



2.1.7. Conflict-induced displacement and return

IOM's population movements assessments in Syria, which started as of February 2025, show that there was a decrease in Aleppo's IDP population between February 2025 (around 1.4 million out of a total population of approximately 4.84 million, 29 %)[512](#) and April 2026 (around 970 000 out of a total population of approximately 5.7 million, 17 %).[513](#)

According to UNOCHA, clashes between Syrian government forces and the SDF in the Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafiyeh neighbourhoods of Aleppo displaced an estimated 148 000 people between 6 and 10 January 2026.[514](#) Approximately 29 000 had returned to their homes by 12 January.[515](#) By March 2026, IOM reported that an estimated 79 % of those displaced from Aleppo governorate during the most recent conflict in North-East Syria had returned to their areas of origin compared with the peak level of displacement recorded on 9 January, when 138 053 individuals were reported as displaced. The majority of those remaining in displacement (a total of 28 691) were residing in Afrin (13 278) and Ain al-Arab (10 397).[516](#) At the same time, UNOCHA estimated the prospects for return to Afrin district to be constrained by unclear procedures, insecurity, and widespread property destruction or secondary occupation.[517](#)

UNHCR further estimated that, as of end of May 2026, 469 090 individuals had returned to locations in Aleppo governorate from internal displacement since December 2024[518](#) and that 233 317 had returned to the governorate from abroad within the same period.[519](#)

- [512](#)

IOM, Syrian Arab Republic – Community Baseline Assessment – Round 1 – February 2025, 6 March 2025, [url](#), p. 8

- [513](#)

IOM, Syrian Arab Republic – Population Mobility and Baseline Assessment – Round 15 – April 2026, 18 May 2026, [url](#), p. 7

- [514](#)

UNOCHA, Syrian Arab Republic: Flash Update No. 3 - Clashes in Aleppo (as of 10 January 2026), 10 January 2026, [url](#), p. 2

- [515](#)

UNOCHA, Syrian Arab Republic: Flash Update No. 4, Clashes in Aleppo, 12 January 2026, [url](#), p. 2

- [516](#)

IOM, Syrian Arab Republic: Emergency Mobility Tracking Situation Report Aleppo/ North East Syria (NES) Conflict – Round 15, 11 March 2026, [url](#), p. 1

- [517](#)

UNOCHA, Syria: Humanitarian Response in Aleppo and the North East, Humanitarian Situation Report No. 4, 4 March 2026, [url](#), p. 2

- [518](#)

UNHCR, Syrian Arab Republic: Comprehensive Overview of IDPs and IDP Returns Dashboard, 21 May 2026, [url](#)

- [519](#)

UNHCR, Syrian Arab Republic: Comprehensive Overview of Refugee Returns Dashboard, 21 May 2026, [url](#)