

HOMS CITY FACTSHEET

LOCATION AND SIGNIFICANCE

Homs city is the capital of Homs governorate. The M5 highway links Homs to Damascus, some 150km away. The city sits amongst some of the most productive agricultural land in Syria. Trade with the northern Qalamoun, the coastal region (Lattakia and Tartous), and northern Homs has made the city one of the largest agricultural hubs in Syria. The population is multi-ethno-sectarian - predominantly Sunni, together with smaller Christian and Alawite communities. The division of city neighborhoods along ethnic lines has persisted since the pre-war period and represent an ongoing source of local friction.

THE CURRENT POLITICAL AND MILITARY SITUATION

By 2014, Government of Syria forces had advanced into all areas previously under the control of the opposition. The Government of Syria has retained control over the city since this time, and a series of affiliated military actors wield considerable local power. Other Government of Syria forces present in the city include police, criminal security, and forces of law and order. Local sources report that a new Government of Syria division, the Fourth Shield, was created in Fall 2018. This division reportedly enforces taxes on vehicles transporting iron from destroyed parts of the city.

ACCESS AND POPULATION RETURN ENVIRONMENT

Many residents are reliant on state employment for income. Work with humanitarian agencies is also widespread. Trade in Homs is relatively active, but is mostly restricted to traditional traders that experienced fewer conflict- and war economy-related effects, and the main markets of the city have remained in the same areas. Given that rehabilitation and reconstruction is underway in the city, the construction industry is also reportedly growing, although many contracts have been monopolized by contractors external to Homs (Tartous and Damascus) due to their access to cheaper building materials. Power generation services and the supply of medicines are also reportedly subject to monopolization, but mainly by actors local to the city. Economic stagnation and security concerns continue to impede returns, and many of those that have returned to the city were IDPs that previously lived in dire camp conditions.

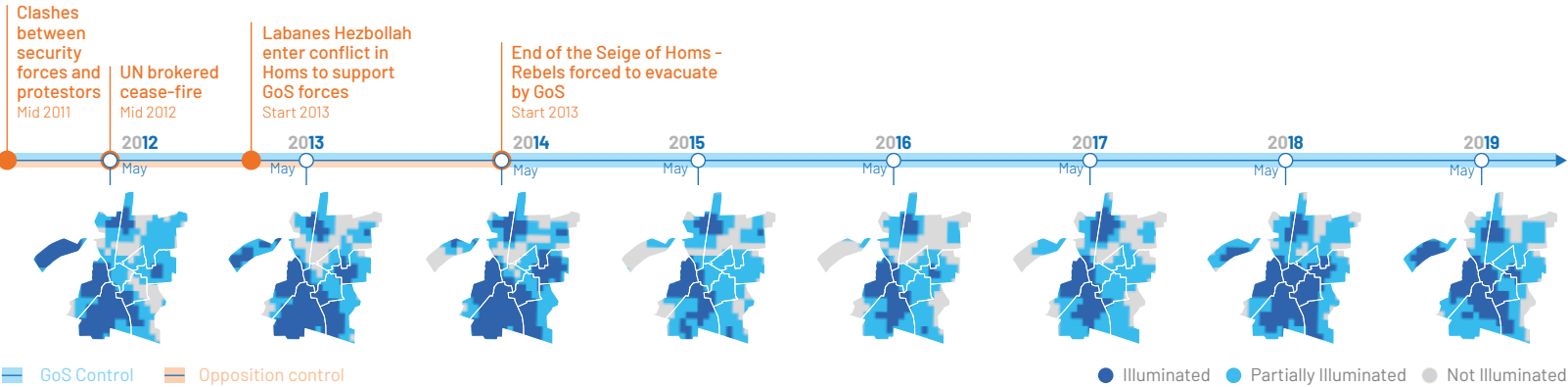
GOVERNANCE

The city's Local Council answers to the Municipal Government, which is in turn answerable to the Governorate level administration. Despite the recent (September 2018) local council elections, the local council is largely symbolic and wields limited power over city affairs. The security situation is relatively stable, and robbery and kidnapping are less frequent than previous levels, during 2015 and 2016. Notably however, the presence of competing military actors coupled with high local social tensions has the potential to cause deterioration in local security conditions.

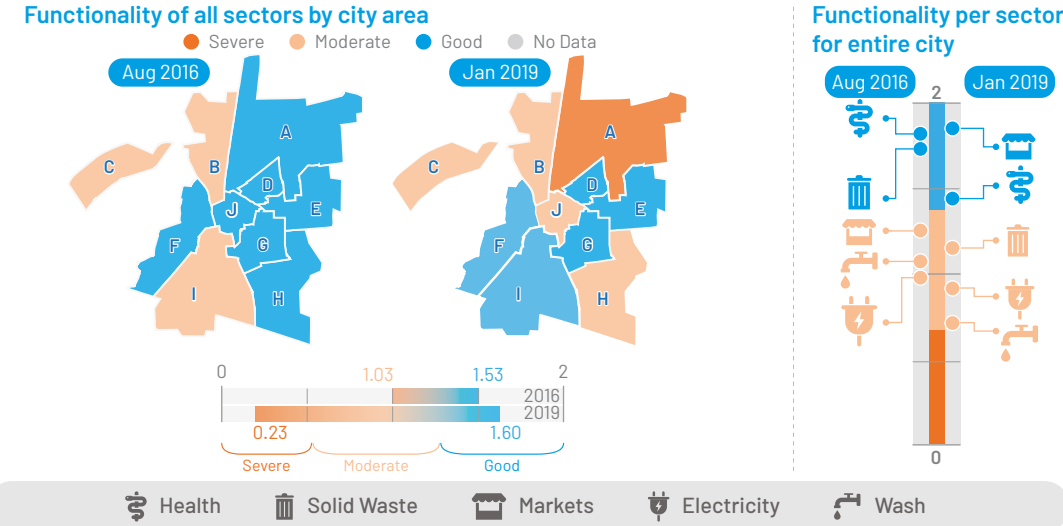
RESPONSE ENVIRONMENT

Several UN agencies and international humanitarian actors do have programs in Homs city, in addition to several local NGOs including Christian, Alawite and Muslim local organizations. Local sources have reported a lack of coordination among different actors in the city at the level of their beneficiary lists; as a result some beneficiaries receive same services and aid more frequently than others.

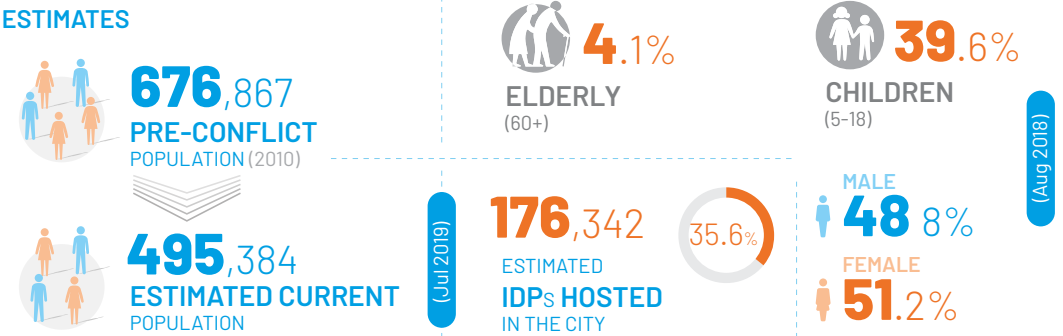
CONFLICT TIMELINE AND POPULATION FOOTPRINT ¹



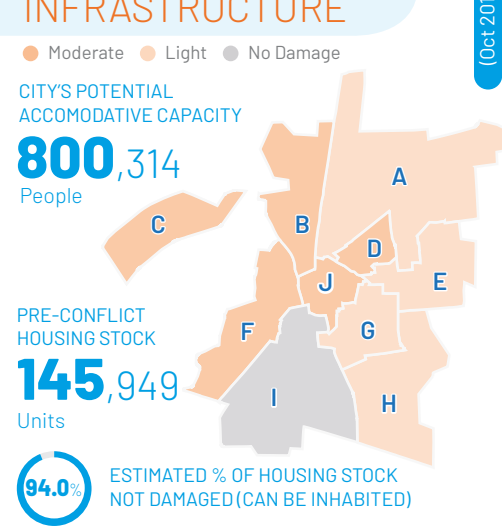
SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE ²



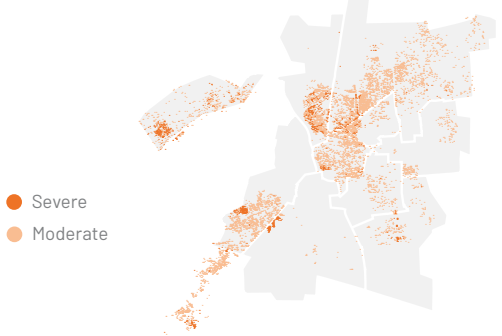
POPULATION ⁴



DAMAGE TO HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE ³

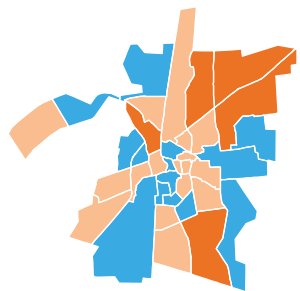


DAMAGE CLOUD

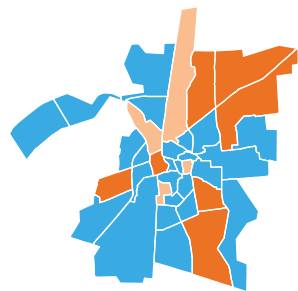


AVERAGE FUNCTIONALITY BY SECTOR AND NEIGHBORHOOD

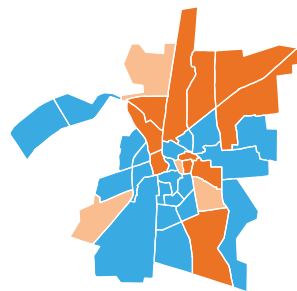
⚡ Energy



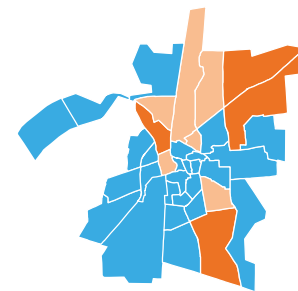
📖 Education



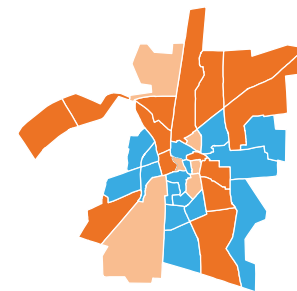
🏥 Health



🚰 WASH

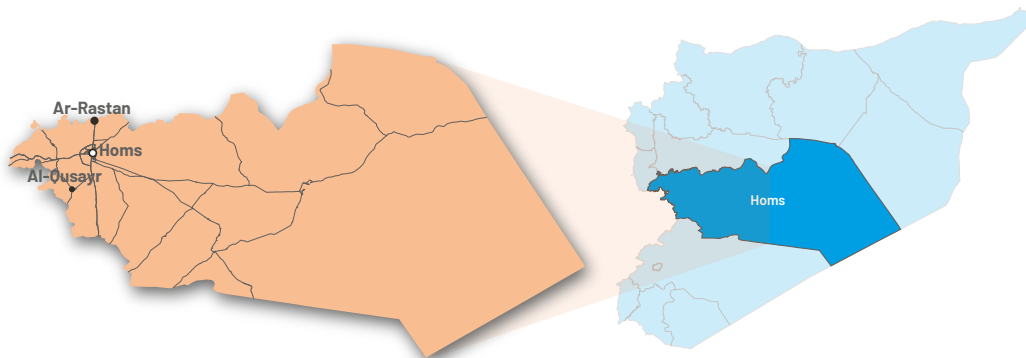


🗑️ Solid Waste



● Severe (0 - 0.69) ● Moderate (0.7 - 1.39) ● Good (1.4 - 2.0) ● No Data

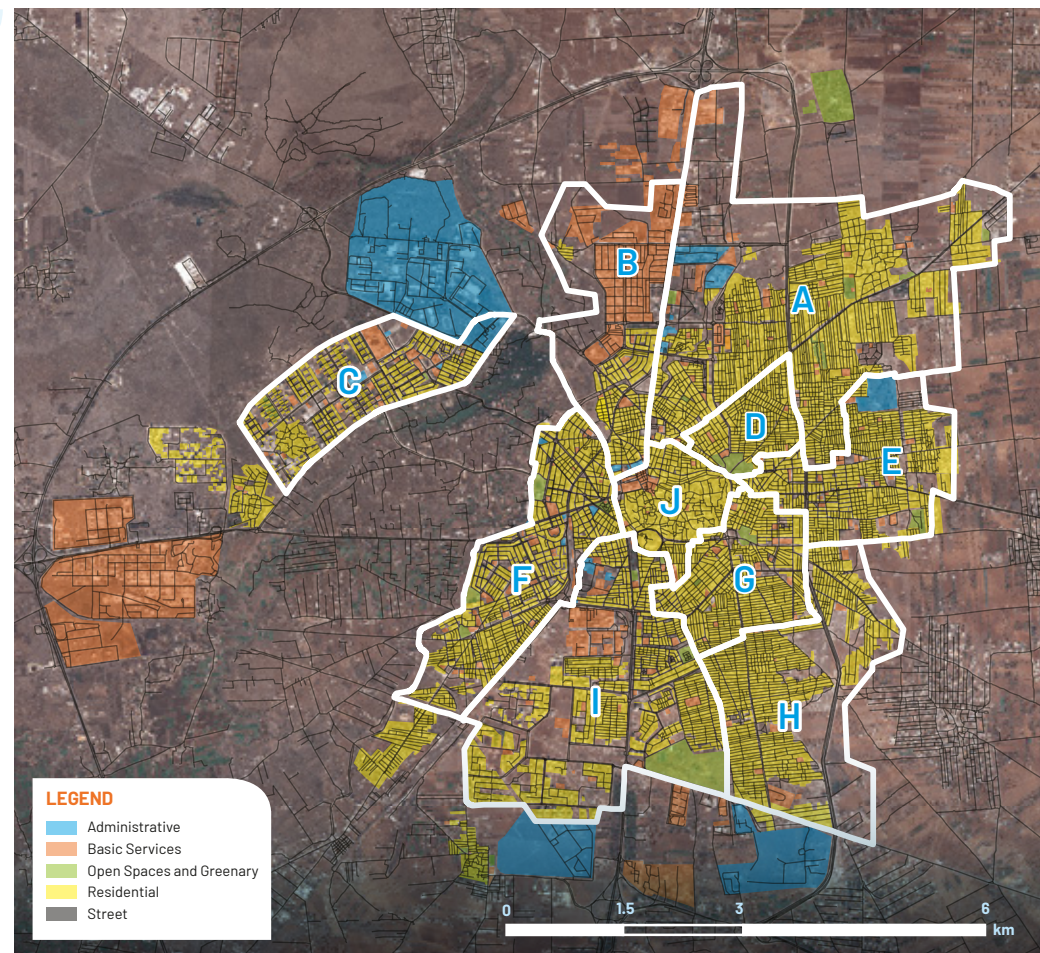
CITY MAP ⁵



City Areas:

Consists of neighbourhoods:

- A : Bayada, Khalidiyah, Deir Ba'alba Shamali, Deir Ba'alba Janoubi
- B : Jouret Ash-Shayyah, Qosour, Hasaweeyah
- C : Mimas, Wa'er
- D : Karm Shamsham, Sabil
- E : Zahra', Abbasiyeh-Muhajreen
- F : Baba Amr, Mahatta, Boghtasiyyah, Ghot, Fardos
- G : Karm Al-Loaz, Jeb Aj-Jandali, Mraijeh, Nuzha, Karm Az-Zeitoun
- H : Wadi Ath-Thahab, Arman
- I : Daheyat Al-Waleed, Ikrima, Khidr, Karm Ash-Shami
- J : Hameidiyyeh, Bab Houd, Bani Sbaie, Bab As-Siba', Bab Ad-Draib, Jamal Ad-Dein, Bab Tadmor



LEGEND

- Administrative
- Basic Services
- Open Spaces and Greenery
- Residential
- Street

METHODOLOGY

1. NIGHTTIME/POPULATION FOOTPRINT

In order to assess the population distribution in the City, granular data at the level of neighborhood are needed (e.g. data on distribution of aid, disaggregated at neighborhood level). This data does not exist except for a few large cities. In the secondary Cities, UrbAN-S relied on a proxy indicator to give an approximate picture of the likely population distribution. Using nighttime images that capture the average radiance composite on a monthly basis, an annual composite was produced for each year since 2012 (except when the data was not available). Nightlight data from VIIRS was used as provided by the NOAA Earth Observations Group (EOG) (https://ngdc.noaa.gov/eog/viirs/download_dnb_composites.html)

Prior to averaging the version 1 suite product, the DNB data was filtered to reduce the impacted by stray light, lightning, lunar illumination, and cloud-cover, but external light sources such as fires were not removed.

VIIRS light intensity values were extracted for 20 cities and ranged between 0 to 85 nanoW/cm2/sr with 0 nanoW/cm2/sr indicating total darkness, values above 5 nanoW/cm2/sr indicating some human activity and values above 7 nanoW/cm2/sr linked to more intense, brighter light. Each city was classified according to the three intensity classes.

The analyses of nighttime images are regularly used beyond their ability to measure access to electricity as a proxy for different types of indicators (e.g. Economic activity, areas of damage). When the nighttime illumination map is geo-referenced with the neighborhood boundaries, it is possible to use the nighttime composite image analysis to validate population presence in any given neighborhood. The resolution of these images does not enable detailed comparison of densities, and low supplies of electricity in Syria can also introduce a level of inaccuracy to the data. However, it was predicated in the assessment that population presence usually corresponds with illumination evidence, even through off-grid sources (private or collective generators for instance).

2. SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE - URBAN FUNCTIONALITY INDEX

A sectoral indicator was developed for the factsheets and presented in a table format, while the map shows the multi-sectoral index reflected at the neighborhood level. This functionality index used five dimension representing essential services in the urban setting: water, electricity, solid waste, health and markets. Each essential service is represented by a single indicator using data that was collected at the neighborhood level. In case UrbAN-S has not completed a recent urban profiling exercise yet, data was used from the Urban Community Profiling (UCP) exercise completed in August 2016. In the latter case, this data will be updated as soon as UrbAN-S profiling is completed for that urban center, in which case a comparison will be available between the years 2016 and 2019. The indicators used are indicated in the table below:

For each of the indicators and for the composite index, a three-threshold qualifier was used to describe the quality of access to the service. A functionality index value of 0 – 0.69 is considered “severe”, 0.7–1.39 “moderate” and 1.4 – 2 is considered “good” functionality.

3. AVERAGE FUNCTIONALITY BY SECTOR AND NEIGHBORHOOD

This section through the use of maps tries to break down into a neighborhood level the functionality of each sector. It does so by taking not only 1 indicator per sector, as in the previous section, but through two or three indicators per sector. It provides a metric for the

INDICATORS		
Sector	Services and Infrastructure	Average Functionality Sector and Neighborhood
HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">How long does it take a patient in this neighborhood to travel to the nearest functional healthcare facility (average time in minutes)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">How long does it take a patient in this neighborhood to travel to the nearest functional healthcare facility (average time in minutes)?Health care services are of good quality in my neighborhood. How would you agree?Health care services are reliable in my neighborhood. How would you agree?
SOLID WASTE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Thinking of the past 4 weeks in this neighborhood, how frequently was garbage collected from your neighborhood?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Thinking of the past 4 weeks in this neighborhood, how frequently was garbage collected from your neighborhood?How clean is your streets and the alleys neighborhood?
ELECTRICITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Thinking of the past 4 weeks in this neighborhood, what was the average daily electric power supply?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Thinking of the past 4 weeks in this neighborhood, what was the average daily electric power supply?How would you describe the extent of damage to the electricity grid in this neighborhood?
WASH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Thinking of the past 3 months in this neighborhood, how many hours were households provided with tap water supply through public network?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Thinking of the past 3 months in this neighborhood, how many hours were households provided with tap water supply through public network?Thinking of the past 3 months in this neighborhood, what was the main water source for people?How would you describe the operational status of the sanitation network in this neighborhood?
MARKETS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In general, can people access commodities in a nearby market?	
EDUCATION		<ul style="list-style-type: none">How much time it takes students in this neighborhood to reach the nearest functioning educational facility?In general, quality education is provided for students. How would you agree?In general, education is affordable. How would you agree?

cumulative functionality of services essential for the neighborhoods’ livability; namely WASH, solid waste management, electricity, education and health. The index considers functionality in terms of the community’s perceived accessibility, reliability and quality of those services . The below table breaks down the list of indicators used to produce the maps.

4. DAMAGE TO HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE

The analyses of damage relied both on pre-conflict statistical data, that describes housing stock by neighborhood, and by building typology, as well as the occupancy rate. Damage as a result of the conflict was assessed using remote sensing analytics. The distribution of damage points as detected by remote sensing was used to classify the neighborhoods into four damage classes:

1. Neighborhoods/City areas with less than 1% of the area damaged: marked as “no damage”
2. Neighborhoods/City areas with area damage between 1%-9.9%: marked as “light damage”
3. Neighborhoods/City areas with area damage between 10%-24.9%: marked as “moderate damage”
4. Neighborhoods/City areas with area damage of more than 25%: marked as “severe damage”

In order to estimate the city’s housing stock, damage points were overlaid on the city’s building typology and land use layers. This enabled the estimation of affected housing units by each level of damage. Housing units that are slightly affected were added to the unaffected housing units to estimate the percentage of housing units that can be inhabited. As the remote sensing approach cannot detect light damage, or the impact of looting of properties, data on the city’s accommodative capacity or its housing stock capacity must be approached as an overall indicator that can be used for strategic programming.

5. POPULATION

Information on population (male and female, elderly and children) are provided by the UN operational partners, which is August 2018. Overall estimated current population statistics as well as IDP numbers are provided through UN operational partners updates in 2019. The pre-conflict population comes from the Central Bureau for Statistics (CBS) dated 2010.

6. LANDUSE MAP

Landuse classes have been grouped in 5 main categories:

1. Administrative class: includes governmental institutions, military, courts, directorates, etc.
2. Basic Services class: includes schools, higher education, health facilities, religious institutions, hotels, tourism facilities, transportation facilities, commercial areas, industrial areas etc.
3. Open Spaces and Greenery class: includes green areas, public parks, squares, groves, sport facilities, cemeteries etc.
4. Residential class: includes residential areas and areas of mixed use (residential & commercial)
5. Streets