

PRINCIPLED MINE ACTION

FOR IDPS IN SYRIA

National Directors' Meeting

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Syria Crisis



2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview

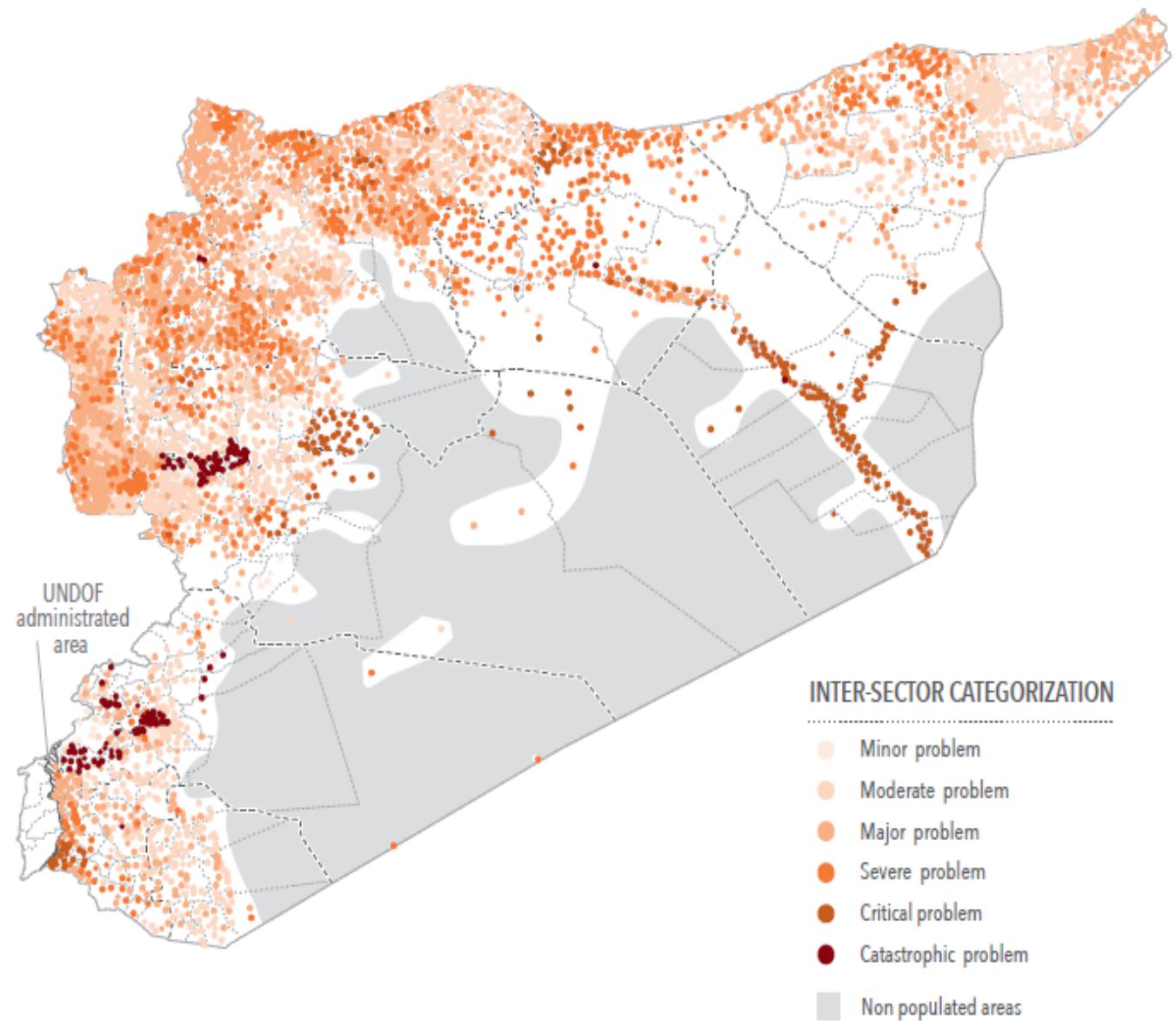
INTER-SECTORAL SEVERITY OF NEEDS AS OF AUGUST 2017

13.1 million

Total people in need

5.6 million

People are experiencing acute needs



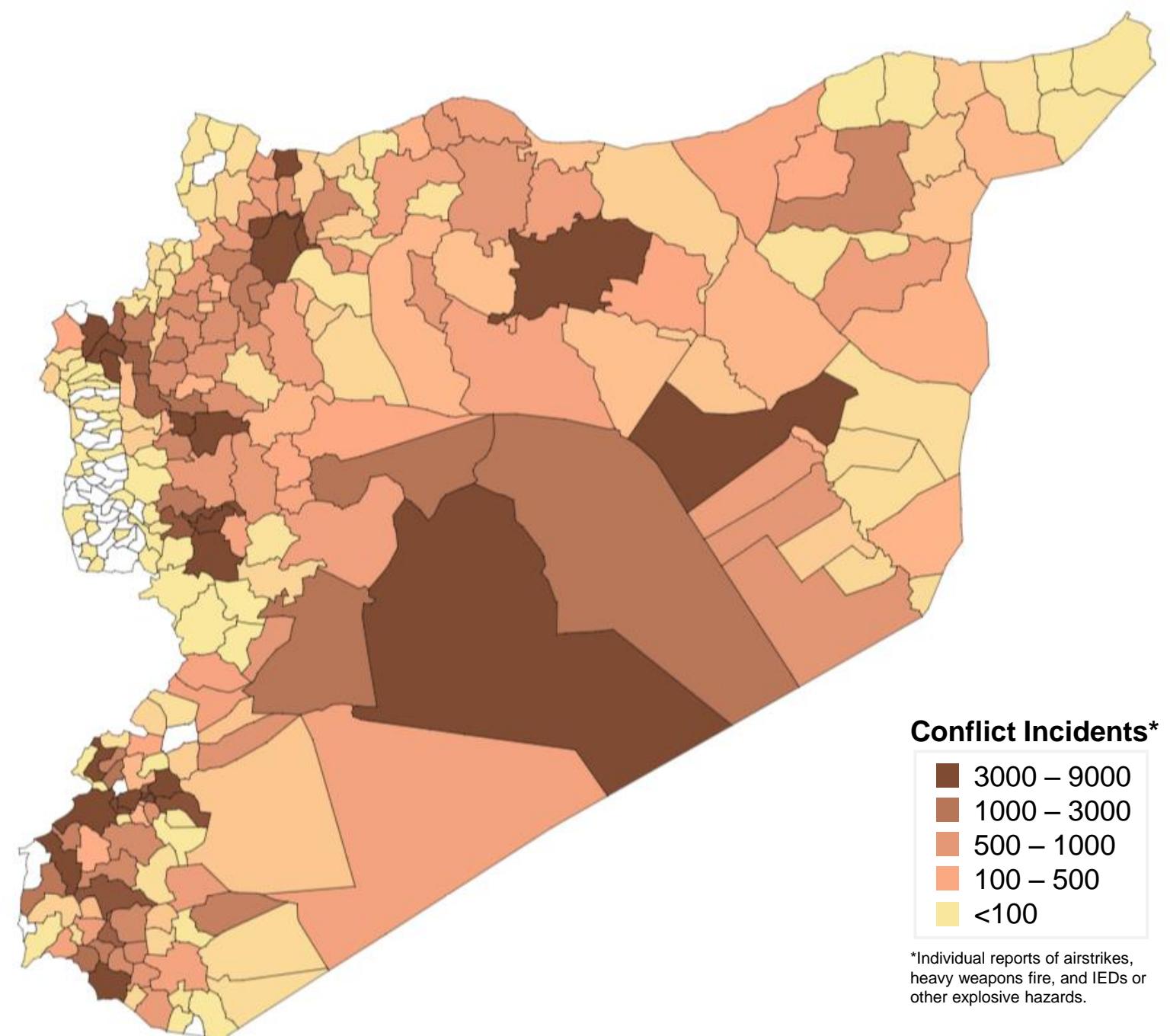
EXPLOSIVE HAZARD SITUATION IN SYRIA



Since January 2015, an average of **1 explosive incident** has occurred every **10 minutes** in Syria.

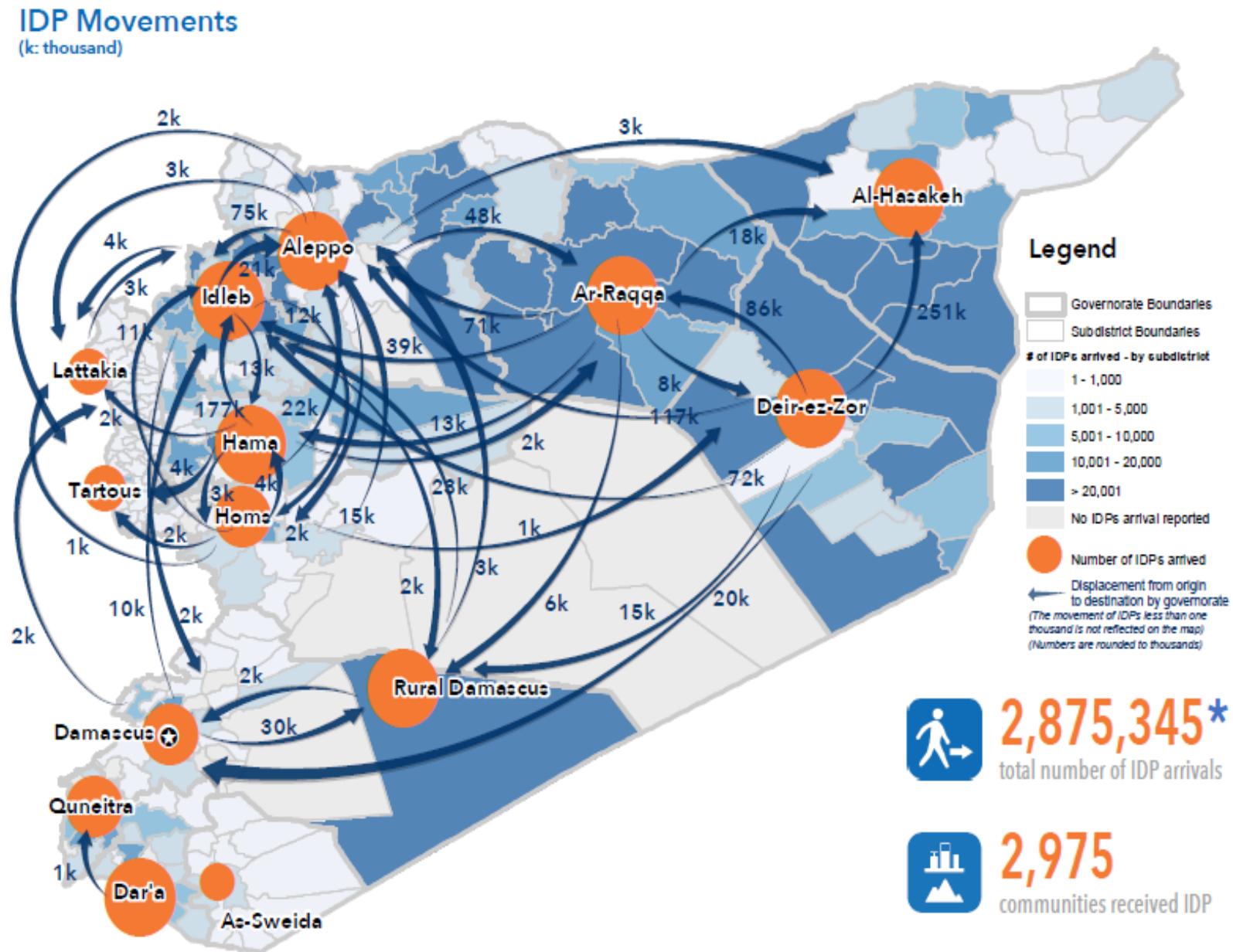
Explosive weaponry has been used indiscriminately against the civilian population and is a major driver of displacement.

Each year of conflict adds another layer of potential explosive hazards, compounding the threat.

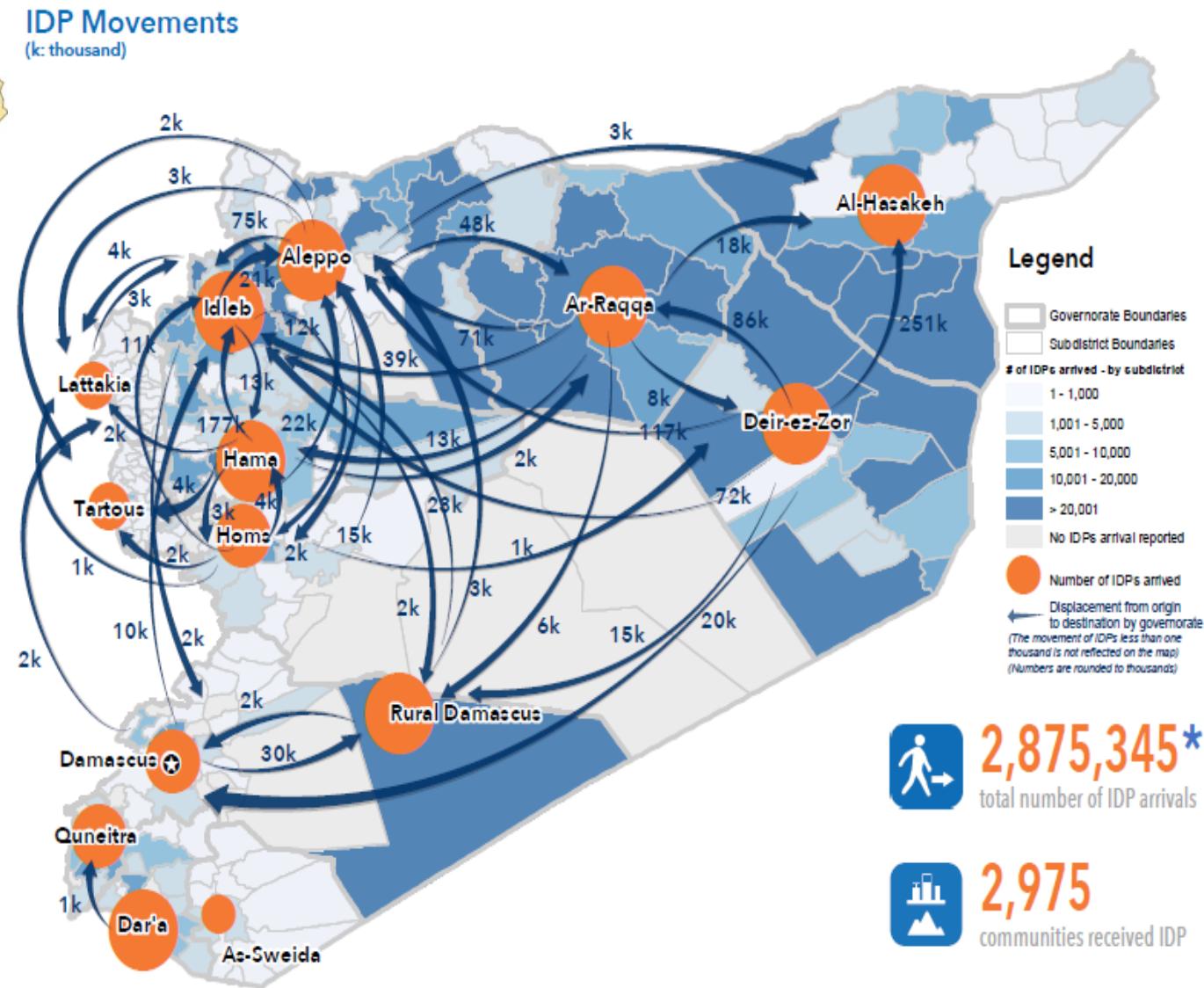
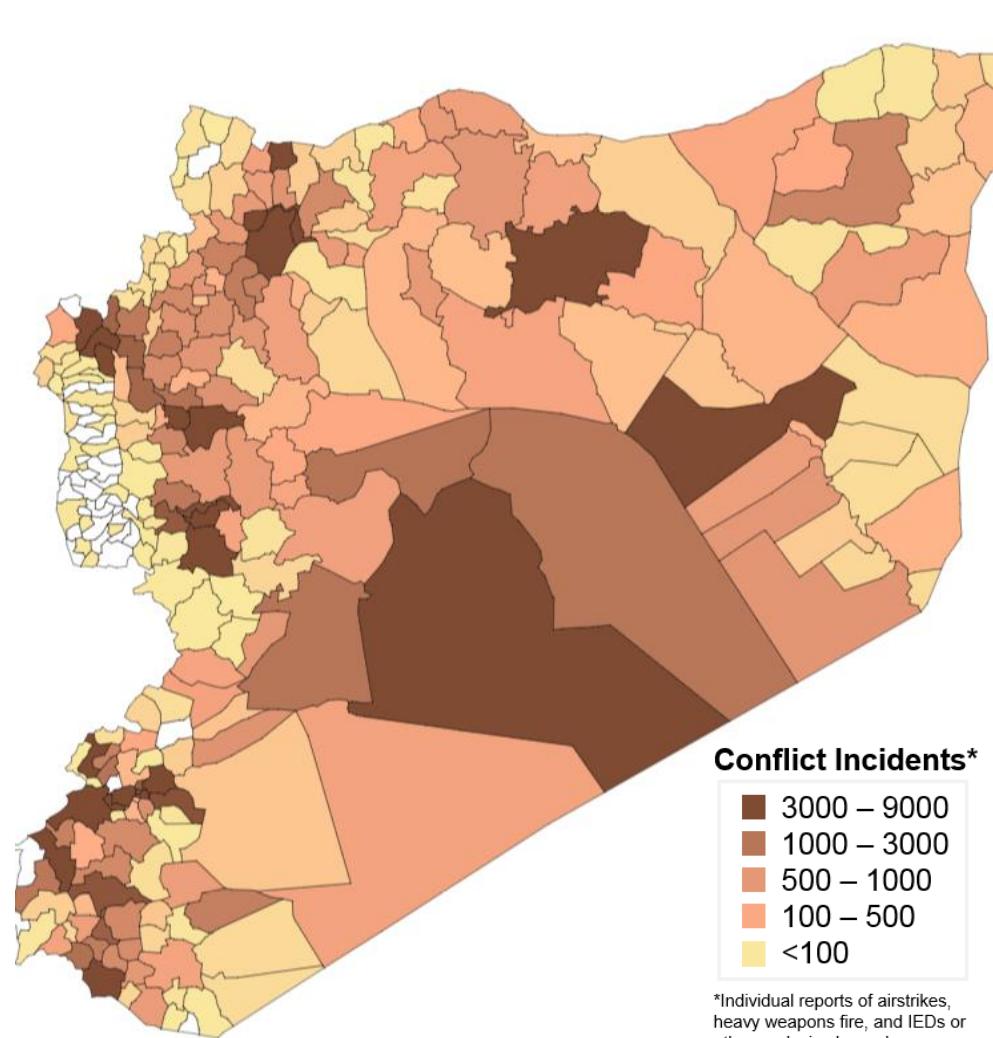


Source: Clash Database (Jan 2015 – Oct 2017)

IDP movements in 2017



Contamination and IDP figures



Explosive Hazards in Syria: Issues and Challenges

Explosive hazards pose a serious threat to IDPs during flight, displacement, or when trying to return home or settle elsewhere.

Conflict and explosive incidents as a major cause of displacement.

Explosive hazards:

- **Cause** debilitating injuries and death to civilians
- **Limit** safe access to services
- **Impede** the delivery of humanitarian aid
- **Endanger** the movement and lives of displaced persons, host communities, and humanitarian actors.



6.1 M

people internally displaced by violence



8.2 M

people now live in areas affected by hostilities and explosive incidents



Limited access for humanitarian mine action

Core Principles Guiding Returns in Syria

SSG Dec 2017 “Core principles on voluntary return as a durable solution for IDPs in Syria”

- Right to freedom of movement, choice of place of residence, and Do-No-Harm principles
- All returns must be **voluntary, safe, informed, and dignified**.
- Appropriate levels of services and adequate assistance are maintained in IDP sites until conditions are conducive for returns.

Multiple humanitarian components are needed to enable the safe, dignified return of civilians: Shelter; Food, Security, and Livelihoods, Health, Housing, Land and Property, and Protection.

The overall conditions for safe, dignified and sustainable IDP return are not yet in place in many areas of Syria due to:

- Ongoing conflict
- High levels of new displacement
- High levels of explosive hazard contamination in key infrastructure, agricultural land, and residential areas
- Infrastructure damage or destruction and lack of adequate accommodation

As such, humanitarian community in Syria does not promote return.

Basic Principles for the Physical Safety for Return

Where conflict has been a major driver for displacement, mine action is a foundational component for the wider humanitarian response:

- Mine Action ensures the physical safety for returns, facilitates meeting conditions for safe and dignified returns, and is an enabler of humanitarian and reconstruction efforts.

Conditions of Physical Safety for Return:

- **Technical explosive hazard survey** implemented to assess contamination and prioritize clearance,
- Main routes and roadways **free of explosive hazards**,
- **Marking of hazards and explosive hazard removal** in areas of potential returns and humanitarian intervention to mitigate threat,

And concurrently;

- **Age and gender tailored risk education** for all humanitarian agencies, potential returnees, and integrated into other sector activities in IDP sites and all communities hosting IDPs.

Response to IDPs – Role of Mine Action in Syria



Coordination

Focus on IDPs as a primary vulnerable group in the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan and Humanitarian Needs Overview.



Risk education

Key messaging tailored to target IDPs and people voluntarily returning to their areas of origin.

Risk Awareness training provided to humanitarian operators working with IDPs.



Survey and Marking

Gathering data on explosive hazards to inform IDPs and humanitarian operations; and marking them to further raise awareness of existing or potential threats.



Victim Assistance

IDPs are especially vulnerable to explosive hazards and have higher casualty rates. VA is integrated into RE and Survey efforts to ensure that IDPs are referred to Health facilities.

Clearance

Limited in scope by access restrictions but prioritized to ensure the safety of IDPs and host communities.

Coordination

Mine Action Area of Responsibility activated under the Syria Response and a core component of the Humanitarian Response Plan

27 partners in the Mine Action Sub-Cluster

- Ensure mine action participates in coordinated multi-sectoral responses to the most pressing needs.
- Integrate mine action within the wider humanitarian response.
- Technical advice and map products to all humanitarian, partners working within the WoS architecture on the explosive hazard threat.
- Advocate for increased access for Mine Action actors and increased language within the 2018 HRP.

رسائل التعريف بخطر العبوات الناسفة للتزاحم

العبوات الناسفة هي قنابل محلية الصنع عادة تستخدم من قبل الميليشيات وهي تحتوي على متفجرات ومواد كيميائية ومصممة لقتل وجرح المدنيين والمسكرين.

المعروف عن العبوات الناسفة أنه يتم إدخالها ضمن الأدوات المنزلية المستخدمة يومياً أو ضمن الأشياء أو الأجهزة التي تبدو اعتيادية ولا يثير الشبهات، ويتبعها من قبل المضخة عن طريق الضغط المعاشر أو غير المعاشر. وتكون موصولة على سبيط المثال بالابواب أو مفاتيح الإنارة أو الثلاجات وأجهزة التلفزيون وغيرها من الأشياء التي تبدو اعتيادية



العبوات الناسفة في غاية الخطورة والحساسية وهي مصممة لأن تعمل عند لمسها أو نقلها أو حتى الاقتراب منها!

تحدث العبوات الناسفة انفجارات ضخمة ويمكن أن تقتل وتجرح الناس حتى مسافة 1كم، ويمكن للانفجار أن يهدم الجدران وأحياناً المباني بأكملها ولذلك الابتعاد وراء الجدران لا يحميك حيث من المحتل سقوط الجدار عليك.



العبوات الناسفة في غاية الخطورة والحساسية وهي مصممة لأن تعمل عند لمسها أو نقلها أو حتى الاقتراب منها!

الصورة رقم 3- العبوات الناسفة يمكن أن تكون مموجة بحيث تبدو وكأنها بركان بناء أو صخرة ومن الصعب ملاحظتها.

كيف تحمي نفسك وعائلتك من مخاطر مخلفات الحرب والعبوات الناسفة



RISK EDUCATION

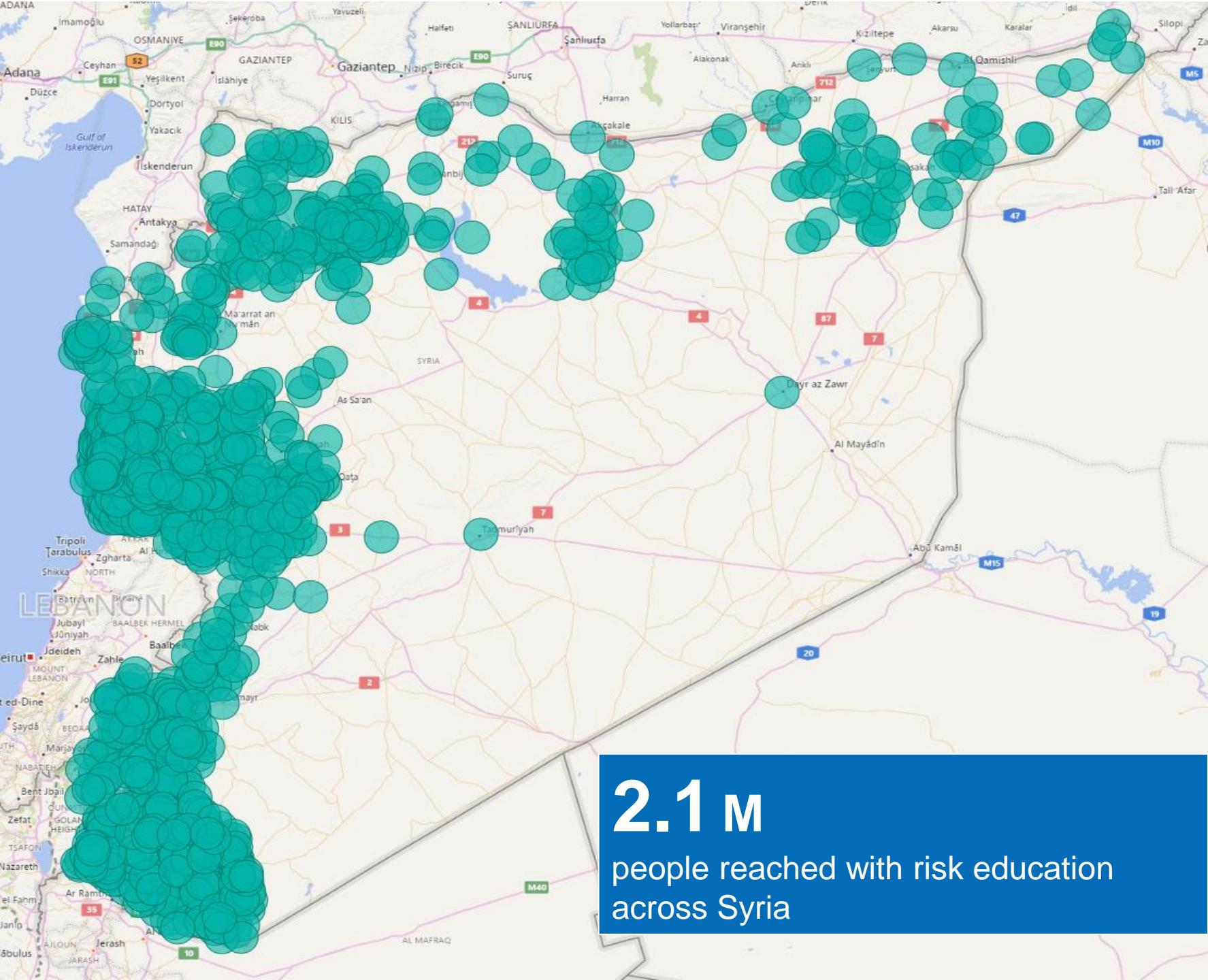
Most widespread Protection activity in 2017.

Critical activity to mitigating the impact of explosive hazards

Tailored messaging for IDPs and people voluntarily returning to their areas of origin.

Integration of risk education in the activities and deliverables of other humanitarian sectors.

Returns to unsafe locations actively discouraged during risk education sessions.



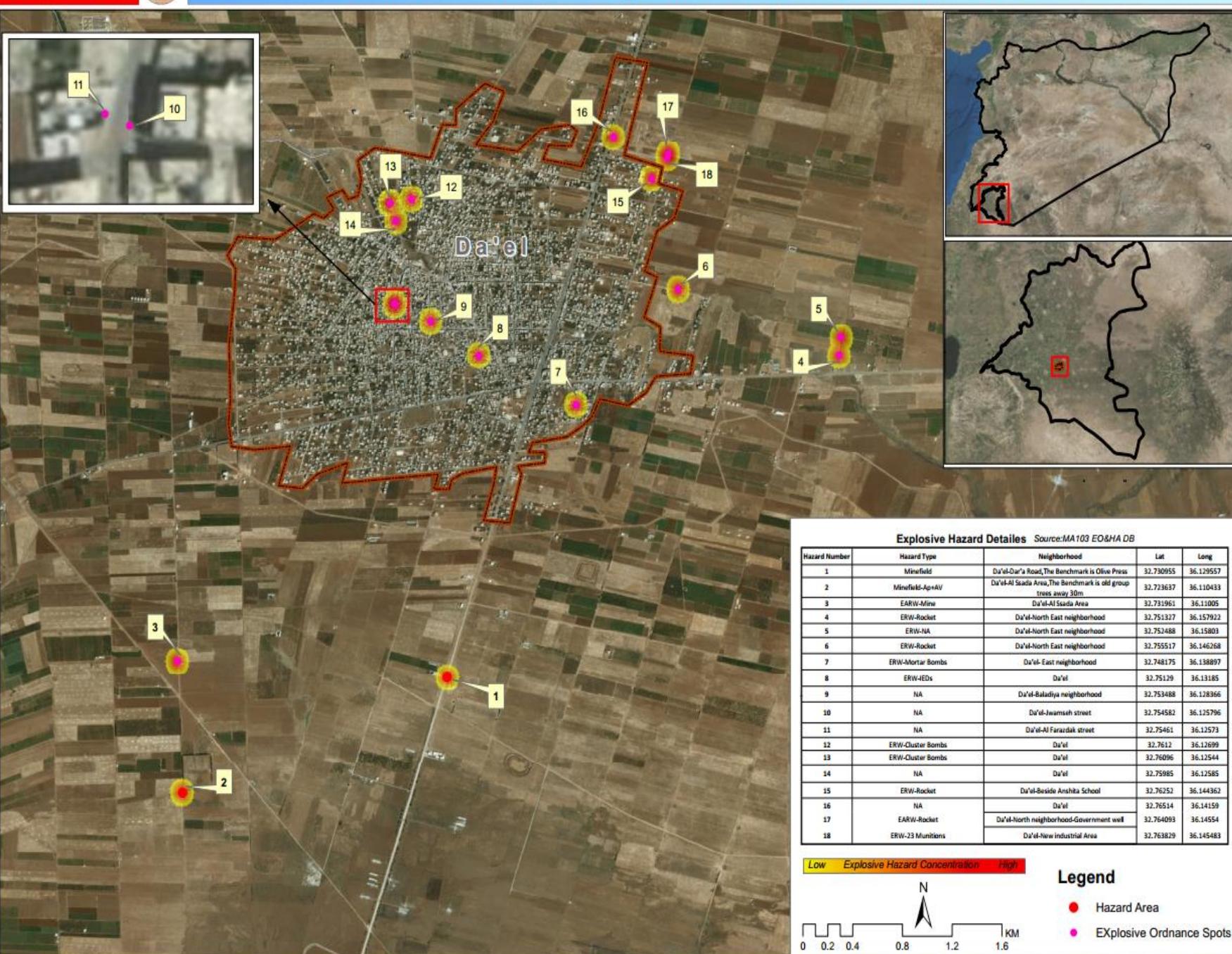
SURVEY AND MARKING

175

Communities surveyed

Survey and marking provides immediate benefit to communities because they can provide awareness on explosive hazard threats and hazardous areas can be cordoned off.

Data collection supports the prioritization of mine action activities to respond to areas and communities most in need.



Victim Assistance

Mine Action provides support for survivors of explosive incidents and their families through:

- Referral system to medical facilities
- Provision of prosthetics and orthotics
- Rehabilitation
- Psycho-social support
- Vocational training for people with disabilities
- Socio-economic support

Victim assistance is currently severely underfunded and under-implemented in Syria in relation to the need and must be expanded in coordination with the Health Cluster.



After returning to their village and accidentally setting off an explosive hazard in their kitchen, the interviewee was severely injured and his mother lost her leg.

“I have not recovered since, and I am a father of four. I cannot cover my family’s expenses because I cannot work and my situation is getting worse day by day”

Explosive Hazard Clearance

Clearance of explosive hazards was not included in the narrative of the 2017 HRP, but OCHA are currently negotiating its inclusion as a humanitarian activity for 2018.

Clearance activities are occurring in some parts of Syria where access is possible – in North West, South and North East Syria.

Challenges for clearance:

- Lack of access for equipment and training
- Shrinking operational space in Non-Government areas
- Sheer scale of the contamination vs current capacity
- Complex explosive hazard picture – including IEDs



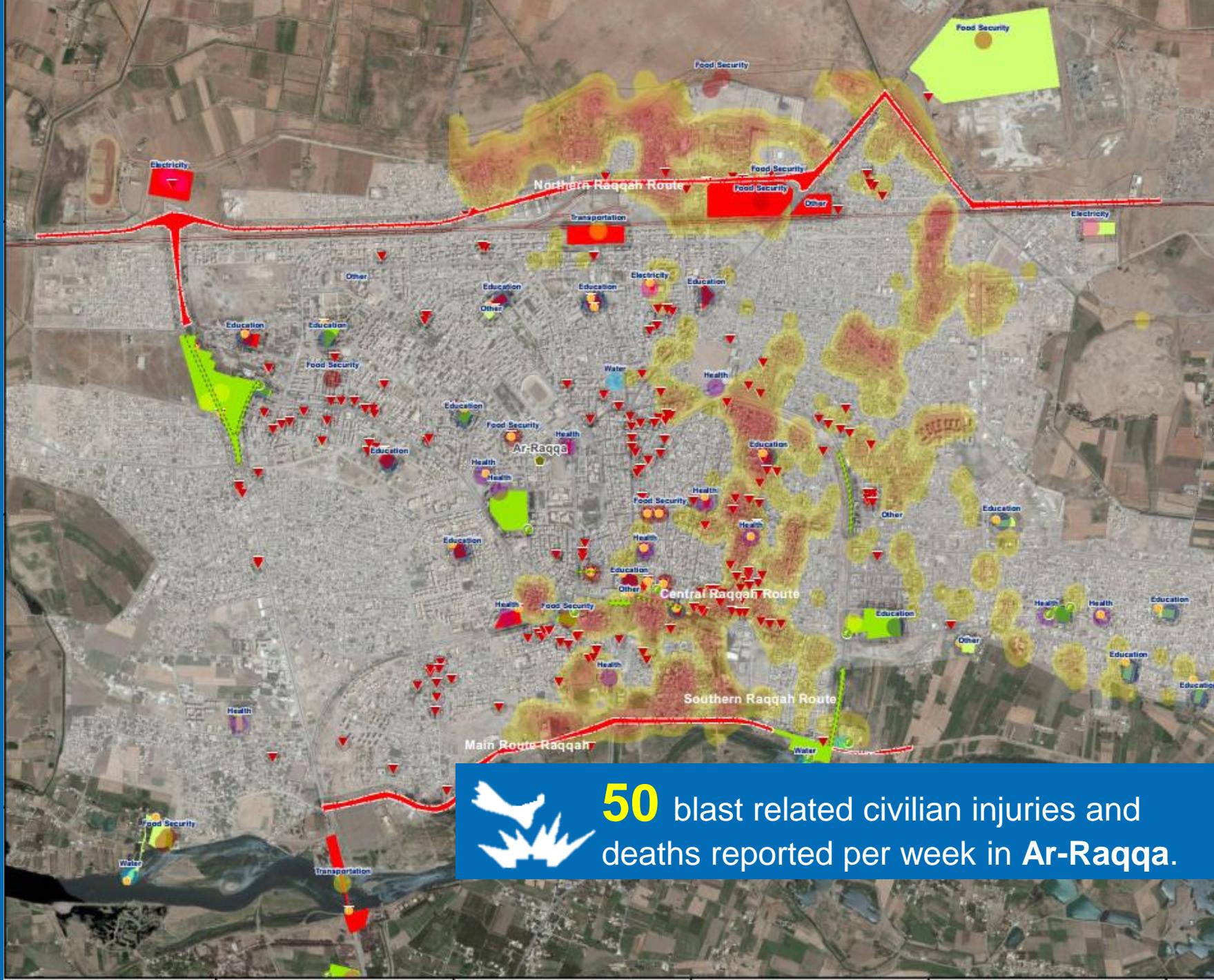
Lessons from Ar-Raqqqa

In former ISIS-held areas, IEDs have extensively been placed to purposefully and indiscriminately target and kill civilians.

Early returns to unsafe areas where conditions for safe, dignified returns were not and have not yet been met.

Needs:

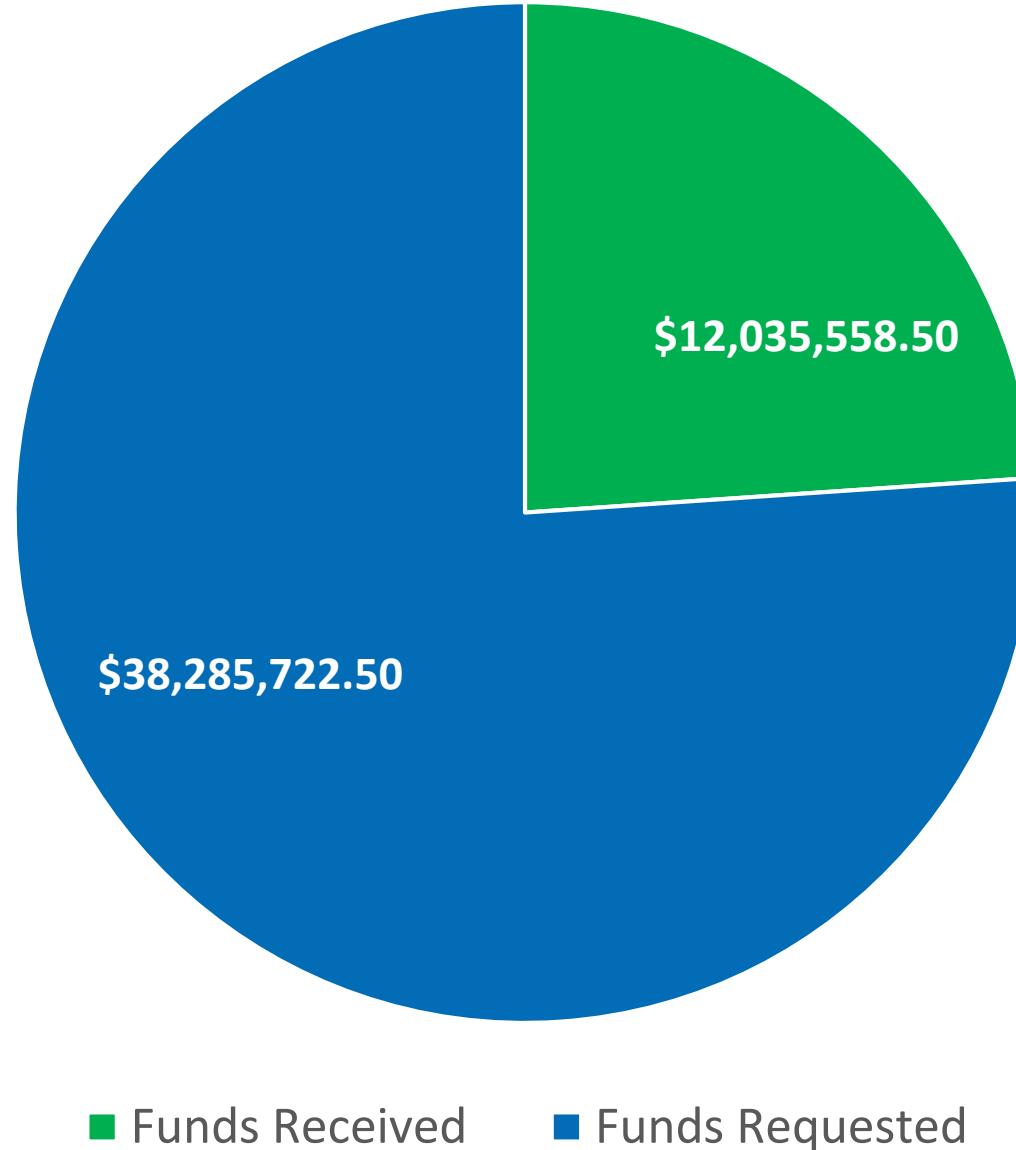
- Further risk education
- Comprehensive technical survey in urban environments
- Survey and clearance prioritized for residential areas and private homes
- Further integration of mine action within humanitarian activities and reconstruction efforts



50 blast related civilian injuries and deaths reported per week in **Ar-Raqqqa**.

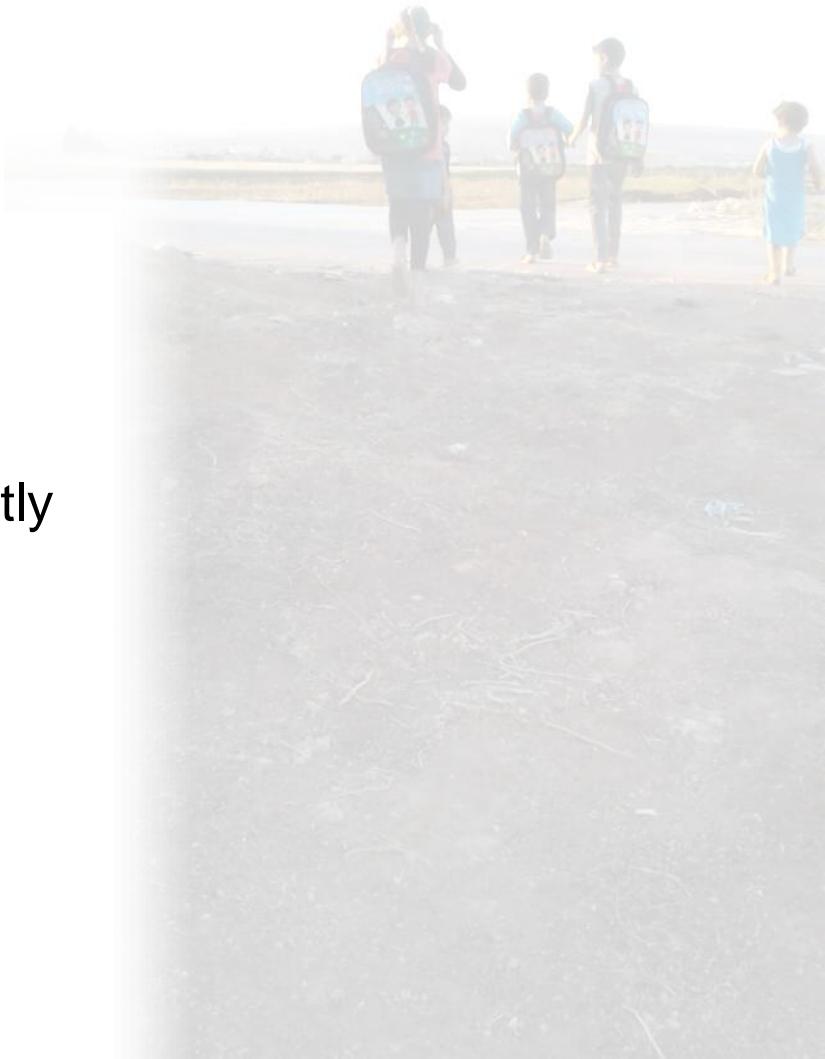
Syria Mine Action Appeal for 2018

20 Mine action projects
submitted to the 2018 HRP



Challenges to face in 2018

- Restricted access to affected areas for technical personnel and equipment
- Shrinking humanitarian space in non-government held areas
- Inclusion of expanded Mine Action Language within 2018 HRP
- Increased Humanitarian Mine Action Support from Damascus urgently needed
- Funding for mine action activities



Conclusions

- IDPs have specific vulnerabilities and are considered a key vulnerable group within the humanitarian response
- Mine Action is core to the safety of IDPs in Syria, both during displacement and as a tool to enable safe and dignified returns and other durable solutions to displacement.
- Political, access and security challenges are limiting the full scope of mine action activities in Syria
- Further funding to conduct implementable activities is needed
- Political will and support to expand the reach of humanitarian mine action actors in Syria is crucial
- The explosive hazard threat in Syria will take years to combat
- Investment now will save lives and help define the solution to our collective objective: **to reduce the impact of explosive hazards on the people of Syria.**

