

CONTEXT & OVERALL FINDINGS

Three key developments drove major displacement across ISMI-covered areas between late November 2016 and 1 January 2017:

- **Ar-Raqqa offensive**, which began in November 2016, 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 eastern Aleppo city and Aleppo countryside** led to large displacement both within Aleppo governorate, primarily towards the west and north of the governorate, as well as towards Idlib governorate.
- **Escalating conflict around Al Bab** caused movements within Aleppo governorate, including towards the border area of A'zaz, as well as towards Menbij sub-district.

14% INCREASE IN # OF IDPs IN ISMI-COVERED AREA SINCE LATE NOVEMBER

The number of IDPs hosted in ISMI-covered communities in Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs and Idlib governorates rose by **14%**, from **1,595,696 IDPs in late November 2016 to 1,821,168 IDPs as of 1 January 2017**.

+37% INCREASE IN # OF IDPs IN ALEPPO GOVERNORATE

Driven by conflict escalation in eastern Aleppo city and elsewhere in the governorate, ISMI-covered Aleppo areas experienced the largest increase in IDPs hosted between late November 2016 and 1 January 2017 (**+37% at the governorate level**).

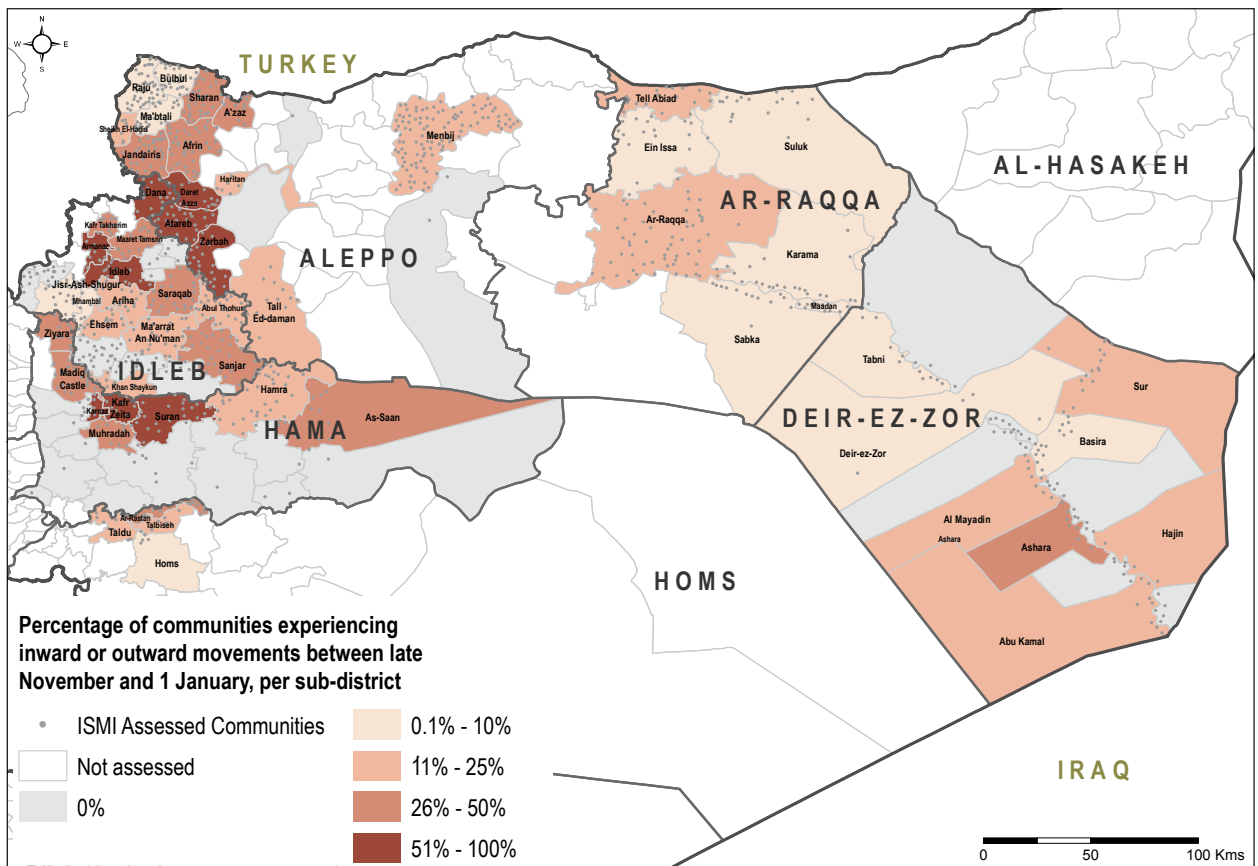
54% OF IDPs DISPLACED WITHIN GOVERNORATE OF ORIGIN, A REVERSAL SINCE LATE NOVEMBER

The **proportion of intra- vs. extra-governorate displacement has reversed since late November 2016**. While the majority of displacements captured in late November had occurred across governorate borders (54%), IDPs recorded as of 1 January were more frequently displaced within their governorates of origin (54%).

+109% INCREASE IN # OF IDPs HOSTED IN A'ZAZ SUB-DISTRICT

A'zaz sub-district in northern Aleppo remains one of the most fluid displacement areas and reported the largest relative increase in the number of IDPs hosted (**+109%**), from **113,025 in late November 2016 to 236,330 as of 1 January 2017**. **Abul Thohur** sub-district in Idlib governorate experienced a considerable relative increase in the number of IDPs hosted as well, at **68%**.

Map 1: Percentage of communities per sub-district with inward or outward IDP movements, late November - 1 January 2017

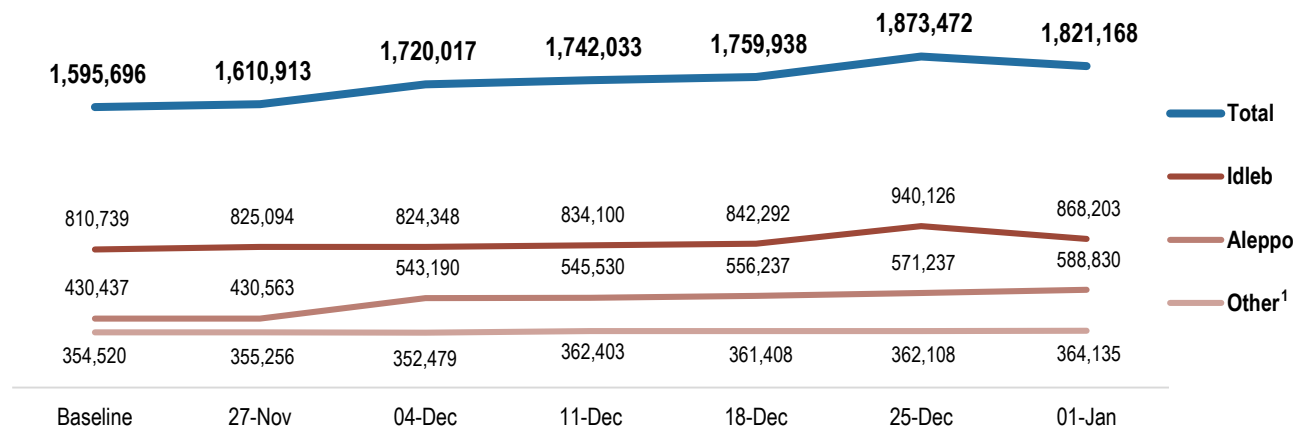


Displacement Trends: Figures

As of 1 January 2017, a total of 1,821,168 IDPs were hosted in the 1,183 ISMI-covered communities in Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama, Homs and Idleb governorates, a 14% increase (+225,472 IDPs) since late November 2016.

The number of IDPs hosted peaked between 19 and 25 December 2016 during the height of evacuations from eastern Aleppo city, at 1,873,472 IDPs.

Figure 1: IDP figures, late November 2016 to 1 January, overall and by governorate



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

Governorate Level Developments & Displacement Trends

IDLEB

ISMI-covered communities: 309. The capture of eastern Aleppo city and the subsequent evacuation of populations to rural Aleppo, with onward movement of IDPs to Idleb governorate, as well as intensified aerial bombardment in central and southern Idleb governorate, drove an **increase in the number of IDPs hosted in ISMI-covered communities across Idleb governorate in December, from 842,292 IDPs as of 18 December to 940,126 reported as of 25 December** (Figure 1).

ALEPPO

ISMI-covered communities: 414. Escalating conflict in western Aleppo governorate, as well as the ongoing offensive in Al Bab sub-district triggered large movements towards the north and east of Aleppo governorate in late November and the beginning of December 2016. The **number of IDPs hosted in ISMI-covered Aleppo communities rose from 430,563 IDPs in late November to 543,190 in the first week of December** (Figure 1).

DEIR-EZ-ZOR

ISMI-covered communities: 110. Considered at the governorate level, ISMI-covered areas in Deir-ez-Zor experienced a minor decrease in the number of IDPs hosted, **dropping from 151,163 IDPs in late November 2016 to 151,110 IDPs as of 1 January 2017** (Figure 1). Decreases in the number of IDPs hosted primarily occurred in Hajin sub-district, with reported reductions in conflict in IDPs' areas of origin, mainly in other governorates, as a common reason for IDPs departing.

AR-RAQQA

ISMI-covered communities: 165. With the beginning of the Ar-Raqqa offensive, **IDP movements within and from Ar-Raqqa governorate increased in late November/early December 2016, from 84,529 IDPs in the first week of December to 91,776 in the second** (Figure 1). Movements particularly occurred towards Ein Issa sub-district and Ar-Raqqa city, while inter-governorate displacements happened toward Menbij sub-district in Aleppo governorate.

HOMS

ISMI-covered communities: 39. IDP numbers in ISMI-covered areas of Homs governorate have remained relatively stable, **increasing slightly from 59,139 IDPs in late November 2016 to 60,281 IDPs as of 1 January 2017** (Figure 1). The number of IDPs hosted increased in ISMI-covered communities in Ar-Rastan, Homs, Talbiseh and Taldu sub-districts, with primary or secondary displacement occurring mainly from other areas in the governorate due to escalating conflict.

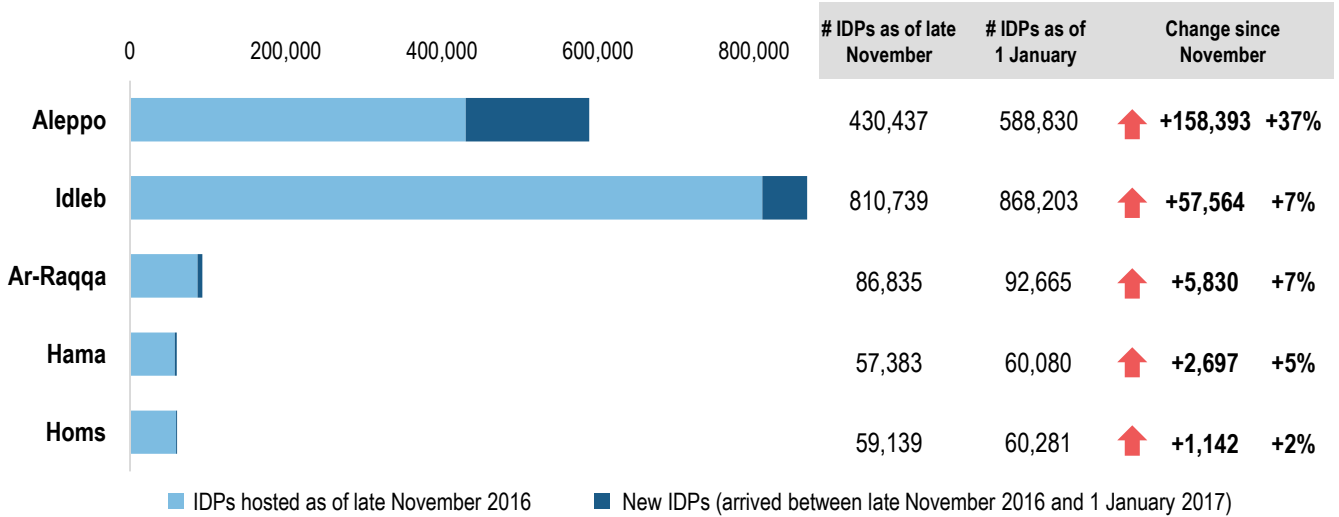
HAMA

ISMI-covered communities: 146. Persistent conflict in central and northern Hama has driven a **gradual increase in the number of IDPs hosted in ISMI-covered communities in northern Hama, from 57,383 IDPs in late November 2016 to 60,080 IDPs as of 1 January 2017** (Figure 1). The largest increase in the number of IDPs hosted occurred in the northern Hama sub-district of Madiq Castle, which is a common transit point for IDP movements into Idleb governorate.

Governorate level increase in IDP numbers

- **Aleppo governorate witnessed the largest absolute and relative increase in IDP numbers** between late November 2016 and 1 January 2017, with 158,393 additional IDPs hosted in ISMI-covered Aleppo communities, representing a **37% increase** (Figure 2).
- This was followed by **Idleb and Ar-Raqqa governorates**, at a relative increase in the number of IDPs of **7%** (Figure 2)

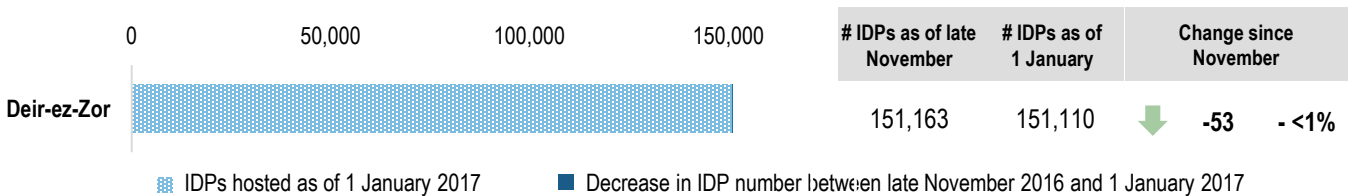
Figure 2: Governorate level increase in # of IDP in ISMI-covered communities, late November 2016 to 1 January 2017



Governorate level decrease in IDP numbers

- The number of IDPs hosted in ISMI-covered communities in **Deir-ez-Zor governorate decreased slightly** over the reporting period, by **53 IDPs** (Figure 3)

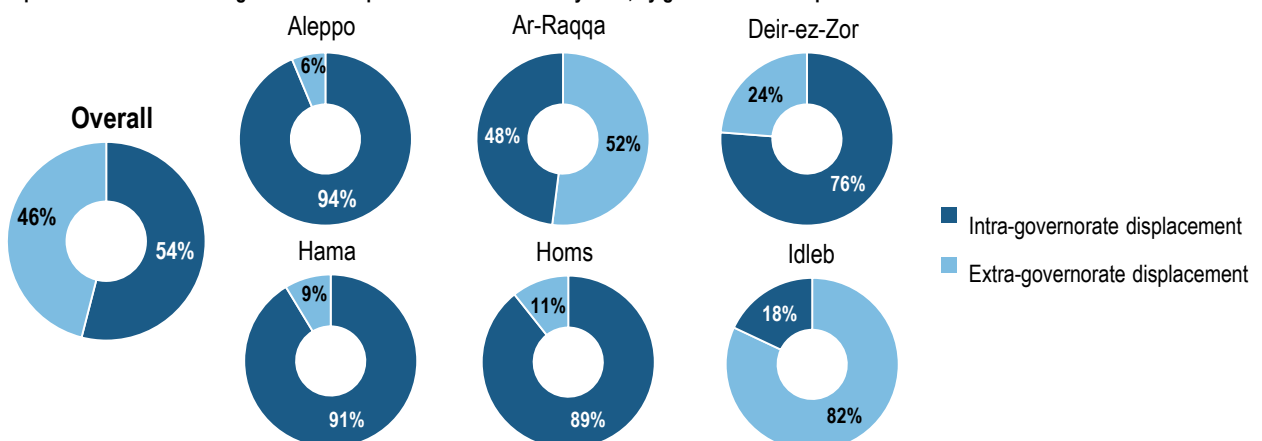
Figure 3: Governorate level decrease in # of IDP in ISMI-covered Deir-ez-Zor communities, late November 2016 to 1 January 2017



Governorate level displacement patterns

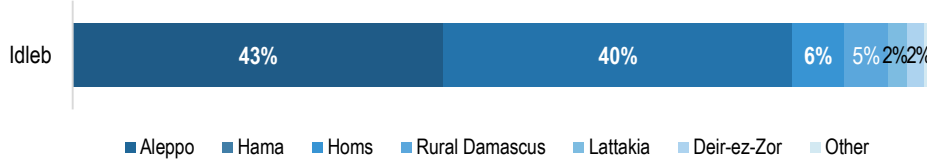
- As conflict intensified across Aleppo and Ar-Raqqa governorates, as well as in northern Hama and Homs governorates, **the relative security of opposition-held Idleb governorate continued to provide a potent pull factor for IDP movements over the reporting period.** This is reflected in the **overall highest proportion of IDPs from other governorates within Idleb governorate, at 82%** (Figure 4).
- **Ar-Raqqa** is the only other governorate in which the **majority of IDPs were displaced from other governorates (52%)**, rather than within Ar-Raqqa governorate (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Proportion of intra- vs. extra-governorate displacement as of 1 January 2017, by governorate of displacement



- The **largest number of extra governorate IDPs in Idleb governorate** came from **Aleppo** (283,556 IDPs) and **Hama** (265,940 IDPs) governorate, followed by **Homs** (39,789 IDPs), **Rural Damascus** (33,690 IDPs), **Lattakia** (14,392 IDPs) and **Deir-ez-Zor** (13,351 IDPs), with smaller number from Ar-Raqqa, Damascus, Dar'a, Tartous, Al-Hasakeh and As-Sweida (Figure 5).

Figure 5: % of IDPs from other governorates in Idleb governorate, as of 1 January 2017¹



- For **Ar-Raqqa**, extra-governorate displacement is primarily composed of IDPs from **Aleppo** (14,822), **Homs** (11,325), **Deir-ez-Zor** (9,391) and smaller numbers from Idleb, Hama, Rural Damascus and Dar'a. (Figure 6).

Figure 6: % IDPs from other governorates in Ar-Raqqa governorate, as of 1 January 2017²

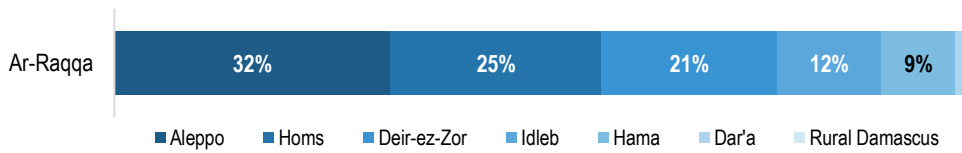
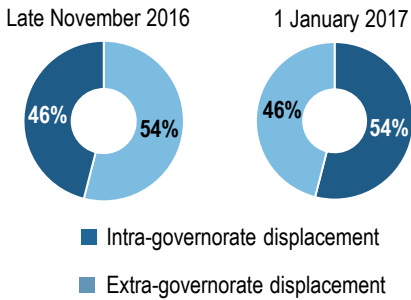


Figure 7: Comparison of intra- vs. extra-governorate displacement, late November 2016 to 1 January 2017

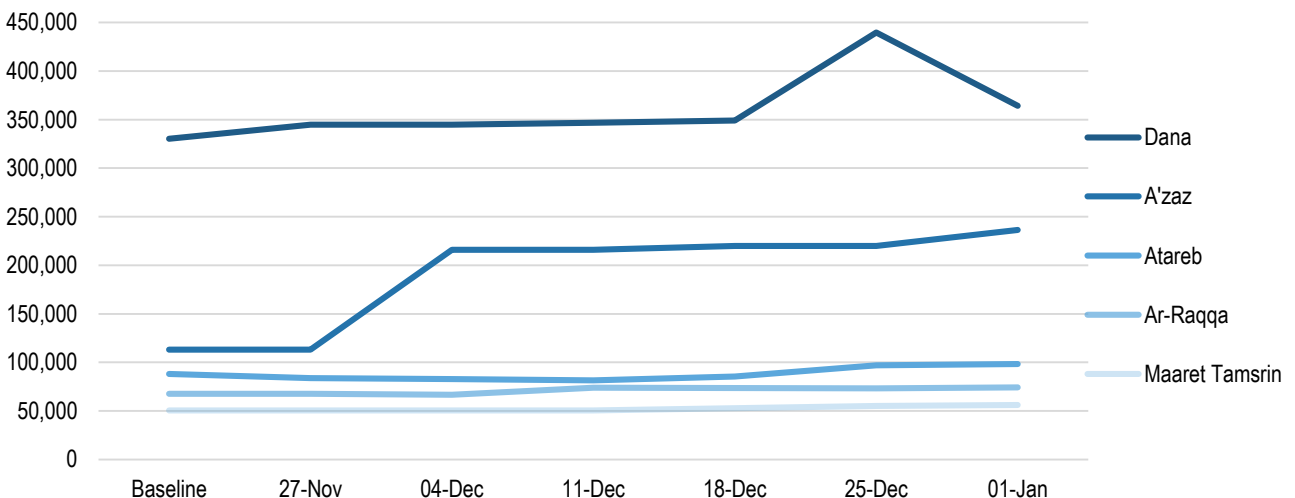


- Compared with intra and extra governorate displacement rates in late November 2016, the overall proportion has been reversed in January 2017. **While at the end of November the majority of identified IDPs had been displaced beyond their governorate of origin (54%), the majority of IDPs recorded as of 1 January 2017 had been displaced within their governorate of origin (54%)** (Figure 7).
- This development may be attributed to a steep increase in IDPs within Aleppo governorate owing to the **evacuation of eastern Aleppo city and conflict escalation in Al Bab**.

Sub-District Level Displacement Figures

- Dana sub-district in Idleb governorate remains the ISMI-covered sub-district hosting the largest number of IDPs** (364,139) (Figure 8), while also witnessing one of the largest absolute increases in the number of IDPs hosted (+33,797 IDPs).
- Escalating conflict in Al Bab and across Ar-Raqqa governorate contributed to a **29% increase in the number of IDPs in Menbij sub-district** since late November 2016 (Figure 8), now making it one of the ten most IDP-populated ISMI-covered sub-districts.

Figure 8: Five sub-districts with largest number of IDPs hosted, as of 1 January, trends since late November 2016

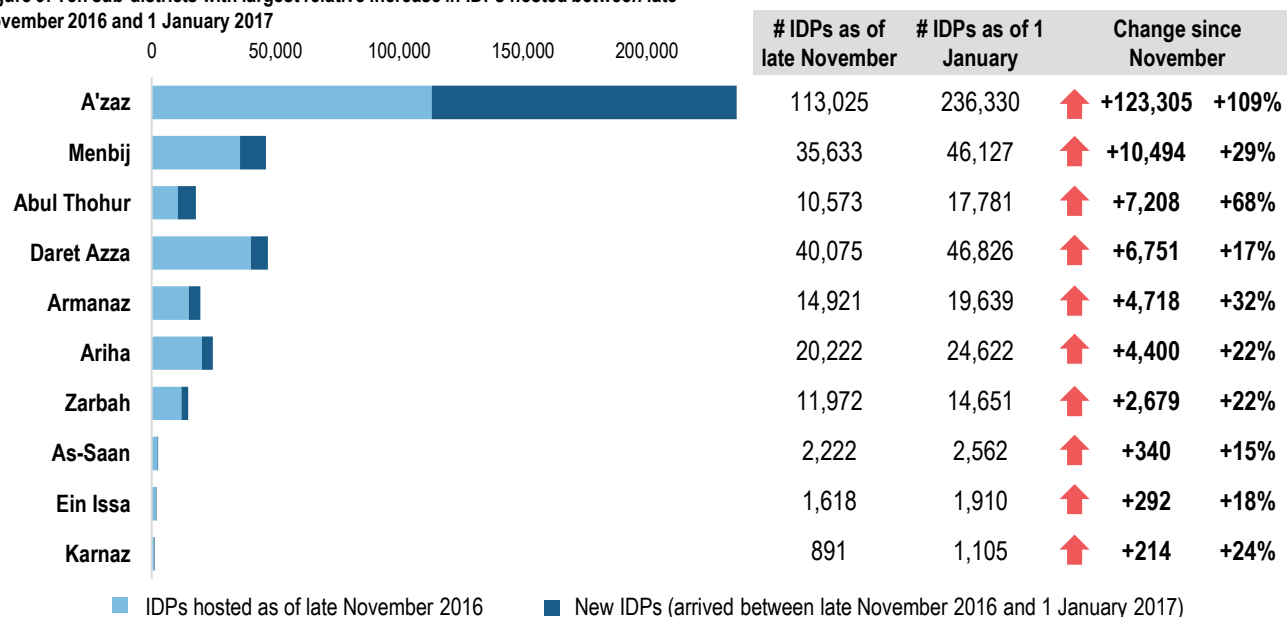


¹ % of IDPs from Ar-Raqqa, Damascus, Dar'a, Tartous, Al-Hasakeh and As-Sweida in Idleb governorate constituted less than 1% of the total recorded arrivals in the assessed period; ² % of IDPs from Dar'a and Rural Damascus governorates in Ar-Raqqa governorate each respectively constituted less than 2% of the total recorded arrivals in the assessed period.

Sub-district level increases in IDP numbers

- Owing to its relative safety and location at the Syrian-Turkish border, **A'zaz sub-district** in northern Aleppo governorate is a common displacement and IDP transit area, and thus witnessed the largest increase in the number of IDPs hosted, at **109%**, increasing from 113,025 IDPs in late November 2016 to 236,330 IDPs as of 1 January³ (Figure 9).
- Abul Thohur sub-district** in Idlib governorate also saw a considerable increase in IDPs hosted, primarily owing to Aleppo city displacement. Compared to late November 2016, an additional 7,208 IDPs were hosted as of 1 January (**+68%**). This was followed by **Armanaz sub-district** (+32%) in Idlib, with displacement from Jebel Saman and Haritan sub-districts in Aleppo, as well as from Rural Damascus, and **Menbij sub-district** (+29%) in Aleppo, inter alia caused by conflict escalation in Al Bab (Figure 9).

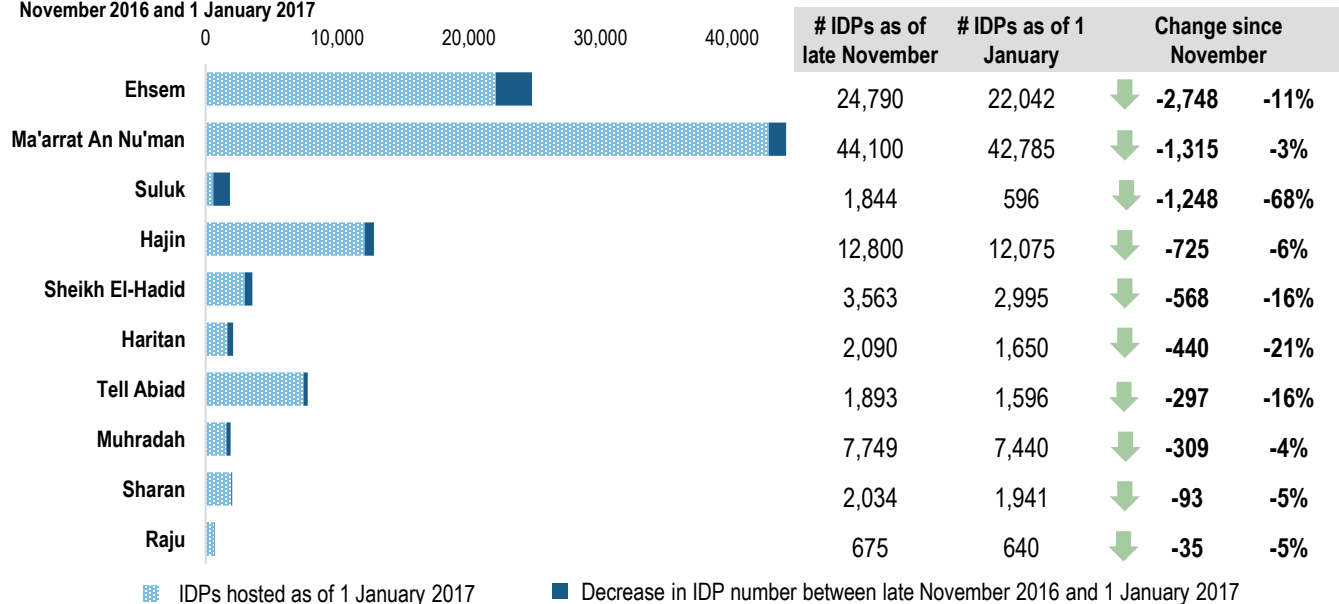
Figure 9: Ten sub-districts with largest relative increase in IDPs hosted between late November 2016 and 1 January 2017



Sub-district level decreases in IDP numbers

- Meanwhile, **Suluk sub-district** in northeastern Ar-Raqqa governorate witnessed the **largest relative decrease in the number of IDPs hosted**, falling from 1,844 in late November to 596 as of 1 January (**-68%**) (Figure 10). Improved safety in IDPs' area of origin reportedly enabled them to return home, most of them to Suluk city.
- Haritan** (-21%) and **Sheikh El-Hadid** (-16%) sub-districts in Aleppo, and **Muhradah** (-16%) sub-district in Hama, saw decreasing IDP numbers (Figure 10), with factors including loss of income and conflict escalation reportedly driving IDPs to leave these areas.

Figure 10: Ten sub-districts with largest relative decrease in IDPs hosted between late November 2016 and 1 January 2017



³ It should be noted that the scale and fluidity of movements into and out of communities in A'zaz 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 403 ISMI-covered communities in Aleppo (105), Ar-Raqqa (37), Deir-ez-Zor (13), Hama (80), Homs (15) and Idleb (102) governorates experienced inward or outward movements of IDPs between late November 2016 and 1 January 2017
- Qah in northern Idleb governorate remains the ISMI-covered community hosting the largest number of IDPs, with a total of 126,000 IDPs having found refuge there as of 1 January 2017 (Figures 11, 12). The second and third largest concentrations of IDPs are found in A'zaz and Atme camps, at 87,500 and 76,422 respectively.

Figure 11: Ten ISMI-covered communities with largest number of IDPs hosted, as of 1 January 2017

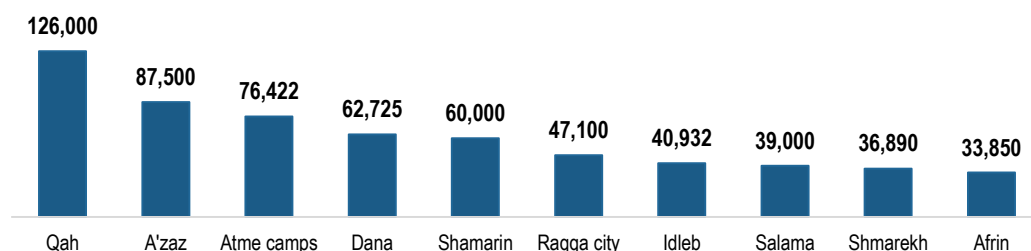
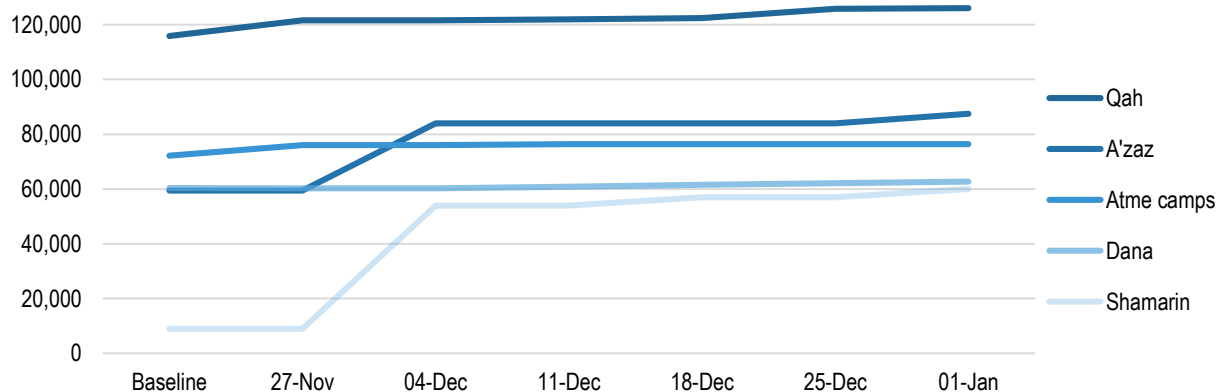


Figure 12: Trends of IDP numbers over time in five ISMI-covered communities with largest number of IDPs hosted, as of 1 January 2017



- Five communities experienced a relative increase in IDP numbers by over 1,000%, with the three largest relative community level increases recorded in Khayala (+2,143%, Ar-Raqqa), Shmarekh (+1,657%, Aleppo) and Baselhaya (+1,523%, Aleppo) (Figure 13). In line with conflict dynamics over the reporting period, six out of ten communities with the largest increases in IDP numbers are located in Ar-Raqqa governorate, while three are in Aleppo and one in Idleb.
- Meanwhile, five communities experienced the departure of all IDPs hosted as of late November (Figure 13).

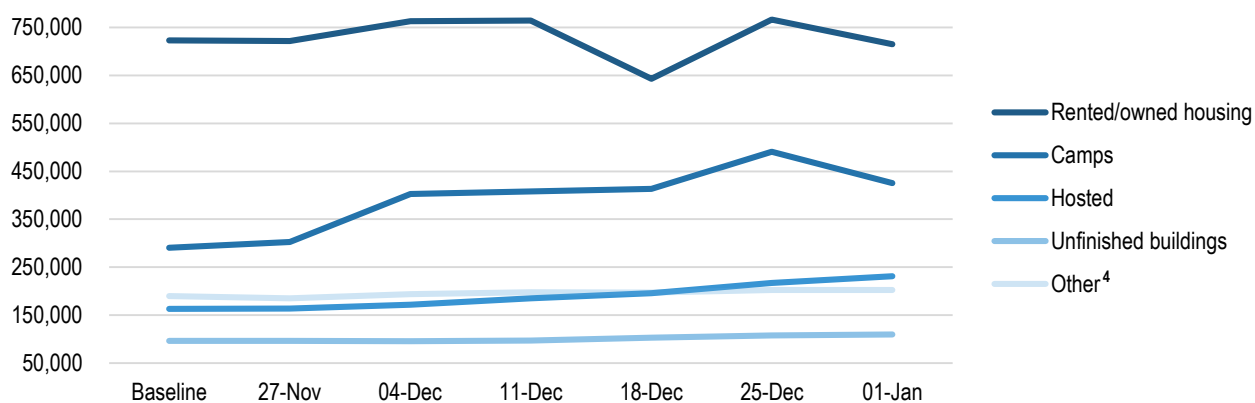
Figure 13: Ten communities with largest relative increase and decrease in number of IDPs hosted between late November and 1 January 2017

COMMUNITY	# IDPs as of late November	# IDPs as of 1 January	Change since November		COMMUNITY	# IDPs as of late November	# IDPs as of 1 January	Change since November	
			Change	%				Change	%
Shamarin	9,000	60,000	+51,000	+567%	Zalaqit	35	0	-35	-100%
Shmarekh	2,100	36,890	+34,790	+1,657%	Batranah	203	0	-203	-100%
Baselhaya	175	2,840	+2,665	+1,523%	Biret Manbaj	224	0	-224	-100%
Nahleh	180	2,130	+1,950	+1,083%	Little Arbaa	224	0	-224	-100%
Milsun	140	1,975	+1,835	+1,311%	Rahmaniya	670	0	-670	-100%
Abu Kabret Al Rashid	150	1,420	+1,270	+847%	Taljineh	560	14	-546	-98%
Yaarub	200	1,190	+990	+495%	Wadi Elthaalab - Lower Jqal	500	40	-460	-92%
Khayala	35	785	+750	+2,143%	Abu Kahf	192	24	-168	-88%
Bir Arab	3	18	+15	+500%	Tal Hammam	1,400	175	-1,225	-99%
Assadiya	140	798	+658	+470%	Hseiniyeh - Tal Kalba	360	54	-306	-85%

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 has increased considerably between late November 2016 and 1 January 2017, from 290,508 to 425,482 (Figure 14). Smaller yet considerable increases have also been recorded for IDPs living in unfinished buildings (from 96,234 to 110,066) and in individual tents (from 30,729 to 42,180) (Figure 14).
- Meanwhile, the number of IDPs in rented or owned housing has decreased slightly since late November 2016, from 722,935 IDPs to 715,026 IDPs living in such shelter as of 1 January 2017 (Figure 14). Nevertheless, the most common shelter arrangement remains rented or owned housing, while the number of IDPs living in this arrangement varies considerably between governorates (Figure 15).

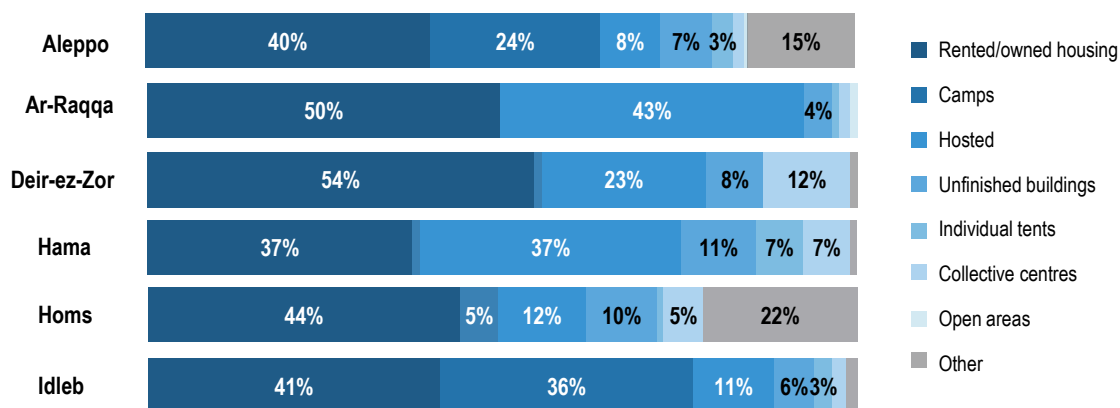
Figure 14: Number of IDPs in five-most common shelter types, late November 2016 until 1 January 2017



⁴ Other includes collective centres, individual tents, open areas and other reported shelter types.

- The proportion of IDPs in camps is largest in Idleb and Aleppo governorates (36% and 24%, respectively), while a large proportion of IDPs in Ar-Raqqa and Hama governorates are reportedly hosted by relatives or friends (43% and 37%, respectively) (Figure 15).

Figure 15: Proportion of IDPs per shelter as of 1 January 2017, by governorate⁵



⁵ Data labels for shelter types constituting less than 2% have not been shown.

ABOUT ISMI & THIS FACTSHEET

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

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 21 November, i.e. the baseline, and 1 January 2017, as recorded through six 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 2-3 KIs were interviewed in each community, while collected information was further triangulated through other sources, including CCCM member data and humanitarian updates. This approach allows for regular updates on IDP movements at a community level across ISMI coverage areas. As movement updates are limited to areas covered by ISMI, there are displacements that are not reported on here.

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