medium obstacles and low-to-medium inequality. Another 62.5% of IDPs faced high obstacles and low-to-medium inequalities, which would require the implementation of targeted programs to re-establish access to basic services and goods for IDPs. Considering the critical gap between IDPs and host communities on the level of equal access to basic services, programs targeting only IDPs should be considered.



5.3.3 - Al-Hassakeh Governorate- Quamishli Sub-District

All in all, 39% of the residents interviewed in Lattakia faced low obstacles in accessing basic services or goods, while only 12% of IDP households enjoyed similar conditions in the same area. 16% of IDPs witnessed high obstacles against 8% for the host community, which is the lowest proportion of constraints reported across the three visited areas.

Local integration feasibility: 46.5% of IDPs in Quamishli met appropriate conditions for local integration (i.e., low-to-medium obstacles and low-to-medium inequality). 52.5% of IDPs reported high obstacles and low-to-medium inequalities, calling for the implementation of targeted programs to re-establish the access to basic services and goods for IDPs.



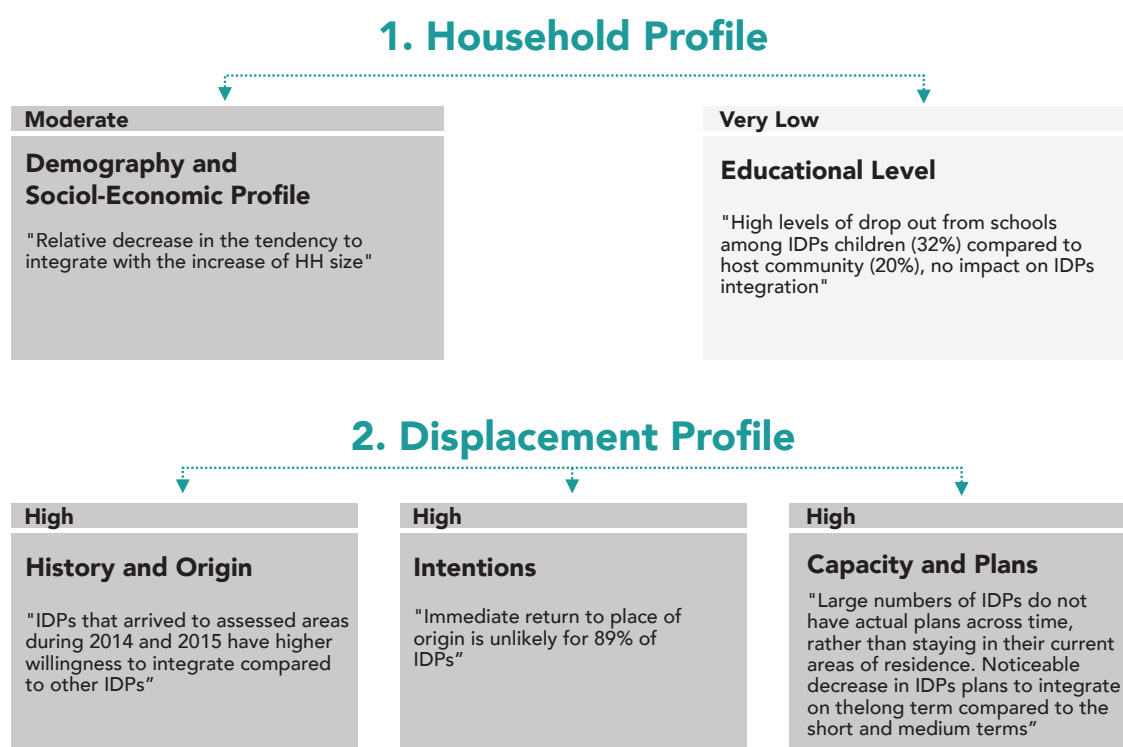
6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Drawing upon the analysis and the evidence brought by the study, this concluding chapter presents the factors impacting local integration and reviews a set of recommendations.

6.1 Conclusions on Factors that Impact Local Integration

Based on the analysis, it proved impossible to specify or group a category of households that has a higher potential of integration, based on household profile, intentions, plans, or the conditions for them to consider integration. Also, no critical differences or clear patterns between rural and urban areas were observed in the tendency to integrate locally, or between female-headed and male-headed HHs. However, based on the collected data, the duration of displacement appeared to be a crucial factor affecting the IDPs' plans of integration into their current communities. While IDPs seemed to be experiencing a growing availability of livelihoods and integration opportunities over time, their willingness to integrate would reach its apex after 3-4 years of displacement and start to drop after that.

The chart below (Fig. 39) attempts to summarize the main trends and key figures that have an influence (low-to-high) over the process of local integration of IDPs in the surveyed areas.



3. Feasibility of Local Integration (Capacity and Plans)

Very High Long-term Safety and Security "Long term safety and security is the main priority condition for IDPs to integrate, as reported by 87% of IDPs HHs"	High Living Standards "Adequate living standards are the second main priority condition for IDPs to integrate, as reported by 41% of IDPs HHs"	Very High Employment and Livelihoods "Access to sufficient employment and livelihoods is the third main condition to facilitate IDPs integration on, and is also the second main pull factor for IDPs towards their current areas of residence"
High Housing, land and property "71% of IDPs HHs are living in rented accommodation. High dependency on rented accommodation among IDPs is the main driver for lack of confidence of IDPs to stay in their current areas, and further integrate"	Moderate Documentation "The long-term impact of lack of adequate documentation, and hence of access to services that can provide certified and legally-accepted documents to the population, is expected to be severe"	Low Family Reunification "58% of assessed HHs are separated from immediate family members. No notable impact of family separation on willingness to integrate"
Very Low Participation in Public Affairs "Levels of satisfaction of participation in public affairs are lower among IDPs compare to host community, with no impact of this on willingness to integrate"	Low Effective Remedies and Access to Justice "Low levels of satisfaction with available justice structures reported by 70% of the assessed HHs. No noticeable impact on willingness to integrate"	High Access to Humanitarian Assistance "IDPs are better covered with humanitarian assistance (83% of IDPs HHs) compared to host communities (65% of host population). Inequality in assistance provision is the main forecasted driver of long term tensions between IDPs and host communities"

Figure 39

The option of a return of IDPs to their area of origin would be very unlikely - even if awaited by the majority of them. Rather, local integration or further displacement both appear as potential scenarios, and either option would be largely driven by conflict intensity, standards of living, and economic dynamics (linked to livelihoods). Any efforts oriented to facilitate the local integration of displaced communities in Syria should focus on living standard and economic dynamics affecting livelihood and employment opportunities. Conflict intensity and economic dynamics can be monitored while drawing predictions of population movement, given the following correlations:

- IDPs' interest to return (or to integrate), and the security conditions in the area of origin (or current);
- IDPs' interest to return (or to integrate), and the standard of living in the area of origin (or current).
- IDPs' interest to return (or to integrate), and the economic conditions in the area of origin (or current).

The role of the economy appeared crucial in both the area of origin and the current areas of residence of displaced communities. While the "deterioration of the economy" represented the second most significant push factor for IDPs, the access to adequate economic resources was cited as the second leading condition for IDPs to stay in their current locations. Hence, it appears evident that the availability of livelihood opportunities highly dominates the potential of integration in any of the sub-districts surveyed.

It is worth observing that, even though host communities seemed slightly more satisfied with their livelihoods and employment compared to IDPs, such a difference was very limited. This suggests that the competition over the economy and the livelihood opportunities would be a plausible scenario in all the surveyed areas. However, it seemed that such competition - already existing in certain areas - could serve the scope of the market and had not directly resulted in tensions within the community. In Dana, for instance, IDPs were capable of re-establishing the businesses they used to run in their areas of origin. This opportunity contributed to generating new types of economic activities that the population of the sub-district were not practicing before, especially small workshops and handicrafts, and even some harvesting of specific types of crops.

Given the current availability of services, humanitarian assistance, and economic opportunities, the risk to community tensions among IDPs and host communities would be low to moderate. Nonetheless, the situation might degenerate at any moment, causing the community balance to deteriorate.

Looking closely at the context, the presence of small pockets within different areas in the country that are deemed 'safe' may trigger further influxes of displacement. Movements towards these pockets would be driven by perceived security, economic stability, and availability of services. Should the Syrian conflict continue for another few years, very high concentrations of populations will gather within small pockets of the country, especially in major urban areas. Especially while exposed to heavy demographic pressure, urban setups could turn into fertile fields for the development of social tensions, higher competition over economic resources and livelihood opportunities, additional pressure on basic services, and worsening access to goods and commodities.

Linked to economy and livelihoods opportunities, the local integration of IDPs would be heavily dependent on safety and security conditions. In fact, safety and security were indicated as the main push factor for IDPs, and as the main pull factor towards all destination areas. Supporting local integration of displaced communities in Syria should mainstream the necessity of maintaining positive security conditions in their current area of residence. In this sense, attempts to improve security conditions can include the support of judicial and police authorities in exerting their roles, a just and balanced distribution of humanitarian assistance to avoid tensions between IDPs and host communities, and the support of peace-building and social cohesion initiatives where disputes are reported, processed, and resolved at a local level, and as early as possible before escalation.

The study showed that the availability of housing/shelter is an important consideration that can affect the willingness of IDPs to integrate. A very low to inexistent availability in shelter to accommodate further influxes of IDPs or returnees reaching the surveyed areas was observed locally. In addition, the very high cost of construction, the lack of economic capacity of major construction companies in Syria, and the uncertainty of the market would render these areas unable to accommodate the demand, except with external humanitarian or development support.

Large numbers of IDPs and even host communities reported being uncertain about their future because they did not own their shelter of residence, and they were living either as 'guests' or in rented accommodations. Especially in urban areas, many IDPs had to pledge significant financial resources to ensure access to their rented accommodation. Even though the population currently reported relatively reasonable access to rented accommodation, renting cannot be considered a sustainable solution for the local community. IDPs mentioned high levels of uncertainty regarding the availability of accommodation on the long-term. The lack of financial resources to purchase houses, in addition to the inflated prices of housing in urban areas both across the country in general, and in the regions that host large numbers of IDPs in specific, were all factors contributing to this uncertainty. Even among host communities, significant numbers of family members were forced to live under the same roof or to move in with other family members because they could not afford their own accommodation. Unfortunately, there are no official numbers at the municipality level on people's access to housing.

Another dynamic affecting the housing opportunities of IDPs relates to the access to documentation to reclaim property in the place of origin. Reclamation of property by returnees is anticipated to represent a critical issue in the future. As large numbers of IDPs live in abandoned or destroyed buildings whose owners had fled due to the intensity of conflict, housing issues and disputes might arise on both social and legal levels when/if the local population returns to their area of origin - still hosting IDPs. In such a context, the access to adequate documentation to reclaim and assert the ownership of property might prove to be a crucial verification method and tool to mitigate community tensions.

The documentation process will be challenging given the current division of Syria into various areas of control caused by the application of various modes of governance in the country. Especially in areas not controlled by the Government of Syria, local authorities have created their own systems

to document personal matters, and deal with birth and death certificates, contracts of property purchases and sales, marriages, divorces, and vehicle registrations. It is still unclear if and how alternative documentation systems would be considered valid once the conflict in Syria ends.

6.2 Recommendations for Programming

This section provides programmatic and general recommendations - in a random order - based on the data analysed and gaps identified. It is encouraged that a wide range of organizations with active programs in Syria reflects on the data and findings when considering program design.

The vast majority of IDPs (89% across the entire sample of IDP HHs) reported not having the ability to immediately return to their place of origin. Only 8% reported knowing that their property was still intact and could potentially be reoccupied.

This finding shows that most IDPs are not in a position to make a voluntary choice for local integration. Therefore, external support with a sole purpose of promoting local integration should be approached with caution, if not avoided. The data has shown that most IDPs anticipate to have to stay in the current location of displacement - which is not the same as choosing the locally integrate. They have no other plans and may not know what to do. As the other findings show, this plan could change if contextual factors are more conducive for progressing towards a durable solution.

IDP willingness to integrate is a short to mid-term plan which decreases over time. Other plans, such as return to place of origin, leaving Syria, or merely staying in the location of displacement are preferred on the long term. Quamishli was an exception to this observation, as most IDPs in Quamishli preferred local integration across all timeframes.

Although it is difficult to assess when would be the best possible time to launch large-scale programming that increasing the opportunities and supports local integration, it is important to note that IDPs in this study are considering integration as a priority on the short term. Conceptually, local integration would imply a long-term focus, so it is evident that IDPs in the assessed areas do not have the experience and practical knowledge of integration as a long-term solution. When the overall security and humanitarian situation improves, people could be informed about pursuing local integration or return, and the practical implications related to this decision.

Confusion on the level of understanding population plans on the long term, due to the changing nature and dynamics of both conflict and economic situation.

It is evident that the best possible way to understand population willingness to integrate is to dynamically assess their plans on the short, medium, and long terms, by looking only at the key significant aspects covered in this research and considering this research a baseline. Monitoring key dimensions of durable solutions and equal access to services can provide insight into the potential for IDP integration in Syria, or even return.

High pressure on available shelter in the relatively safe areas considered main destinations for IDPs.

It is not recommended to consider supporting local integration, according to the findings of this research, without coming up with a sustainable solution for housing problems, as this issue dictates to a large extent the IDPs' willingness to integrate into their current communities. A long-term solution or recommendation includes either providing adequate financial means for IDPs to improve their access to shelter, or actually constructing new shelter units in communities hosting large numbers of IDPs that have reported positive levels of willingness to integrate.

Evident differences between geographic areas on the levels of access to justice, adequate standards of living, participation in public affairs and access to humanitarian assistance.

It is important to look at all these aspects as area-specific. The findings of the research show that it is not possible to generalize and identify cross-cutting common issues when it comes to the aspects of access to justice, adequate standards of living, participation in public affairs, and access to humanitarian assistance. As a result, any programming that tackles these aspects needs to be built on the local significance of these aspects, and no generic strategy or plan on these aspects can be developed – apart from a countrywide political settlement in which these aspects are covered.

Long-term safety and security is the most dominant factor on both IDPs and host population plans.

Currently, the assessed sub-districts generally have positive levels of safety and security. Maintaining these positive levels is a strict condition required to consider integration. On the programmatic level, support would need to be provided to the local authorities responsible for safety and community security. However, this can be quite political, due to the presence of different authorities responsible for safety and security across the various areas of the country.

Lack of humanitarian assistance is the main trigger of tensions between IDPs and host communities.

Even though the majority of interventions in the targeted sub-districts are tackling the needs of both IDPs and host communities equally, it is important to ensure that both population groups have an enhanced sense of equality in the level of access to humanitarian assistance. Assistance providers need to keep close contact with beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, and take any risks of tensions seriously.

Low levels of access to essential services can hamper population willingness to integrate.

All the assessed areas have high concentration of IDPs and the current service providers are struggling to cope with the large numbers of people relying on these services. Any programming needs to take into consideration the improvement of the local structures for essential services, to allow them to cope with the demands of population.

Scarcity of available livelihood opportunities and high levels of competition.

Large-scale efforts need to be pledged to increase the population's access to income-generating opportunities and livelihoods, in the areas where local integration has high potential and space. The programming on livelihoods needs to be tailored based on the community type, whether urban or rural. According to economists interviewed in this research, a livelihoods intervention needs to focus on expanding and strengthening the already available livelihood opportunities, rather than creating new types of livelihoods. The logic behind that is related to the fact that many businesses in the country currently are vulnerable, and creating new livelihoods that provide better conditions and income can result in eliminating old livelihoods from the economic cycle and strengthening undesired competition.

Increased levels of children dropping out of schools, among IDP HHs in specific, due to the economic pressure that forces some IDPs to involve their children in child-labour.

A tailored livelihoods intervention needs to target HHs that depend on their children to generate income activities – child labour. Interventions are required to ensure that children at schooling age can be re-enrolled into the education system. At the same time, vulnerable families without members of working age (e.g. single female-headed households with school-aged children) should be provided with additional livelihood support.

The absence of a centralized system for documentation and of a supervising jurisdiction in Syria.

Although on the short term and local level, populations residing in areas outside of government control have access to various types of documentation issued by local authorities and governance structures, there is a significant future risk that such types of documentation will not be accepted by a centralized authority of the country. A serious effort needs to be put in place to facilitate populations' access to documentation across the country through the official authorities and ministries, even in areas outside of government control. This seems to be quite political at this stage, and it is possibly important to promote this issue as part of any political settlement for the conflict in the country, and to approach it as a separate issue that impacts the lives of everyone, regardless of where they reside.

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ANNEX A: HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

A. Registration and General Information

1- Date of the interview				2- Enumerator ID			
3- Location of interview	Governorate	District	Sub-District	Community			
4- Type of location	Rural		Urban				

B. Household Demography and profile

1. Age of Respondent			2. Sex of Respondent	Male			Female				
3. What is the marital status of the respondent?											
Married and living with husband or wife						Married and not living with husband or wife					
Single (not married)						Divorced					
4. What best describe your HH?			Displaced			Returnee			resident		
5. What is the main language used in your HH?			Arabic			Kurdish			Armenian		
			Circassia			Specify Other:					
6. What is the main religious group you belong to?						(Name religion and sub group)					
7. How many people are currently living and sleeping under "one roof" and sharing the same resources?											
8. How many people in your HH are in each of the following sex and age interval?											
male 0-4 years old	female 0-4 years old	male 5-11 years old	female 5-11 years	male 12-17 years old	female 12-17 years	male 18-59 years	female 18-59 years	of male >60+	of female >60+		
9. Currently, do you have additional people in your household dependent from you?										Yes	No
10. What is the highest education level in your current HH?										9.1-If yes, How many?	
No schooling		Primary school		Secondary school		University		I don't know			
11. How many of your HH school aged children are currently attending school on a regular basis (more than 3 days a week)?											

C. Displacement

1. When were you displaced to your current location? Provide year and month. (Only ask to IDPs and returnees)											
2. When was the first time you were displaced from your home? Provide year and month. (Only ask to IDPs and returnees).											
3. How many times have you been displaced since 2011?										(Number of locations you stayed for more than 1 month)	
4. Where was your last place of residence?			Governorate			community					
5. What is your place of origin?			Governorate			community					
6. What Reasons for leaving last place of residence? Select top three											
Conflict / security situation		Deterioration of economic situation		Lack of basic services/ mean of survival				Family separation			
Health issues		Family reunification		Lack of education for Children				Destroyed house			
eviction		Discrimination by the community		Specify Other:							
7. What Reasons for coming to the location of the interview? Select top three											
Proximity to the area of origin		The only/most accessible destination at the time of displacement				Better access to livelihood opportunities					
Availability of basic services		Access to humanitarian assistance				Presence of relatives / social and cultural bonds					
Better security situation		Availability of shelter				Specify Other:					
8. What type of shelter are you living in?											
Rented accommodation		Host family (no rental fee)		finished/abandoned building							
Formal collective center		Informal collective center		Organized camp							
Self-settled camp		Own house (damaged)		Own house (non-damaged)							
9. Do you own property or have right to tenancy at place of origin?										Yes	No
10. If yes, what is the status of your property?										Property destroyed	property intact
										property partially damaged	no info on property status
11. Do you think it is currently possible for you to return to your home in Syria?											
Extremely unlikely		unlikely		Neutral		Likely		Extremely likely			
12. If (Extremely unlikely or unlikely or Neutral), do you think it will be possible for you in the future to return to the area in Syria where your home is/was?											
Extremely unlikely		unlikely		Neutral		Likely		Extremely likely			

13. What are your HH plans in the next 3 months?									
Return to place of origin		Integration in the current location		Move to another location in Syria		Leaving Syria		Just staying here	
14. What are your HH plans in the next 3-9 months?									
Return to place of origin		Integration in the current location		Move to another location in Syria		Leaving Syria		Just staying here	
15. What are your HH plans in the next year?									
Return to place of origin		Integration in the current location		Move to another location in Syria		Leaving Syria		Just staying here	
16. If you answered "return to place of origin", does your HH currently have the ability to do so?								Yes	No
17. If you said no, which conditions should be in place to facilitate or trigger your return? (select max 3)									
Better economic conditions at place of origin		Better security at place of origin		Better services at place of origin		possibility to reoccupy/repossess assets and houses at place of origin			
18. What would be the conditions that would push you from your current place of residence? Select all matches									
Deterioration of economic situation		Social tensions		Cultural reasons		Deterioration of security conditions in your current location			
Lack of services in your current location			Availability of good work in other areas in or outside Syria					Specify other	
19. If conditions were in place, would you consider staying in the current location, for the next 3-6 months?									
Not considered at all		might or might not consider					Definitively consider		
20. If conditions were in place, would you consider staying in the current location, for the next 6-12 months?									
Not considered at all		might or might not consider					Definitively consider		
21. If conditions were in place, would you consider staying in the current location, for more than a year?									
Not considered at all		might or might not consider					Definitively consider		
22. Which conditions would you consider a priority to facilitate your integration in the current location? (Rank top three)									
Long term safety and security			Adequate standard of living			Participation to local life and affairs			
Access to housing, land and property			Documentation, family reunification			Access to employment and sufficient livelihoods			
23. If you mentioned better economic conditions as a condition for staying in this area, what would be the minimum monthly income required to meet your essential needs for you and your HH?? (In local Currency)									

D. Long term safety and security

1. Are you generally satisfied with the level of safety and security for you and your HH in the area you currently live in?									
Not at all satisfied		slightly satisfied		moderately satisfied		Very satisfied		Extremely satisfied	
2. If the answer of the previous question was (moderately satisfied , slightly satisfied , Not at all satisfied) ? what type of <u>safety or security problem</u> exist in this area? (List main security risks, tick all that applies)									
Theft		Sexual assaults		Abduction, kidnapping		Animal attack			
Community conflicts		Intimidation, abuse		Discrimination		Gang activity			
Health risks (epidemics, household poisons etc.)		Home invasion (armed or forced entry)		Armed violence (gunfire, shelling etc.)		Conflict over ration/ assistance			
Safety hazards (open well, rusty nails etc.)		Physical assault		Environmental risk (toxic spill, landslides etc.)		Other (specify)			
3. Do you feel your HH is exposed to same violence or exploitation in comparison to other people in this area?									
Much worse		somewhat worse		about the same		somewhat better		much better	
4. Do you feel your HH is exposed to same travel restrictions in comparison to other people in this area?									
Much worse		somewhat worse		about the same		somewhat better		much better	
5. If IDP, are you aware of any tensions between IDPs and resident families since you have arrived here?									
Very frequent tension (multiple times a week)			Often (once a week)			Occasionally (few times a month)			
Almost never (once a month or less)			Never						
6. If resident, are you aware of any stress, tensions or conflicts between IDPs and resident families?									
Very frequent tension (multiple times a week)			Often (once a week)			Occasionally (few times a month)			
Almost never (once a month or less)			Never						
7. For both IDPs and host community, if the answer was (Very frequent tension, Often, occasionally)? can you list down the main reasons for tensions between IDPs and resident families?									
Feeling of discrimination and denial of rights			Not enough humanitarian assistance for all						
Not enough goods and services for all			General insecurity feelings			others (specify)			

E. Adequate standard of living

1. In the current situation, is your access to basic goods or services enough to meet/satisfy the basic needs of your HH members?									
Totally insufficient		Insufficient		just enough		Sufficient		Largely sufficient	
2. Do you feel your HH have same access to basic services or goods in comparison to other people in this area?									
Much worse		somewhat worse		about the same		somewhat better		much better	
3. If no additional assistance is provided to your HH in communication , are you worried about the consequences of lack of communication means for your HH in the next three months?									
Very much disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Very much agree	
4. If no additional assistance is provided to your HH in education , are you worried about the consequences of lack of education for your HH in the next three months?									
Very much disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Very much agree	
5. If no additional assistance is provided to your HH in energy , are you worried about the consequences of the lack of energy for your HH in the next three months?									
Very much disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Very much agree	
6. If no additional assistance is provided to your HH in food , are you worried about the consequences of lack of food for your HH in the next three months?									
Very much disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Very much agree	
7. If no additional assistance is provided to your HH in health care , are you worried about the consequences of lack of healthcare for your HH in the next three months?									
Very much disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Very much agree	
8. If no additional assistance is provided to your HH in household commodities , are you worried about the consequences of lack of household commodities for your HH in the next three months?									
Very much disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Very much agree	
9. If no additional assistance is provided to your HH in hygiene commodities and facilities, are you worried about the consequences of lack of hygiene commodities and facilities for your HH in the next three months?									
Very much disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Very much agree	
10. If no additional assistance is provided to your HH in potable water , are you worried about the consequences of lack of potable water for your HH in the next three months?									
Very much disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Very much agree	
11. If no additional assistance is provided to your HH in shelter/housing , are you worried about the consequences of lack of shelter/housing for your HH in the next three months?									
Very much disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Very much agree	
12. If no additional assistance is provided to your HH in transport , are you worried about the consequences of lack of transportation for your HH in the next three months?									
Very much disagree		Disagree		Neutral		Agree		Very much agree	
13. Among the above goods and services mentioned, what are the top three most of concern for you in the next three months? (Rank top3)									
Food		healthcare		Education		Shelter/housing		transport	
Water supply		Hygiene/sanitation		Household commodities		Energy		communication	
14. If (just enough, Insufficient or Totally insufficient) to cover all our family needs in Q1, What are the main reasons why your HH can't meet or fulfil their basic needs? (chose maximum 3)									
A. Physical and logistical constraints to access markets/service providers, e.g. distance, roads blockades, etc.									
B. Insecurity hindering access to markets/service providers									
C. Social discrimination hindering access to markets/service providers									
D. Insufficient money/income/resources to purchase/access goods or services									
E. Insufficient goods/services/infrastructures produced/available locally									
F. Insufficient traders supplying the area									
G. Insufficient local reserve/resource/stock/facilities									
H. Insufficient assistance or support provided by government/community									
I. insufficient diversity of good and services									
J. Insufficient skills and competencies of service providers									
K. Insufficient safety or reliability of provided goods or services									
L. No issues									
M. Specify other									

F. Access to employment and livelihood

1. Are you generally satisfied by employment and livelihoods opportunities available in your area for you and your HH?									
Not at all satisfied		slightly satisfied		moderately satisfied		Very satisfied		Extremely satisfied	
2. Do you feel your HH have same access to employment and livelihood opportunities in comparison to other people in this area?									
Much worse		somewhat worse		about the same		somewhat better		much better	
3. How often in the PAST 30 DAYS have members of your HH relied on any of the following actions to meet basic needs?									
Using Savings	Never		Once in the month		Occasionally (few times a month)		Weekly		More than weekly
Buying goods/services on credit	Never		Once in the month		Occasionally (few times a month)		Weekly		More than weekly
Borrowing money from family/friends	Never		Once in the month		Occasionally (few times a month)		Weekly		More than weekly
Selling family assets (jewelry, phone, furniture);	Never		Once in the month		Occasionally (few times a month)		Weekly		More than weekly
Spending less money on other needs	Never		Once in the month		Occasionally (few times a month)		Weekly		More than weekly
Selling productive assets/means of transport	Never		Once in the month		Occasionally (few times a month)		Weekly		More than weekly
Begging	Never		Once in the month		Occasionally (few times a month)		Weekly		More than weekly
Sending children family members to beg	Never		Once in the month		Occasionally (few times a month)		Weekly		More than weekly
Removing children from school	Never		Once in the month		Occasionally (few times a month)		Weekly		More than weekly
Taking jobs that are high risk, illegal and/or socially degrading	Never		Once in the month		Occasionally (few times a month)		Weekly		More than weekly
4. How many of the working age members of your household have a regular income generating activity?									
5. How many members of your HH have access to training or practice to improve their labour skills?									
6. If (slightly satisfied, or Not at all satisfied) in Q1? what are the main reasons why your HH members cant access employment or livelihood opportunities in your area?									
Discrimination		no employment opportunity in general					Available employment opportunities do not pay well		
Lack of skills required for this location's type of economic activities							High competition over available employment opportunities		
Main working force of the HH has disabilities/chronic diseases							Specify Other		
7. From all economic activities practiced by all working members of the HH, what was your HH average monthly income in the past 6 months? In SYP									
8. What was your HH's average monthly income pre-crisis? In SYP									

G. Access to humanitarian assistance

1. Are you generally satisfied with the humanitarian assistance being provided to you and your HH?									
Not at all satisfied		slightly satisfied		moderately satisfied		Very satisfied		Extremely satisfied	
2. Do you feel your HH have same access to humanitarian assistance in comparison to other people in this area?									
Much worse		somewhat worse		about the same		somewhat better		much better	
3. During the past 3 months, have you received any humanitarian assistance?								Yes	No
4. If the answer was yes, what was the sector of assistance received? (tick all that applies)									
Food		Shelter		Health		Water			
Sanitation		Hygiene		Livelihoods		Nutrition			
Cash		Vouchers		Specify Other:					
5. If the answer was yes, what are the sides/organisations that has provided you with assistance? (tick all that applies)									
INGOs		Government		Local authorities		Local council		Local NGOs	
Local charity		Personal donations		Religious groups or individuals		SARC		Specify Other	

H. Housing Land and Property

1. Are you generally satisfied by the standards of shelter/housing you and your HH members are currently living in?									
Not at all satisfied		slightly satisfied		moderately satisfied		Very satisfied		Extremely satisfied	

2. Do you feel your HH have same access to appropriate shelter/housing in comparison to other people in this area?									
Much worse		somewhat worse		about the same		somewhat better		much better	
3. Do you feel confident that you can remain in your dwelling (your current shelter/house) as long as you wish?									Yes ☐ No ☐
4. If the answer was no, why don't you feel confident that you can stay?									
This is not my house		I am squatting illegally		I am renting		I am being hosted for free			
I don't have legal personal documents			I don't have legal home ownership documents (to claim my house)					Specify Other	
5. If IDPs, do you have access to program or support to restore, or improve access to land or housing in the current area?									Yes ☐ No ☐
6. If IDPs, do you have access to the necessary documentation to reclaim property and possession in your area of origin?									Yes ☐ No ☐

I. Access to documentation

1. Do you and your HH members have access to all the necessary documentation to access public services in the area?										Yes ☐ No ☐
2. If no, do you feel you have same access to basic services and goods in comparison to other people in this area with the appropriate documentation?										
Much worse		somewhat worse		about the same		somewhat better		much better		
3. If "NO", What are the main reasons you are lacking the necessary documentation?										
Loss of documentation			expiration of documentation			Not having access to a legal authority that can issue documentation for us			Documentation we have is stolen	
Fear of travelling to issue documentation (fear of arrest, unsafely of travelling ...etc)					Lack of availability of a legal authority in the area that can issue necessary documentation				Specify Other	

J. Participation in public affairs

1. Are you generally satisfied with the opportunities to participate in public affairs in this area?									
Not at all satisfied		slightly satisfied		moderately satisfied		Very satisfied		Extremely satisfied	
2. Do you feel your HH have the same opportunities to participate in public affairs in comparison to other people in this area?									
Much worse		somewhat worse		about the same		somewhat better		much better	
3. If < very satisfied, what are the main reasons you can't participate in public affairs in this area?									
Lack of documentation			Discrimination			lack of money			Corruption
									other (specify)
4. If IDPs, do you know about any restriction or obstacles for voting, being elected or working in public services in this area?									Yes ☐ No ☐
5. If Resident, would you welcome IDPs to vote, being elected or work in public services in this area?									Yes ☐ No ☐

K. Access to effective remedies and justice

1. Are you generally satisfied with your access to justice mechanisms in this area for you and your HH?									
Not at all satisfied		slightly satisfied		moderately satisfied		Very satisfied		Extremely satisfied	
2. Do you feel your HH have the same access to community or national protection mechanisms in comparison to other people in this area?									
Much worse		somewhat worse		about the same		somewhat better		much better	
3. What litigation, justice or safety mechanisms do you usually refer to in case of problem? Tick top three									
police			courts			Shari's courts			community leaders
religious leaders			Family			armed groups			Other
4. If < very satisfied, what are the main reasons you cant access litigation, justice or safety mechanisms?									
Lack of documentation			Discrimination			lack of money			Lack of justice mechanisms

L. Family reunification

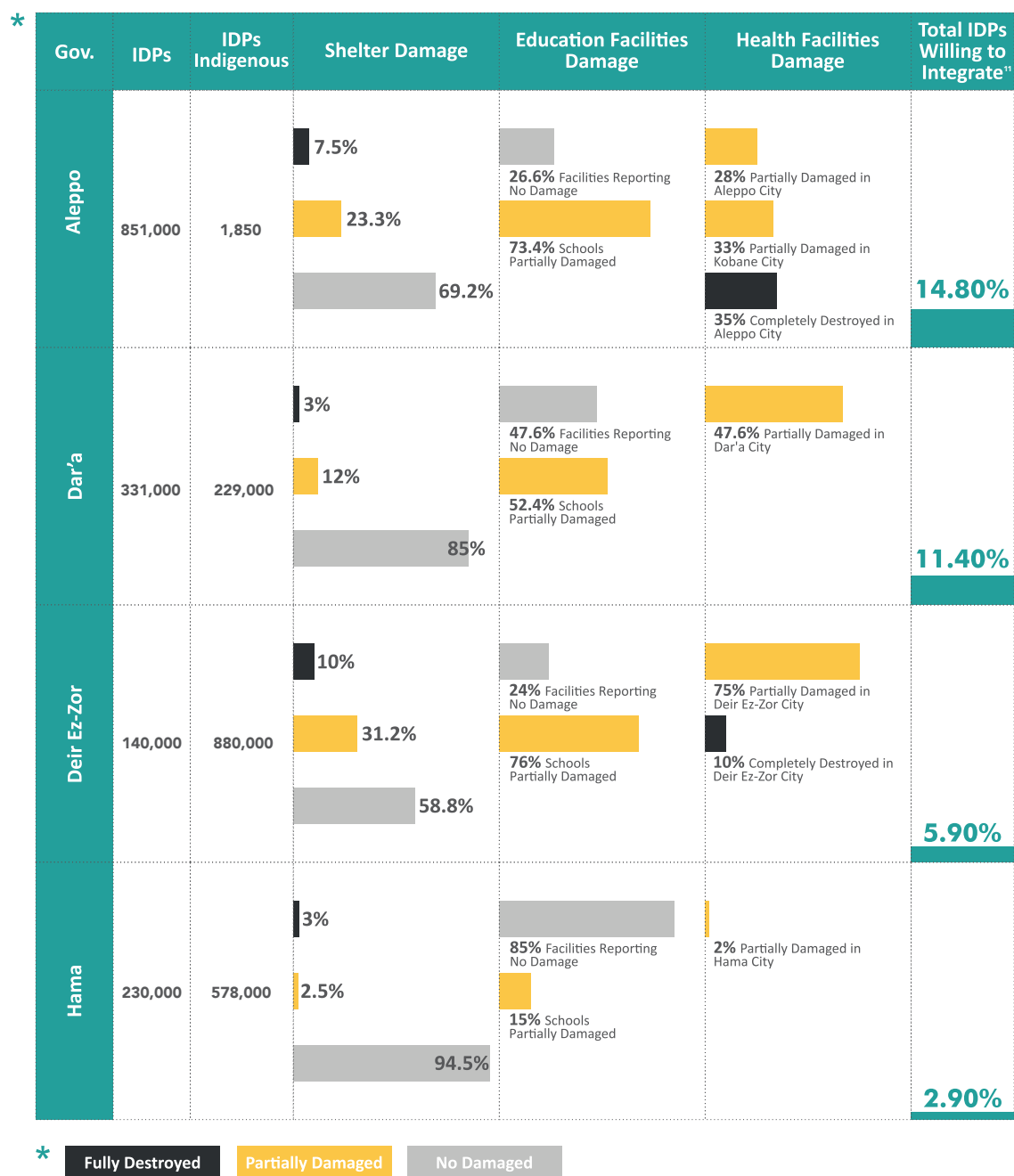
1. Do you have immediate family members you are currently separated from?										Yes ☐ No ☐
2. If the answer was yes, where are they?										
In Syria			elsewhere			Outside Syria			In Jail or arrested	
									Missing	
Fighting in the war			I do not know			Refused to answer			Specify Other	
3. If IDPs and answer was yes, would you recommend your relatives or separated family members to reunite with you in this area?									Yes ☐ No ☐	
4. If resident and answer was yes, would you recommend your relatives or separated family members to reunite with you in this area?									Yes ☐ No ☐	
5. If resident and answer was yes, would you welcome the separated family members of IDPs to reunite with them in this area?									Yes ☐ No ☐	

A. Final Comments/Feedback.

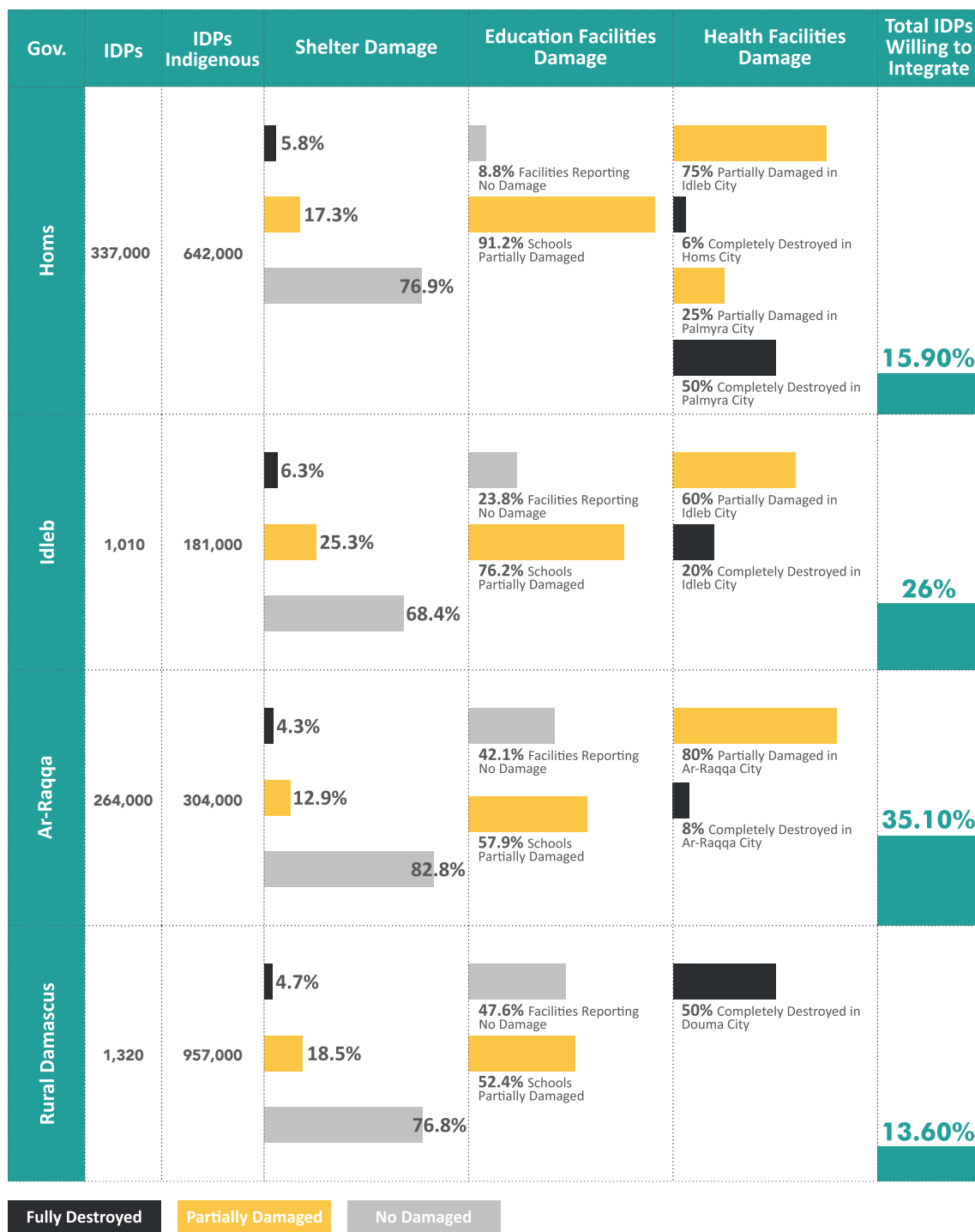
Is there any additional information you would like to share with us, or any topic that we did not ask in this interview and would like to add?									

ANNEX B:

IMPACT OF THE CONFLICT ON KEY AREAS IN SYRIA



¹¹ Source of Data: NPM, November 2018



ANNEX C:

LIFE STORIES FROM FOUR IDPs

Life story #1:

Abo Omar, an IDP living in Dana town. 48 years old.

He worked originally in the field of food commodities and cleaning materials trade back in Aleppo. His main warehouse was severely damaged back in 2014, as a result of aerial bombardment. In addition, he has one daughter that is still suffering from an injury got from the same airstrike that damaged the warehouse. Abo Omar fled to Dana in early 2017, following the evacuation of opposition-held neighborhoods of Aleppo city.

"We arrived to Dana with very limited financial resources, after consuming the majority of our savings during the siege of Aleppo". Abo Omar is generally happy with being in Dana because the area is safe and he has faced no security issues since arriving to the area. However, Abo Omar considers that his economic situation in Dana will not improve on the long term. With the lack of financial capacity to re-establish his business, he will need to count on humanitarian assistance heavily to be able to cover his family's basic needs. "We have received assistance from multiple local and international organizations; otherwise, it would have been very difficult for us to insure a minimum living standard". Being involved in one specific economic activity throughout his life, trading, and not having children that are capable of entering the labor market in Dana, Abo Omar considers that when the opportunity comes to re-establish his business in a safe place in another area in the country, he will not wait but go immediately to. "The society has been welcoming, and there are so many other IDPs living in the area, and I do not feel like a stranger, but I am the son of a big city, and I only see myself and my family living in Aleppo in the future". Abo Omar feels that integration is possible and there is space for it, but only for those who can manage to live decently and have access to employment, otherwise, once there is no more humanitarian assistance provided, it will be difficult for him to meet his household's needs. However, at the same time, Abo Omar is uncertain what comes next for him and his family since the return to Aleppo is not a choice for him. He fears for the safety and security of his family.

Life story #2:

Alia, an IDP living in Lattakia city. 39 years old.

Alia is originally from Lattakia, but she has lived the majority of her life in Homs and considers herself to be from Homs. Her family fled to Lattakia in 2012 because of to the high conflict intensity in Homs and because her husband lost his small workshop there. Alia has two daughters and one son who are both in school age. She is currently working as a teacher.

"It was not easy to re-establish our life when we came here. We thought that we are fleeing for a short period of time and we spent the majority of our financial resources in the first months of displacement". In 2014, Alia's husband passed away due to some health issues which left the responsibility of caring for the family on her. "Moving my work as a teacher from Homs to Lattakia was not an easy process, and the travelling back and forth back in 2012 and 2013 was very difficult". Alia considers her situation better than many other IDPs, even though her income is barely enough to cover the rent and basic needs of her family. For a long time, Alia has attempted to find another job in addition to teaching, but the available jobs are limited and she has no one to help her taking care of children if she would get another job. "For our family, we can survive until my oldest son grows up and finishes school. If he joins university in any other city, he will need to find a job because I do not have the financial capacity to support him". Alia considers herself not integrated yet, even though she comes originally from Lattakia. However, she sees that her young daughters are happy here and have many friends, which is a main reason for her to consider integration. "At the end of the day, our choices are dictated with circumstances". Being able to access an employment opportunity, sending her children to schools and living in a safe city are the main drivers of integration for Alia. At the same time, the lack of economic stability is her main long-term concern.

Life story #3:

Nadia, an IDP living in Quamishli. 29 years old.

Nadia is originally from Ain al Arab. She moved to Aleppo with her family when she was 4 years old. She fled to Quamishli only a few months after getting married in the end of 2013. "Moving to Quamishli was the best option at the time, since the security situation in Aleppo was deteriorating and neither myself nor my husband were able to work in Aleppo anymore". After less than 1 year of moving to Quamishli, Alia got pregnant but her husband left, and fled to Germany to find a job and reunite with her and their young son in Germany. However, he has not yet been able to reunite with his family, leaving Nadia alone in Quamishli with a very young son. "By the society, I am considered as a single mother, because it is not clear when I will be able to reunite with my husband, if ever". Nadia's small family spent the majority of savings to help the husband have enough money for his journey to Europe. Nadia had to start looking for a job while she was still pregnant, with no success, and she heavily depended on community and family support. "I have few neighbors. Some of them are also IDPs. They have helped me to pass the very difficult days I had before and after delivering". Nadia is currently working in a small workshop where she does not make enough money to cover her rent and bills, and her husband is not supporting her financially. "Even though I started considering Quamishli as home, and people have been really supportive to me, I cannot consider myself in a stable place". Nadia believes that if she has the economic means, and the ability to raise her son in Quamishli, she will not consider moving to Germany to reunite with her husband, even if her file there would be accepted. Nadia also believes that she has plenty of drivers that can encourage her to further integrate into the society "Integration is relative to the angle you see it from. I do consider myself integrated into the society. I feel there are no cultural barriers and I feel that the population is friendly. However, I am always uncertain about the future. I do not have a permanent shelter, I do not have a stable job, and I can barely feed my young son". Nadia had hoped that she and her husband had thought of integration the moment they arrived in Quamishli. They could have spent their limited savings to establish any sort of a small business, rather than investing them in attempting to move to Europe.

Life story #4:

Ali, an IDP living in a village nearby Dana. 34 years old.

Ali is originally from Hama city and holds a degree in architecture. First displacement of Ali and his family was to Ma'arrat an Nu'aman in 2011, afterwards, Ali and his family were displaced seven times, to Ar Raqqa, Idlib city, Aleppo city and other towns and cities to finally end up in a village close to Dana in 2015. "It seemed that wherever we go, conflict is following us. I have remained in Dana since 2015, and it is the longest period I have spent with my family in one location, since 2011". Safety was the main reason for the multiple displacements of Ali and his family. He is settling currently in Dana because it has been relatively safer than any other place he fled to. Ali has a strong willingness to integrate, and he considers that he and his family are already largely integrated into the village they are living in. "In my opinion, whoever flees to an area that is safe, should start immediately with an effort to integrate, mainly on the social level, and attempt to build strong ties to the society he/she is living in". Being originally from an urban area, cultural differences have been an obstacle for Ali in the beginning. The village he is living in currently is the first rural setting he ever lived in, and it was not easy for him to have an interaction with the local society. "We are not familiar with the way of living in villages, and even more, we are not familiar with the livelihoods activities in rural areas. We have always lived in cities, and cities were always our first and best choice to flee to since 2011, but I can say now that I was wrong. We do like the village way of living and after being able to find a source of income and send my children to schools, I am quite satisfied". The demand on housing in the area where Ali is living, due to the large numbers of IDPs that have arrived in the area, helped him to do some basic construction work. However, this work was not enough for him to meet his household's needs. One INGO provided Ali and his family with agricultural inputs because he has access to a small land connected to his current house. With the support of his neighbors that are practicing farming and agriculture, he was able to learn how to do home gardening and secure the basic needs of food for his family. "We are lucky because the community helped us in developing new skills that were crucial for us to have a complementary economic activity and which insured our household's access to food.

NGOs have also provided us with guidance and technical support and now I consider myself to be half farmer and half an architect". In Ali's opinion, after being displaced for multiple times, the most essential condition to integrate is the social acceptance, which he found in the village he is currently residing in. There are struggles in terms of availability of services, access to good health care, education...etc, but Ali believes that that is an issue across the entire country - based on his experience of displacement. Wherever a family moves, they might face such difficulties.

