



2.2.7. Conflict-induced displacement and return

According to IOM's population movements assessments in Syria, which started two months after the December 2024 power shift, 61 % of Idlib governorate's population (around 1 769 000 out of a total population of approximately 2.90 million) were IDPs as of February 2025.[576](#) Since then, according to data from subsequent population movements assessment rounds, the share of IDPs of the total population has steadily decreased,[577](#) reaching 33 % (around 878 955 out of a total of 2.66 million) as of April 2026.[578](#) Idlib remained the primary area in Syria from which IDPs returned in March[579](#) and April 2026,[580](#) driven by higher rental expenses in displacement sites and worsening living conditions caused by heavy rainfall.[581](#)

At the same time, IOM reported that Idlib governorate provided the most favorable conditions for a sustainable return within the country as of January 2026. Indicators used for this IOM-assessment included, among others, security, access to livelihoods, housing, and access to documentation.[582](#) This is reflected in the numbers of IDP returnees to Idlib, which rose from around 145 000 (5 % of the total population) in February 2025[583](#) to around 559 000 (21 % of the total population) as of April 2026. An additional 5 % (around 133 000) of Idlib's population were documented as returnees from abroad.[584](#) However, UNHCR estimated that, as of 21 May 2026, around 417 000 individuals had returned to Idlib governorate from internal displacement since December 2024[585](#) and approximately 240 000 had returned from abroad within the same period.[586](#)

- [576](#)

IOM, Syrian Arab Republic – Community Baseline Assessment – Round 1 – February 2025, 6 March 2025, [url](#), pp. 3, 7

- [577](#)

IOM, Syrian Arab Republic – Population Mobility and Baseline Assessment – Round 4 – May 2025, 11 June 2025, [url](#), p. 8; IOM, Syrian Arab Republic – Population Mobility and Baseline Assessment – Round 7 – August 2025, 12 September 2025, [url](#), p. 8; IOM, Syrian Arab Republic – Population Mobility and Baseline Assessment – Round 10 – November 2025, 19 December 2025, [url](#), p. 7; IOM, Syrian Arab Republic – Population Mobility and Baseline Assessment – Round 13 – February 2026, 16 March 2026, [url](#), p. 7

- [578](#)

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

- [579](#)

IOM, Syrian Arab Republic – Population Mobility and Baseline Assessment – Round 14 – March 2026, 16 April 2026, [url](#), p. 5

- [580](#)

IOM, Syrian Arab Republic – Population Mobility and Baseline Assessment – Round 15 – April 2026, 18 May 2026, [url](#), p. 5

- [581](#)

IOM, Syrian Arab Republic – Population Mobility and Baseline Assessment – Round 14 – March 2026, 16 April 2026, [url](#), p. 5

- [582](#)

IOM, Syrian Arab Republic, Communities of Return Index, January 2026 – Round 4, 2 April 2026, [url](#), pp. 3, 23

- [583](#)

IOM, Syrian Arab Republic – Community Baseline Assessment – Round 1 – February 2025, 6 March 2025, [url](#), p. 7

- [584](#)

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

- [585](#)

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

- [586](#)

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