

CONTEXT & KEY FINDINGS: 2 JANUARY AND 2 APRIL 2017

During the reporting period, three key developments drove major displacement across ISMI-covered areas:

- **Ar-Raqqa offensive**, which began in November 2016 and escalated further in March 2017, led to considerable displacement within Ar-Raqqa governorate, including within and towards Ar-Raqqa sub-district, and towards Tell Abiad sub-district in the north of the governorate.
- **Conflict escalation in the eastern Aleppo countryside** led to large displacement within Aleppo governorate, primarily towards Menbij and A'zaz sub-districts, as well as smaller displacements to Ar-Raqqa governorate.
- **Escalating conflict in northern Hama governorate** caused large displacements from affected areas towards Idlib governorate, including to sub-districts near Hama, such as Heish and Khan Shaykun, and those near border areas, such as Dana.

1% DECREASE IN # OF IDPs IN ISMI-COVERED AREAS

The number of IDPs living in ISMI-covered communities in Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs and Idlib governorates remained relatively constant, decreasing from 1,819,396 IDPs as of 2 January to 1,806,892 as of 2 April 2017.

51% OF IDPs DISPLACED WITHIN GOVERNORATE OF ORIGIN

Representing a slight reduction since the beginning of the year, the proportion of IDPs displaced within their governorate of origin decreased from 53% as of 2 January to 51% as of 2 April 2017. Over the same time period, the number of IDPs facing displacement to areas outside of their governorate increased from 47% to 49%.

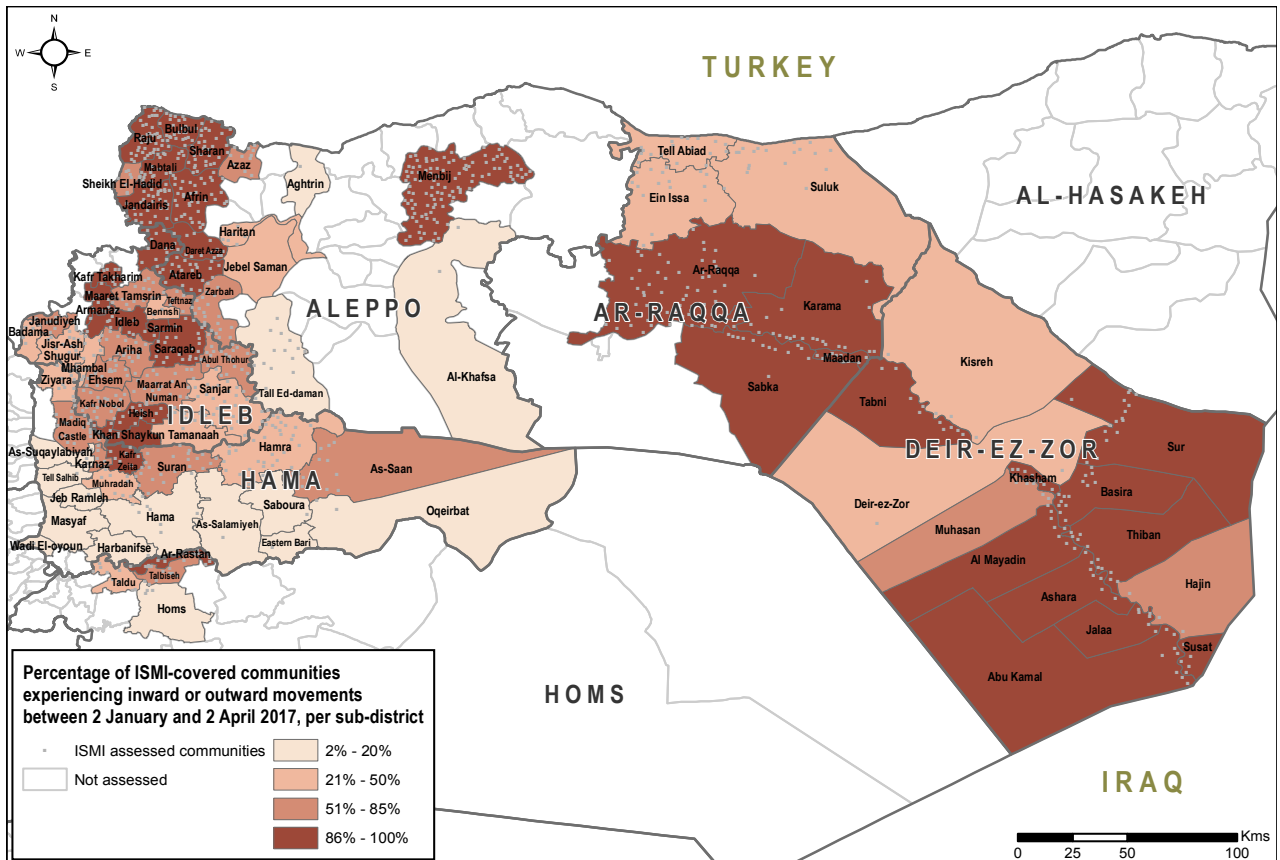
+12,619 IDPs LIVING IN ISMI-COVERED COMMUNITIES IN MENBIJ SUB-DISTRICT

Menbij sub-district in northern Aleppo recorded the greatest absolute increase in number of IDPs (+12,619), increasing from 46,198 IDPs as of 2 January to 58,816 as of 2 April 2017. This change constituted a relative increase of +27%.

268% INCREASE IN # OF IDPs LIVING IN ISMI-COVERED COMMUNITIES IN SULUK SUB-DISTRICT

Suluk sub-district in Ar-Raqqa governorate experienced the largest relative increase in the number of IDPs (+268%), from 596 as of 2 January to 2,191 as of 2 April 2017. Ma'tbali sub-district in Aleppo also experienced a considerable relative increase in the number of IDPs (+255%), from 193 to 685 over the reporting period.

Map 1: Proportion of communities per sub-district with inward or outward IDP movements, 2 January – 2 April 2017

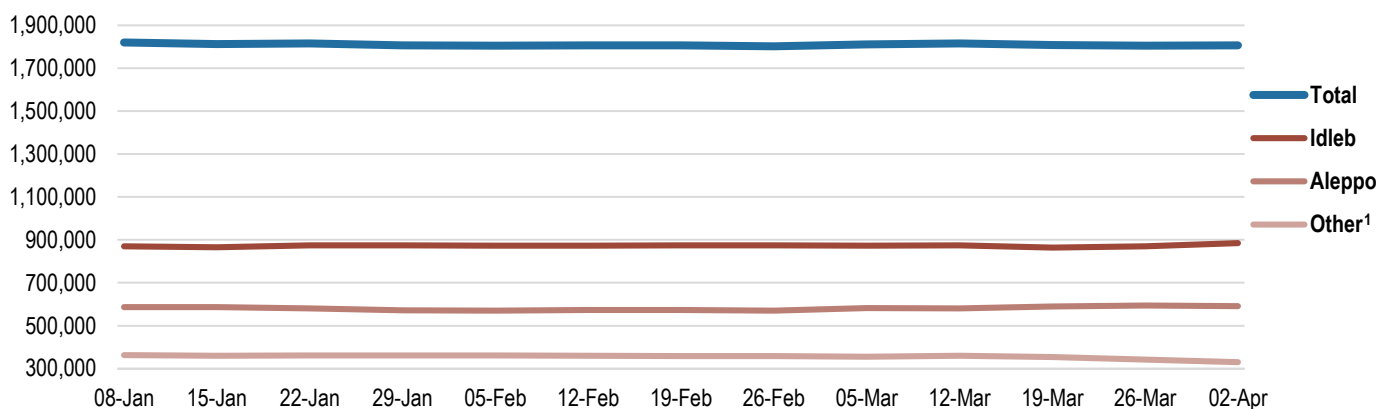


Displacement Trends: Figures

As of 2 April 2017, a total of 1,806,892 IDPs were living in the 1,183 ISMI-covered communities in Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs and Idleb governorates, a 1% decrease (-12,504 IDPs) since 2 January 2017.

The number of IDPs living in ISMI-covered communities peaked between 2 and 8 January 2017 following the evacuation of eastern Aleppo city, at 1,819,396 IDPs.

Figure 1: Numbers of IDPs, 2 January to 2 April 2017, overall and by governorate²



Governorate Level Developments and Displacement Trends

IDLEB

The number of IDPs living in the 309 ISMI-covered communities across Idleb governorate increased slightly, from 870,320 IDPs as of 2 January to 884,917 reported as of 2 April. While IDP numbers remained relatively stable for most of the reporting period, the escalation of conflict in northern Hama governorate led to an influx of IDPs into Idleb governorate in late March.

ALEPPO

Escalating conflict during March 2017 across the countryside of eastern Aleppo led to increased IDP movements; the number of IDPs living in the 414 ISMI-covered communities rose from 569,773 reported as of 26 February to 593,618 as of 26 March, representing a 4% increase. Large movements from conflict-affected sub-districts, such as Al-Khafsa, Maskana and Dayr Hafir, were reported in Menbij and A'zaz sub-districts.

DEIR-EZ-ZOR

The 110 ISMI-covered areas in Deir-ez-Zor experienced a minor increase (2%) in the number of IDPs living in communities, from 151,150 IDPs reported as of 2 January to 154,264 as of 2 April. An influx of IDPs from Ar-Raqqa governorate in March, largely to Al-Mayadin sub-district and likely due to the ongoing Ar-Raqqa offensive, contributed to this increase.

AR-RAQQA

With the continuation and escalation of the Ar-Raqqa offensive throughout 2017, IDP movements within and from Ar-Raqqa governorate increased considerably during the reporting period. Large IDP departures from Ar-Raqqa sub-district resulted in an overall decrease of the IDP population across the 165 ISMI-covered communities in the governorate, from 92,416 IDPs as of 2 January to 72,009 as of 2 April. Movements within the governorate primarily occurred northwards to Ein Issa, Tell Abiad and Suluk sub-districts.

HOMS

The 39 ISMI-covered communities of Homs governorate experienced a slight decrease in IDP numbers, from 58,520 IDPs as of 2 January to 53,245 IDPs as of 2 April. The number of IDPs reduced across communities in Ar-Rastan, Talbiseh and Taldu sub-districts, due to secondary displacement driven by safety and security concerns. Over the analysis period, the number of IDPs in Homs sub-district did not significantly change (<1% increase).

HAMA

IDP numbers in Hama governorate were relatively constant for most of the reporting period, before an escalation of conflict in northern parts of the governorate led to large numbers of secondary displacements in late March, most commonly to neighbouring Idleb, as well as to other parts of Hama. As a result, the IDP population living in the 146 ISMI-covered Hama communities fell from 60,111 reported on 19 March to 50,886 as of 2 April. The largest decrease in the number of IDPs occurred in the northern Hama sub-district of Madiq Castle (-31%), with many IDPs reportedly departing to Idleb governorate.

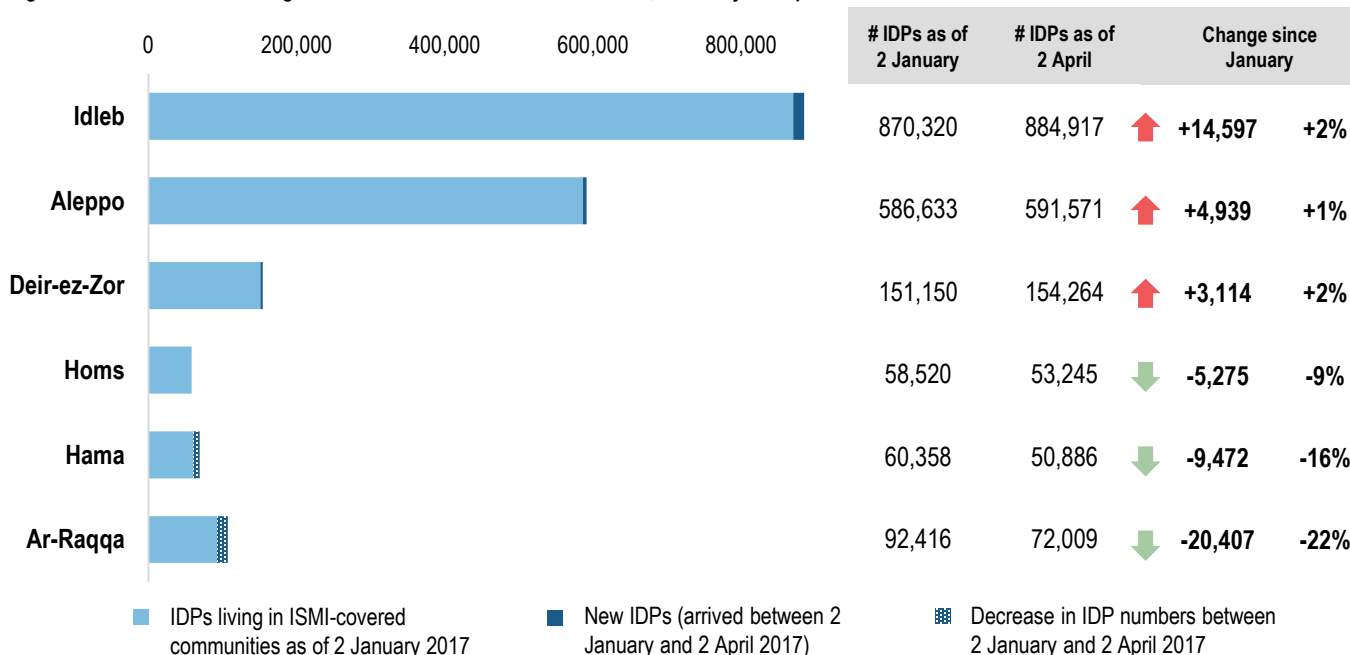
¹ Other governorates: Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, Homs, Hama.

² Dates in graph refer to specific data collection dates, while data collection on January 8 refers to the period 2-8 January 2017.

Governorate level change in IDP numbers

- The largest absolute and relative change in IDP numbers was recorded in **Ar-Raqqa governorate**, with a reduction of **20,407 IDPs** living in ISMI-covered communities between 2 January and 2 April 2017. This change constituted a **22% decrease at the governorate level** (Figure 2). Due to the escalating conflict across Ar-Raqqa governorate, a total of **24,755 secondary displacements** were recorded out of ISMI-covered communities during the reporting period, most commonly to non-conflict affected sub-districts of the governorate (**Jurneyeh, Tell Abiad and Maadan sub-districts**).
- **Idleb governorate** experienced the largest absolute and relative increase in IDP numbers, with an additional **14,597 IDPs** living in ISMI-covered communities over this same time period, representing a **2% increase**. A **2% relative increase** was also witnessed in **Deir-ez-Zor governorate**, where an additional **3,114 IDPs** were recorded living in ISMI-covered communities (Figure 2).

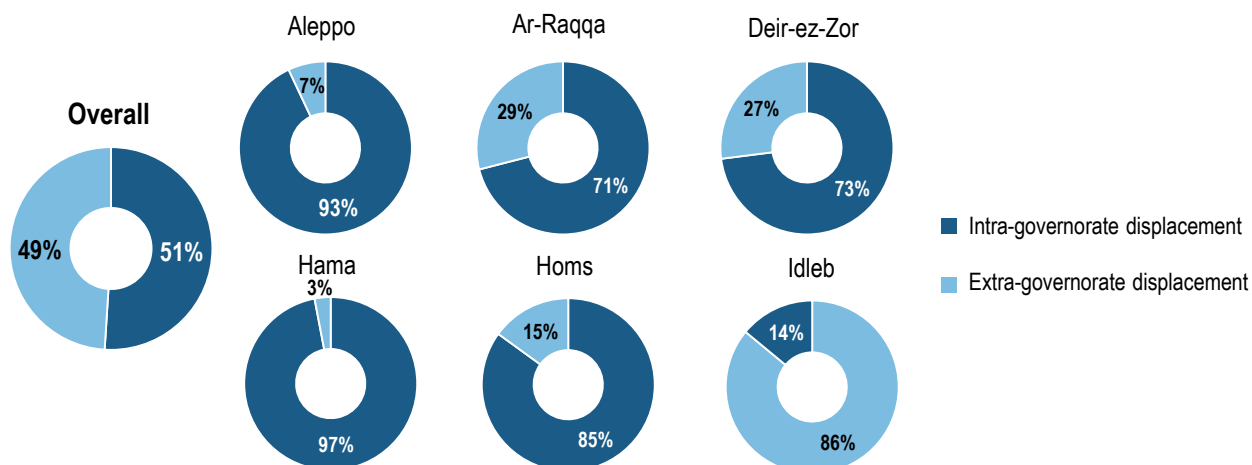
Figure 2: Governorate level change in # of IDPs in ISMI-covered communities, 2 January to 2 April 2017



Governorate level displacement patterns

- With increased conflict across Aleppo and Ar-Raqqa governorates as well as the evacuations of communities in Rural Damascus and Homs, the perceived relative safety and security within Idleb governorate continued to be a pull factor for IDPs between early January and early April 2017. As a result, the vast majority of IDPs arriving in Idleb during the reporting period (86%) originated from outside the governorate (Figure 3), a trend also observed during the previous trends analysis³.
- While the majority of IDPs in Ar-Raqqa had previously³ been recorded originating from other areas, the ongoing offensive across Ar-Raqqa has resulted in a greater proportion of IDPs coming from within the governorate itself; as of 2 April 2017, **71% of IDPs in Ar-Raqqa were from within the governorate, a large increase from 48% reported as of 1 January 2017**.

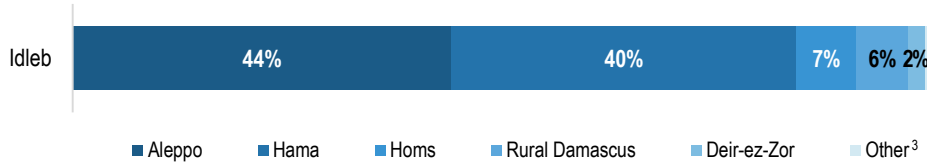
Figure 3: Proportion of intra- vs. extra-governorate displacement as of 2 April 2017, by governorate of displacement



³ CCCM, ISMI Trends Analysis 21 November 2016 – 1 January 2017.

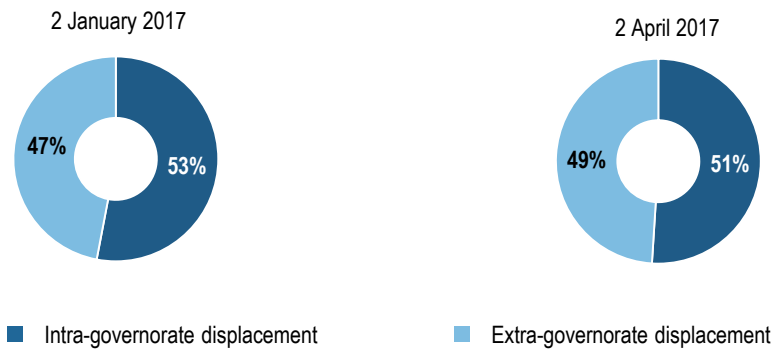
- As was the case during the last reporting period³, Idleb governorate continued to host the **largest number of extra-governorate IDPs**. The majority of IDPs in Idleb came from **Aleppo** (262,213 IDPs) and **Hama** (241,458 IDPs), followed by **Homs** (39,792 IDPs), **Rural Damascus** (33,169 IDPs) and **Deir ez Zor** (10,550 IDPs). Additionally, smaller numbers of IDPs from Ar-Raqqa, Lattakia, Dar'a, Tartous, Al-Hasakeh and As-Sweida were also reported⁴ (Figure 4). Meanwhile, the remaining 76,522 (14%) IDPs living in ISMI-covered communities of Idleb as of 2 April originated from within the governorate itself.

Figure 4: Proportions of IDPs from other governorates in Idleb governorate, as of 2 April 2017



- Intra and extra-governorate displacement across ISMI-assessed communities did not change significantly between early January and early April 2017. Overall, **the proportion of people displaced to areas outside their governorate of origin increased from 47% as of 2 January to 49% as of 2 April 2017** (Figure 5).
- Intensified conflict in Ar-Raqqa and eastern parts of Aleppo governorate, as well as the evacuation of communities in Homs and Rural Damascus,** may have increased the proportion of IDPs displaced outside of their governorates.

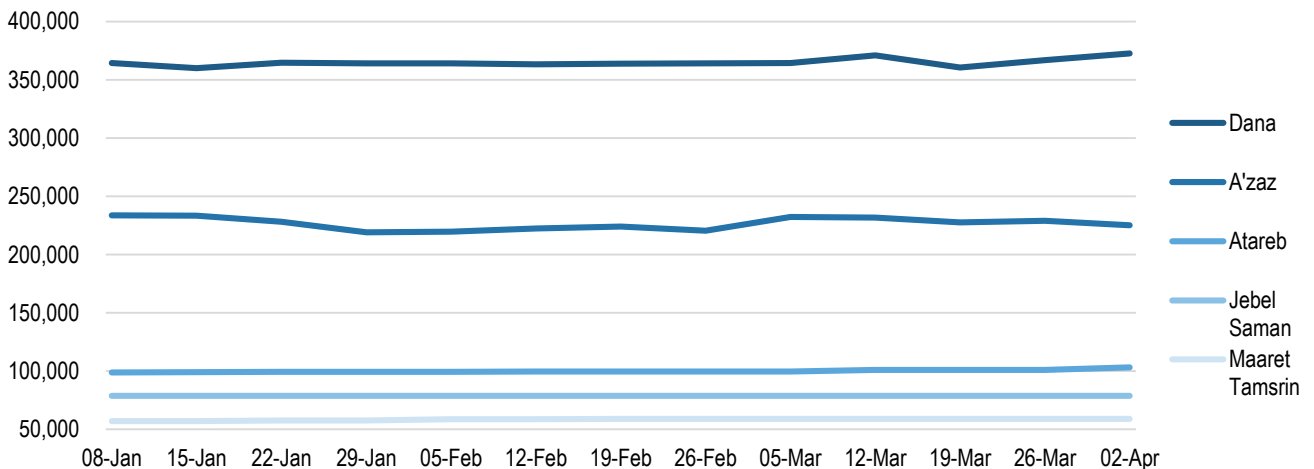
Figure 5: Comparison of intra- vs. extra-governorate displacement across ISMI-covered communities, 2 January to 2 April 2017



Sub-District Level Displacement Figures

- As was the case during the previous reporting period³, **Dana sub-district in Idleb governorate continued to host the largest number of IDPs** (372,673 as of 2 April 2017) across all ISMI-covered sub-districts (Figure 6). Over this quarter, **Dana sub-district witnessed an increase of 8,216 IDPs**, one of the largest absolute increases since 2 January 2017. Notably, following the escalation of conflict in northern Homs governorate in late March, as well as the ongoing conflict in eastern Aleppo governorate, **the total number of IDPs in Dana increased by 12,184 between 19 March and 2 April 2017 alone**.

Figure 6: Five sub-districts with largest number of IDPs as of 2 April, trends since 2 January 2017²

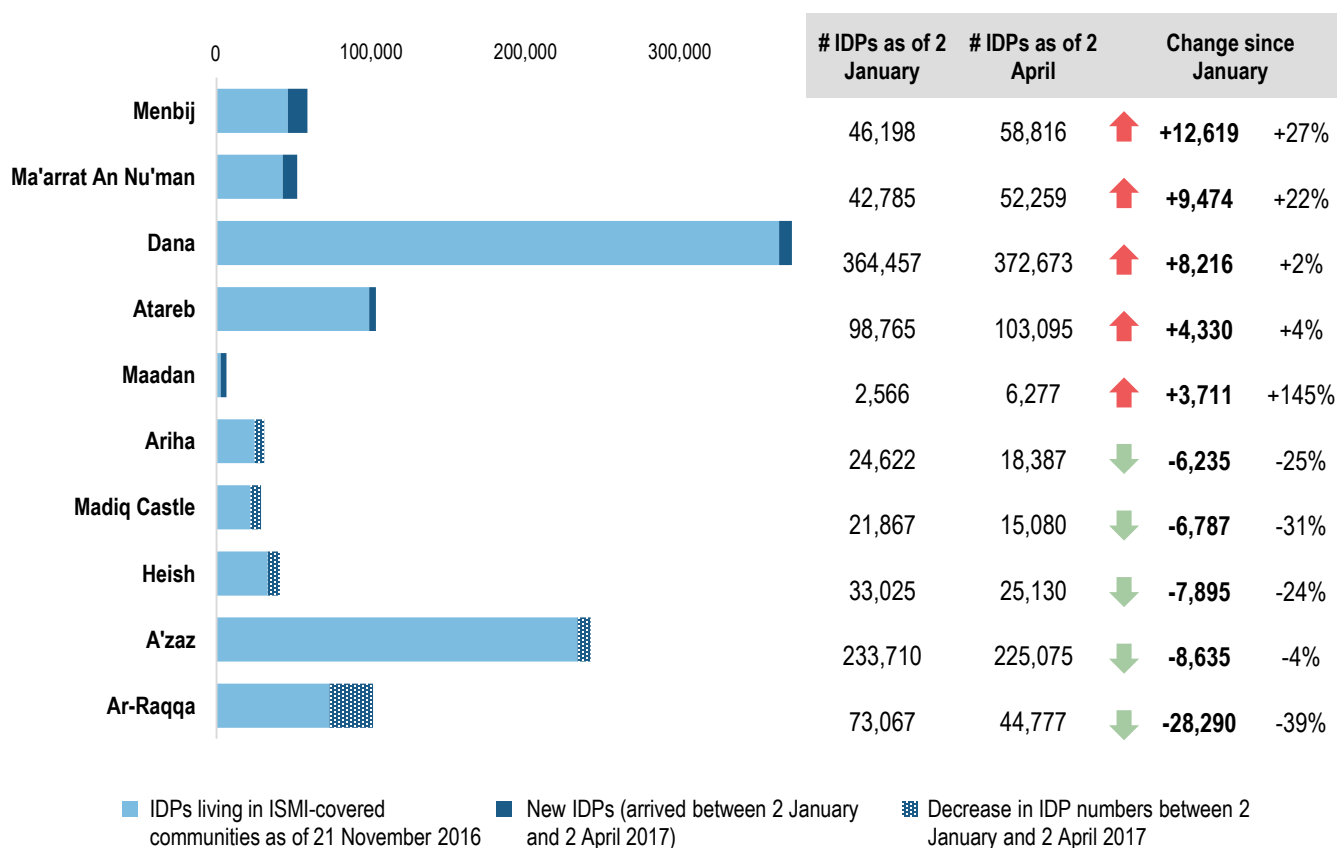


⁴ % of IDPs from Ar-Raqqa, Damascus, Dar'a, Tartous, Al-Hasakeh and As-Sweida in Idleb governorate constituted 1% of the total recorded arrivals in the assessed period.

Sub-district level trends in IDP numbers: increases

- As conflict escalated in Aleppo governorate in February and March 2017, the relative safety and security of **Menbij sub-district**, north-east Aleppo, was a key pull factor for populations fleeing conflict-affected areas of the governorate. As such, the sub-district experienced the **largest absolute increase in numbers of IDPs** over the reporting period (+12,619), increasing from **46,198** as of 2 January to **58,816** as of 2 April 2017⁵. This increase constituted a **27% relative increase** across the sub-district (Figure 7).
- The ongoing offensive across Ar-Raqqa governorate, which commenced in November 2016, continued to displace populations during the reporting period. **Suluk sub-district** in north-east Ar-Raqqa governorate witnessed **the largest relative increase of IDPs** over this quarter (+268%), increasing from **596** IDPs as of 1 January to **2,191** IDPs as of 2 April 2017. The sub-district of **Ma'btali** in northern Aleppo governorate experienced a similar relative increase of IDPs (+255%), from **193** IDPs in early January to **685** IDPs as of early April 2017.

Figure 7: Sub-districts with largest gross increases and decreases in IDPs between 2 January and 2 April 2017



Sub-district level trends in IDP numbers: decreases

- The offensive across Ar-Raqqa governorate has continued to prompt population movement throughout 2017. As a result, **Ar-Raqqa sub-district** experienced large-scale secondary displacement of IDPs and the **largest absolute reduction of IDPs (-28,290)** since early January. Between 2 January and 2 April 2017, numbers of IDPs living in ISMI-covered communities in Ar-Raqqa sub-district reduced from **73,067** to **44,777**, constituting a relative change of **-39%**, one of the largest relative changes recorded across all sub-districts. Following this, the sub-districts of **A'zaz** (Aleppo governorate) and **Heish** (Idleb governorate) witnessed the next largest absolute reductions in IDP numbers, **-8,635 (-4%)** and **-7,895 (-24%)**, respectively (Figure 7).
- Similarly, conflict in northern parts of Hama during late March 2017 resulted in the outward movement of IDPs from ISMI-covered communities in the governorate. The sub-districts of **Muhradah** and **Suran**, northern Hama, both recorded the **largest relative reductions** in numbers of IDPs (**-52%** and **-49%**, respectively), with most departures occurring in the last two weeks of March. Between 2 January and 2 April 2017, IDP numbers in **Muhradah** decreased from **1,569** to **759**, while in **Suran** IDP numbers decreased from **3,065** to **1,564** over the same period.

⁵ It should be noted that the scale and fluidity of movements into and out of communities in Menbij sub-district present considerable challenges for the reporting of accurate figures. The numbers reported here thus represent best estimates provided by and triangulated across at least two key informants.

Community Level Displacement Figures

- A total of **519 ISMI-covered communities** in **Aleppo (159), Ar-Raqqa (66), Deir-ez-Zor (53), Hama (93), Homs (24) and Idleb (124) governorates** experienced inward or outward movements of IDPs between 2 January and 2 April 2017.
- As was also the case in early January 2017, the community of **Qah** in northern Idleb governorate continued to be the ISMI-covered **community with the largest number of IDPs**. A total of **129,090 IDPs** were living in Qah as of 2 April 2017 (Figures 8, 9), which represents an **overall increase of +3,090 IDPs** since 1 January 2017. **Atme camp**, northern Idleb, was hosting the second largest number of IDPs (**76,200**) as of early April, followed by the community of **A'zaz** in northern Aleppo (**68,600**), a change in order since the beginning of January 2017 (Figures 8, 9).

Figure 8: Ten ISMI-covered communities with largest number of IDPs, as of 2 April 2017

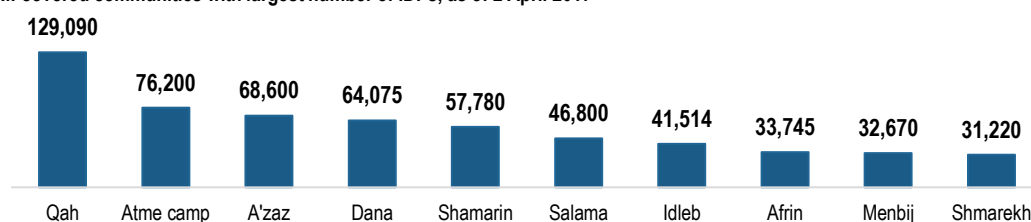
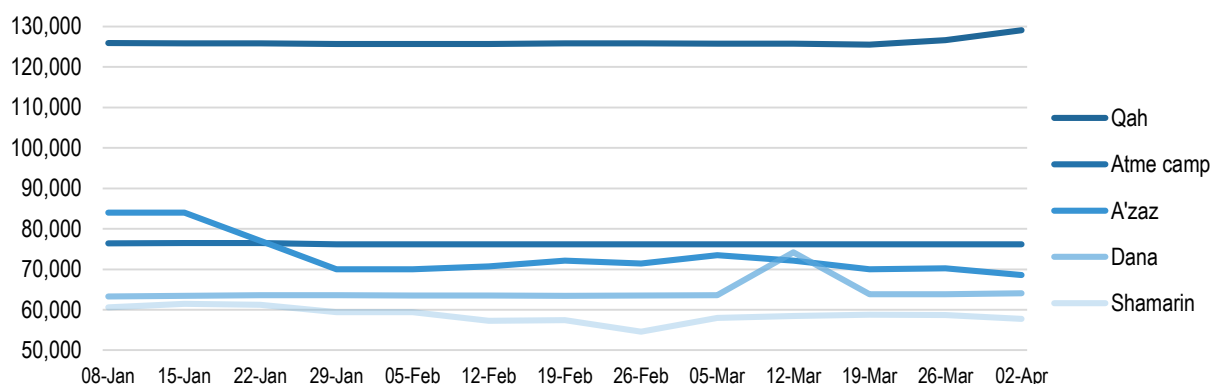


Figure 9: Trends of IDP numbers over time in five ISMI-covered communities with largest number of IDPs, as of 2 April 2017²



- The communities of **Salama** and **Krum** (both in A'zaz sub-district) experienced the **largest absolute increase of IDPs** between 2 January and 2 April 2017; **+7,800** and **+7,050 IDPs**, respectively (Figure 10). During this same period, **Ar-Raqqa City (-20,100)** and **A'zaz (-15,400)** witnessed the **largest absolute decreases** across ISMI-covered communities due to secondary displacement.
- Three communities, all in Aleppo governorate, experienced relative increases in IDP numbers of over 1,000%; **Big Mohtaraq (+2,133%)**, **Big Kharufiyeh (+1,765%)** and **Sultahiyeh (+1,453%)**. Conversely, thirteen communities⁶ reported the departure of all IDPs during the reporting period, mainly due to escalations of conflict.

Figure 10: Ten communities with largest absolute increases and decreases in number of IDPs between 2 January and 2 April 2017

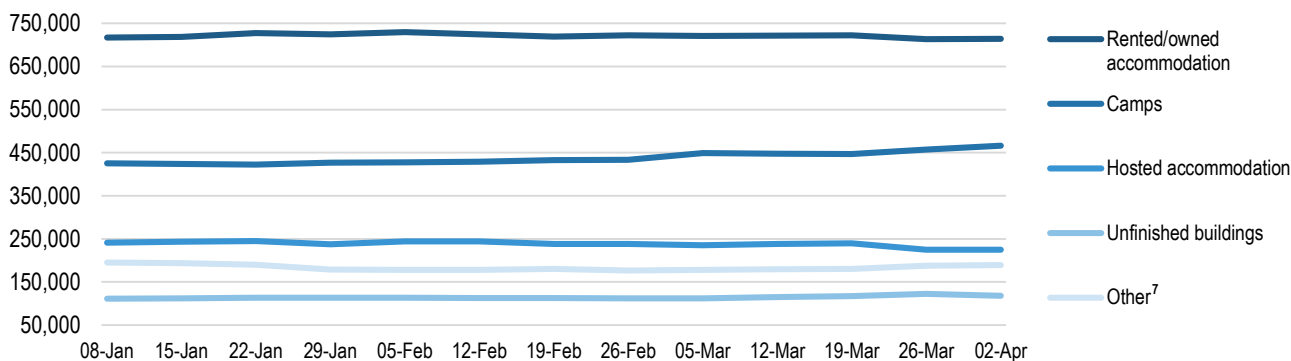
	# IDPs as of 2 January	# IDPs as of 2 April	Change since January		# IDPs as of 2 January	# IDPs as of 2 April	Change since January	
COMMUNITY	Salama	39,000	46,800	↑ +7,800	Ar-Raqqa City	47,100	27,000	↓ -20,100
	Krum	1,950	9,000	↑ +7,050	A'zaz	84,000	68,600	↓ -15,400
	Western Deir	780	5,250	↑ +4,470	Ariha	12,000	6,270	↓ -5,730
	Deir Hassan - Darhashan	26,712	30,048	↑ +3,336	Shmarekh	36,925	31,220	↓ -5,705
	Qah	125,880	129,090	↑ +3,210	Western Sahlabiyeh	4,775	350	↓ -4,425
	Khan Shaykun	11,850	15,000	↑ +3,150	Madiq Castle	3,800	250	↓ -3,550
	Sultahiyeh	180	2,796	↑ +2,616	Babuline	4,075	1,010	↓ -3,065
	Kafr Nobol	6,800	9,200	↑ +2,400	Shamarin	60,600	57,780	↓ -2,820
	Jarjaz	1,875	4,188	↑ +2,313	Taldu	2,950	505	↓ -2,445
	Khamisiyeh	224	2,275	↑ +2,051	Ar-Rastan	8,050	5,850	↓ -2,200

⁶ Abu Kahf, Kherbet Elhajama, Tal Wassit, Yarobiyyeh - Khas Ejil, Suran, Halisiyyeh, Shaheer, Big Abu Jadhah, Hala - Khas Hbal, Manther Eljarf, Majdal, Tiba Elemam and Maar Dis.

Displacement Trends: Shelter

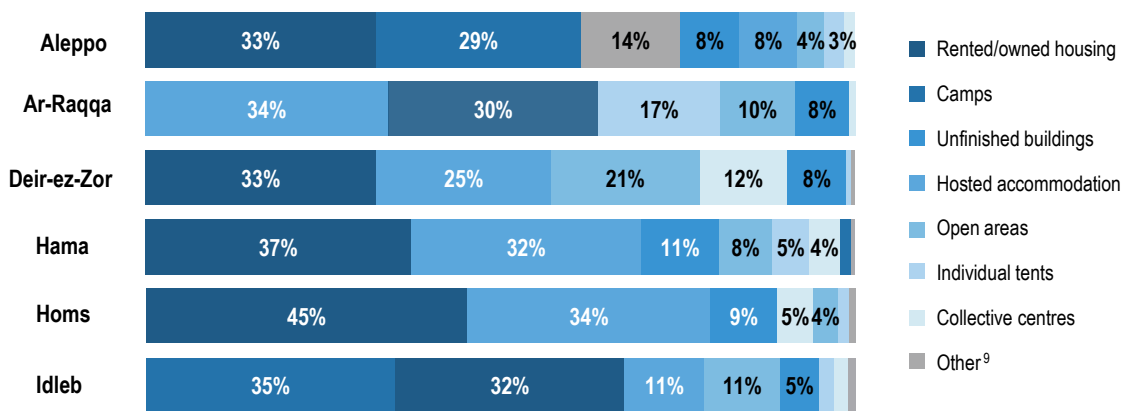
- The number of IDPs living in camps in ISMI-covered areas in Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs and Idleb increased steadily between 2 January and 2 April, from 425,744 to 466,055 (Figure 14). Smaller increases have also been recorded for IDPs living in unfinished buildings (from 111,013 to 118,104) and in individual tents (from 42,275 to 50,532).
- Meanwhile, the number of IDPs in rented or owned housing has decreased slightly since 2 January, from 715,026 to 713,301 IDPs living in such shelter as of 2 April (Figure 14). Nevertheless, the most common shelter arrangement remains rented or owned housing, although the number of IDPs living in this arrangement varies considerably between governorates (Figure 15).

Figure 14: Number of IDPs in five-most common shelter types, 2 January to 2 April 2017²



- The proportion of IDPs in camps is largest in Idleb and Aleppo governorates (35% and 29%, respectively), while a large proportion of IDPs in Ar-Raqqa and Hama governorates are reportedly hosted by relatives or friends (34% and 32%, respectively) (Figure 15).

Figure 15: Proportion of IDPs per shelter type as of 2 April 2017, by governorate⁸



⁷ Other includes collective centres, individual tents, open areas and other reported shelter types.

⁸ Data labels for shelter types constituting less than 2% have not been shown.

⁹ Other includes any other shelter type reported (i.e. hotels, clinics, farm houses, agricultural houses, mud huts, chicken coops, caves, etc.).

ABOUT ISMI & THIS FACTSHEET

The IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative (ISMI) is an initiative of the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, which incorporates data collected by cluster members, REACH and Syria Relief Network (SRN).

Following a baseline assessment conducted between 23 October and 21 November 2016, weekly data collection cycles have been initiated to provide regular updates on IDP movements. Based on 1,183 communities assessed in the governorates of Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs and Idleb during the baseline, this factsheet presents an analysis of displacement trends between 2 January and 2 April 2017, as recorded through 13 weekly data collection cycles.

Displacement was identified through an extensive key informant (KI) network, either through alert initiated by KIs or follow-up by enumerators. A range of two to three KIs were interviewed in each community, while information collected is triangulated with CCCM member data and humanitarian updates. This approach allows for regular updates on IDP movements at a community level across areas assessed. As coverage is not across all potentially affected areas, there are displacements that are not reported on here.

An initiative of



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