



1.4.3. Conflict-related infrastructure damage and explosive remnants of war

As a result of more than fourteen years of conflict, 52 % of the country's housing stock remained partially or completely damaged as of late 2025.³⁸⁹ In the period since the fall of the Al-Assad regime, conflict-related incidents continued to inflict significant damage to civilian infrastructure,³⁹⁰ including to residential buildings, medical and educational facilities, religious places of worship, agricultural lands and infrastructure, livestock, and water-related infrastructure.³⁹¹ Both the hostilities in Latakia, Tartous, Homs and Hama in March 2025 and in Sweida in July 2025 led to the looting and destruction of houses and property.³⁹² The March 2025 violence led to homes and shops being burnt³⁹³ and looted, leaving entire residential areas and villages decimated.³⁹⁴ In the context of combing operations led by transitional government forces, homes of Alawites³⁹⁵ and Shiites, as well as shops and other sources of income were looted, damaged or destroyed. In July 2025, multiple homes and businesses were set on fire in Sweida City, while most homes, businesses and Druze religious sites were looted and burnt across at least 35 Druze-majority villages in the governorate after their capture by government forces or armed tribesmen, according to the UNCOI. In several areas, Druze fighters in turn pillaged businesses, livestock and vehicles of Bedouins and destroyed their houses.³⁹⁶ The military escalation in the Ashrafieh and Sheikh Maqsoud neighbourhoods of Aleppo City in early January 2026 involved wide-spread looting of homes and shops, as well as destruction to private property after their residents/owners had fled.³⁹⁷

Israeli military operations also caused damage and destruction to civilian property,³⁹⁸ affecting 23 structures in three villages in Quneitra between December 2024 and May/June 2025.³⁹⁹ Further clashes resulting from an IDF ground incursion in Beit Jinn (Rural Damascus) in late November 2025 caused extensive damage and destruction to property.⁴⁰⁰ In January 2026, it was further reported that Israeli aircraft had sprayed pesticides over farmland in Quneitra for several days, allegedly to prevent the growth of vegetation used for cattle grazing.⁴⁰¹

Landmines and explosive remnants of war remained a significant threat to civilians across Syria,⁴⁰² especially in rural and agricultural areas.⁴⁰³ While the exact extent of contamination was unknown,⁴⁰⁴ it was reported to be highest in Latakia, Hama, Homs, Sweida, Deir Ez-Zor, and Raqqqa.⁴⁰⁵ Between December 2024 and December 2025, around 900 explosive ordnance-linked incidents were recorded.⁴⁰⁶ Several sources estimated the number of deaths caused by such incidents since December 2024 at 607 as of the end of 2025⁴⁰⁷ (with an additional 1 061 injured)⁴⁰⁸ and at least 700 as of March/early April 2026⁴⁰⁹ (1 193 injuries).⁴¹⁰ Meanwhile, SNHR recorded that at least 317 civilians had been killed by landmines between the fall of the Al-Assad regime in December 2024 and April 2026.⁴¹¹ Deir Ez-Zor, Aleppo, and Idlib accounted

for the highest numbers of incidents⁴¹² and deaths from landmines and explosive remnants.⁴¹³ Other areas highly affected by contamination included Homs, Hama,⁴¹⁴ Dar'a,⁴¹⁵ Raqqa and Hasaka.⁴¹⁶ Unexploded ordnance posed a significant hazard to movements of IDPs⁴¹⁷ and returning refugees, with former frontline zones deemed as areas most at risk.⁴¹⁸ Children have been disproportionately affected by explosive remnants of war,⁴¹⁹ accounting for 30 % of deaths and 40 % of injuries between December 2024 and February 2026,⁴²⁰ although such reported figures were likely to be below the actual numbers.⁴²¹ Mine action organisations in 2025 surveyed more than 2.9 billion square metres of land, significantly extending the area assessed for contamination levels, and destroyed over 27 000 pieces of explosive ordnance found on farmland, along former frontlines, in civilian facilities, and along roads.⁴²² Despite these efforts, the country lacked comprehensive mine clearance programmes⁴²³ and, as of early 2026, many contaminated areas remained where no demining operations were underway.⁴²⁴

- ³⁸⁹

UNHCR et al., Syria Nationwide Housing Damage Assessment (October-November-December 2025), 23 January 2026, [url](#), p. 7

- ³⁹⁰

STJ, Syria: Forced Displacement and Looting of Property in Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafiyah during the Aleppo Escalation (January 2026), 2 April 2026, [url](#); UNOCHA, Syrian Arab Republic: 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, April 2026, [url](#), p. 13

- ³⁹¹

UNOCHA, Syrian Arab Republic: 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, April 2026, [url](#), p. 13

- ³⁹²

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, A/HRC/61/62, 12 March 2026, [url](#), para. 39

- ³⁹³

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, A/HRC/61/62, 12 March 2026, [url](#), Annex I, p. 32, HRW, "Are you Alawi?" Identity-Based Killings During Syria's Transition, 23 September 2025, [url](#), p. 18

- ³⁹⁴

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, A/HRC/61/62, 12 March 2026, [url](#), Annex I, p. 32

- ³⁹⁵

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, A/HRC/61/62, 12 March 2026, [url](#), Annex I, p. 32; Shafaq News, Syrian Observatory: Three Alawites killed, homes burned in Latakia raids, 6 June 2025, [url](#)

- [396](#)

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, A/HRC/61/62, 12 March 2026, [url](#), Annex I, pp. 32-33

- [397](#)

STJ, Syria: Forced Displacement and Looting of Property in Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafieh during the Aleppo Escalation (January 2026), 2 April 2026, [url](#)

- [398](#)

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, A/HRC/61/62, 12 March 2026, [url](#), para. 82

- [399](#)

Amnesty International, Syria: Israel's deliberate destruction of civilian homes in Quneitra must be investigated as war crimes, 14 May 2026, [url](#)

- [400](#)

UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, A/HRC/61/62, 12 March 2026, [url](#), Annex I, p. 38

- [401](#)

Etana Syria, Brief: Israeli operations continue in south-west Syria, 3 February 2026, [url](#)

- [402](#)

IOM, Syrian Arab Republic, Communities of Return Index, January 2026 – Round 4, 2 April 2026, [url](#), p. 7

- [403](#)

SNHR, The Fifteenth Annual Report on Human Rights Situation in Syria 2025, 26 March 2026, [url](#), p. 8

- [404](#)

Handicap International, Landminen in Syrien [Landmines in Syria], last updated 16 March 2026, [url](#)

- [405](#)

IOM, Syrian Arab Republic, Communities of Return Index, January 2026 – Round 4, 2 April 2026, [url](#), p. 7

- [406](#)

UNMAS, Syria, last updated 10 June 2026, [url](#); Mine Action AoR, Syria, 2025 – A Year in Review, Situation Update No.6, 8 December 2025, [url](#), p. 2

- [407](#)

UNMAS, Syria, last updated 10 June 2026, [url](#)

- [408](#)

UNOCHA, Syrian Arab Republic: 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (April 2026), 2 April 2026, [url](#), p. 10

- [409](#)

HALO Trust (The), Surviving the war, dying in peace, 23 March 2026, [url](#); UNICEF, Children in Syria remain at deadly risk from explosive remnants of war, 4 April 2026, [url](#)

- [410](#)

UNICEF, Children in Syria remain at deadly risk from explosive remnants of war, 4 April 2026, [url](#)

- [411](#)

SNHR, On the International Day for Mine Awareness: Documenting the deaths of at least 3,799 civilians from landmines and cluster munitions in Syria, March 2011 – April 2026, 4 April 2026, [url](#), p. 8

- [412](#)

UNMAS, Syria, last updated 10 June 2026, [url](#); Mine Action AoR, Syria, 2025 – A Year in Review, Situation Update No.6, 8 December 2025, [url](#), p. 2

- [413](#)

UNMAS, Syria, last updated 10 June 2026, [url](#); SNHR, On the International Day for Mine Awareness: Documenting the deaths of at least 3,799 civilians from landmines and cluster munitions in Syria, March 2011 – April 2026, 4 April 2026, [url](#), p. 8

- [414](#)

UNICEF, Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Situation Report No. 16, October 2025, 28 November 2025, [url](#), p. 2

- [415](#)

Etana Syria, Brief: Israeli operations continue in south-west Syria, 3 February 2026, [url](#)

- [416](#)

Enab Baladi, Explosive remnants of war continue to threaten children in northeast Syria, 28 March 2026, [url](#)

- [417](#)

SARD, UXO Challenge in Syria and Awareness Campaign, 5 March 2026, [url](#); Mine Action AoR, Syria, 2025 – A Year in Review, Situation Update No.6, 8 December 2025, [url](#), p. 3

- [418](#)

SARD, UXO Challenge in Syria and Awareness Campaign, 5 March 2026, [url](#)

- [419](#)

UNICEF, Children in Syria remain at deadly risk from explosive remnants of war, 4 April 2026, [url](#); HALO Trust (The), Surviving the war, dying in peace, 23 March 2026, [url](#); SARD, UXO Challenge in Syria and Awareness Campaign, 5 March 2026, [url](#);

- [420](#)

UNICEF, Children in Syria remain at deadly risk from explosive remnants of war, 4 April 2026, [url](#)

- [421](#)

UNICEF, Children in Syria remain at deadly risk from explosive remnants of war, 4 April 2026, [url](#); HALO Trust (The), Surviving the war, dying in peace, 23 March 2026, [url](#)

- [422](#)

Mine Action AoR, Syria, 2025 – A Year in Review, Situation Update No.6, 8 December 2025, [url](#), p. 5

- [423](#)

SNHR, The Fifteenth Annual Report on Human Rights Situation in Syria 2025, 26 March 2026, [url](#), p. 8

- [424](#)

IOM, Syrian Arab Republic, Communities of Return Index, January 2026 – Round 4, 2 April 2026, [url](#), p. 8