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LİSANSÜSTÜ EĞİTİM ENSTİTÜSÜ
SİYASET BİLİMİ VE ULUSLARARASI İLİŞKİLER ANABİLİM DALI**



**DISPLACEMENT IN THE POST-CONFLICT ZONE: ASSESSING THE
SHELTER CRISIS IN NORTHWEST SYRIA**

Abdurrahman MURATAGA

MASTER'S THESIS

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LİSANSÜSTÜ EĞİTİM ENSTİTÜSÜ
YÜKSEK LİSANS TEZ KABUL VE ONAY FORMU

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ÖZET

Bu araştırma, kuzeybatı Suriye’deki kırılğan bir çatışma sonrası geçiş süreci sonrasında yerinden edilmiş kişilerin (YİK) yaşadığı süregiden barınma krizini incelemektedir. Son dönemlerdeki siyasi değişikliklerin ardından çatışmaların şiddeti azalmış olsa da, konutların ve kamu altyapısının büyük ölçüde tahrip olması, milyonlarca yerinden edilmiş bireyin güvenli şekilde geri dönüşünü engellemeye devam etmektedir. Bu çalışma, geçici barınma alanlarının mevcut durumunu, yeniden inşa ve geri dönüşün önündeki başlıca engelleri ve insani yardım çabalarının acil ve uzun vadeli barınma çözümleri sunmadaki etkinliğini anlamayı amaçlamaktadır.

Nitel bir metodoloji benimsenen bu araştırma, saha anketleri, yerinden edilmiş bireylerle, insani yardım aktörleriyle ve yerel otoritelerle yapılan görüşmeler ile saha gözlemleri aracılığıyla toplanan verilere dayanmaktadır. Çalışmada özellikle yerinden edilmiş ailelerin günlük yaşam deneyimlerine ve barınmanın yeterliliği, güvenliği ve sürdürülebilirliği konusundaki algılarına odaklanılmıştır. Aynı zamanda, bu karmaşık bağlamda faaliyet gösteren insani yardım kuruluşlarının karşılaştığı yönetim sorunları, koordinasyon eksiklikleri ve kaynak yetersizlikleri özel olarak ele alınmaktadır.

Bu çalışma, uzun süreli yerinden edilme senaryolarında barınma yönetişimine dair daha geniş bir anlayışa katkıda bulunmayı hedeflemekte ve daha duyarlı insani yardım programlamalarını bilgilendirmeyi amaçlamaktadır. Barınma desteğindeki kritik boşlukları ve iyileşmeyi engelleyen sosyal ve siyasi faktörleri ortaya koyarak, onurlu ve sürdürülebilir barınma çözümlerini güçlendirmeye yönelik kanıta dayalı öneriler sunmayı hedeflemektedir. Nihayetinde bu araştırma, akademik bilgi ile politika ve operasyonel stratejiler arasında bir köprü kurarak kuzeybatı Suriye'deki çatışma sonrası toparlanma çabalarına katkıda bulunmayı amaçlamaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Yerinden Edilmiş Kişiler (YİK), Barınma Krizi, Çatışma Sonrası İyileşme, İnsani Müdahale, Kuzeybatı Suriye.

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Prof. Dr. Ercan SEYHAN**

ABSTRACT

This research explores the persistent shelter crisis experienced by internally displaced persons (IDPs) in northwest Syria, in the wake of a fragile post-conflict transition. While the intensity of conflict has decreased following recent political changes, the scale of destruction to homes and public infrastructure continues to obstruct the safe return of millions of displaced individuals. The study seeks to understand the current conditions of temporary shelters, the key barriers preventing reconstruction and return, and the effectiveness of humanitarian efforts in delivering both emergency and long-term housing solutions.

Adopting a qualitative methodology, the research draws on data collected through field surveys, interviews with displaced individuals, humanitarian actors, and local authorities, as well as on-site observations. The focus is placed on the lived experiences of displaced families and their perceptions of shelter adequacy, safety, and sustainability. Special attention is given to governance challenges, coordination gaps, and resource limitations faced by humanitarian agencies operating in this complex context.

This study contributes to a broader understanding of shelter governance in protracted displacement scenarios and aims to inform more responsive humanitarian programming. By identifying critical gaps in shelter assistance and the social and political factors that hinder recovery, the findings will support evidence-based recommendations to enhance dignified and durable housing solutions. Ultimately, this research aspires to bridge academic inquiry with policy and operational strategies, advancing post-conflict recovery efforts in northwest Syria.

KEYWORDS:

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Shelter Crisis, Post-Conflict Recovery, Humanitarian Response, Northwest Syria.

Abdurrahman MURATAGA

2025

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Gaziantep

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1. INTRODUCTION

More than a decade into the Syrian conflict, Northwest Syria remains one of the most acute humanitarian crisis zones, shaped by protracted displacement, cyclical violence, and the collapse of essential infrastructure. As of 2024, nearly 6.8 million Syrians remain internally displaced, with an overwhelming concentration in the northwest, particularly in Idlib and northern Aleppo governorates (Shelter/NFI Cluster, 2020). Displacement in these regions is no longer a temporary phenomenon but a protracted condition, marked by severe shelter inadequacy, legal insecurity, and recurrent exposure to natural disasters such as floods and earthquakes (OCHA, 2023).

The evolving shelter crisis is not only a symptom of ongoing conflict but also a structural failure of the post-conflict recovery and resilience mechanisms. Despite multiple rounds of peace talks and international humanitarian interventions, shelter conditions remain dire, especially for internally displaced persons (IDPs) residing in informal settlements, collective shelters, and substandard housing. According to the 2024 Whole of Syria SNFI Sector factsheet, while 1.4 million individuals were targeted for shelter support, only 52% of that target was reached, highlighting critical gaps in funding and implementation (WoS SNFI, 2024).

The shelter situation is further exacerbated by socioeconomic instability and repeated displacements, often driven by both conflict and environmental shocks. A significant proportion of IDP households continue to live in tents (25%) or damaged and unfinished structures, with limited access to repair resources or assistance (Shelter/NFI Cluster, 2020). Post-earthquake assessments from April 2023 revealed extensive infrastructural damage, with over 550,000 cubic meters of debris still uncleared and more than 2,260 buildings destroyed in the affected areas (OCHA, 2023). These conditions not only undermine the safety and dignity of displaced populations but also pose significant challenges to sustainable recovery and reconstruction.

Moreover, institutional frameworks and humanitarian response strategies have often failed to bridge the gap between emergency relief and durable solutions. The IOM's regional framework on displacement emphasizes the need for a progressive resolution of displacement through area-based, community-led interventions and integration of shelter with livelihoods and protection programming (IOM, 2024). However, the realization of such strategies remains inconsistent, particularly in non-government-controlled areas where coordination, access, and legal barriers persist.

This study critically examines the intersection of displacement and shelter vulnerability in Northwest Syria by synthesizing empirical data and policy frameworks. It aims to contextualize the shelter crisis within broader displacement dynamics, assess the adequacy of current interventions, and highlight pathways for improved shelter security and resilience for affected communities.

Table 1. Key Shelter Statistics in Northwest Syria (2025)

Aspect	Details
Total IDPs in Syria	7.2 million (UNHCR, 2025)
Displaced in Northwest Syria (2024-2025)	~68,000 (Dec 2024), ~45,000 (Mar 2025) (ACAPS, 2025)
People with Limited Water/Sanitation	430,000 across 247 locations (ACAPS, 2025)
Shelter Funding Required	\$25,000,000 (IOM, 2025)
Shelter Funding Confirmed	\$8,114,394 (IOM, 2024)
Shelter Funding Gap	75% (IOM, 2024)



Figure 1: Shelter severity and People in Need in Syria, (WoS MSNA,2023)

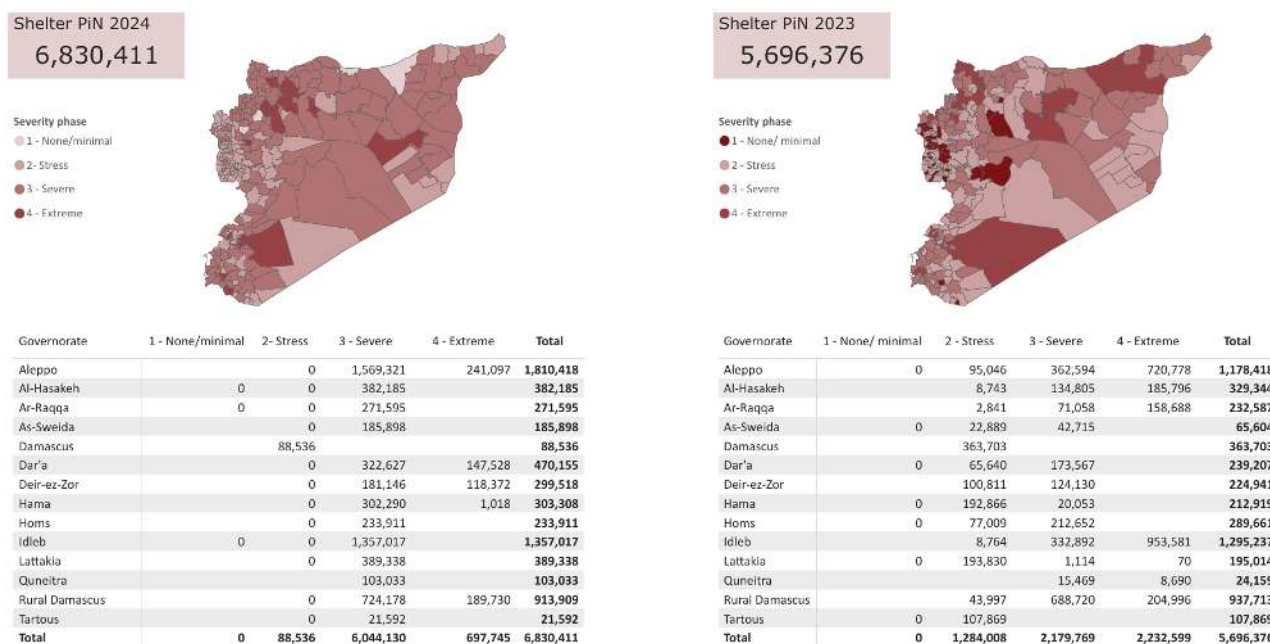


Figure 2: Shelter severity and People in Need in Syria, (WoS MSNA,2023)

1.1. Problem Statement

The enduring conflict in Syria has caused massive internal displacement, with northwest Syria hosting one of the highest concentrations of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the country. Despite the relative decline in active hostilities in recent years, the region remains plagued by a persistent shelter crisis that poses serious threats to the safety, dignity, and well-being of displaced populations. Over a decade into the conflict, hundreds of thousands of Syrians continue to live in inadequate, unsafe, and overcrowded shelter conditions, lacking essential services such as water, electricity, and sanitation.

The inability of displaced families to return to their areas of origin is often linked to the widespread destruction of residential infrastructure, insecurity, and lack of resources for rebuilding. Approximately 64% of IDPs in northwest Syria who own property in their home communities report that their houses are either damaged or destroyed, and 30% are unable to afford even minor shelter repairs in their current. These issues are further exacerbated by insufficient legal mechanisms for property restitution, inconsistent governance structures, and recurring climatic shocks such as floods and harsh winters, which disproportionately affect those in tents and informal settlements.

Despite the efforts of humanitarian organizations, the shelter response in northwest Syria remains fragmented, underfunded, and largely oriented toward short-term emergency relief. As a result, there is a growing gap between the urgent shelter needs of displaced populations and the availability of sustainable, durable housing solutions. Moreover, existing shelter strategies often fail to incorporate the voices and lived experiences of the affected communities, thereby risking the implementation of interventions that are misaligned with local realities and long-term recovery needs.

This thesis addresses the urgent need to understand and evaluate the shelter conditions, governance challenges, and recovery barriers faced by IDPs in northwest Syria. It aims to provide evidence-based insights that can inform more effective, coordinated, and sustainable shelter programming in the context of protracted displacement and fragile post-conflict recovery.

1.2. Objectives of The Study

The primary objectives of this research are:

1. To assess the current conditions of temporary shelters in Northwest Syria, evaluating their adequacy, safety, and sustainability from the perspectives of displaced families.
2. To identify the key barriers preventing the reconstruction of homes and the return of IDPs, including infrastructure destruction, security concerns, and socio-economic challenges.

3. To evaluate the effectiveness of humanitarian interventions in addressing the shelter needs of IDPs, examining both emergency responses and long-term housing strategies.

1.3. Research Questions

To guide the research, the following questions will be addressed:

1. What are the current conditions of temporary shelters in Northwest Syria, and how do they impact the lives of IDPs?
2. What are the main barriers preventing IDPs from returning to their homes, and how do these barriers vary across different regions and demographics?
3. How effective are humanitarian efforts in addressing the shelter needs of IDPs in Northwest Syria, and what are the key gaps and challenges in current interventions?

1.4. Research Hypothesis

Based on the literature and the context of the Syrian conflict, the following hypotheses are proposed:

1. The current shelter conditions in Northwest Syria are inadequate, with many IDPs living in substandard and unsafe conditions due to overcrowding, lack of basic services, and exposure to extreme weather.
2. The primary barriers to the return of IDPs include extensive infrastructure destruction, ongoing security threats, and the lack of economic opportunities in their areas of origin.
3. Humanitarian interventions, while essential, face significant challenges in providing sustainable housing solutions due to funding shortages, coordination gaps, and the complex governance landscape in post-conflict Syria.

1.5. Significant of Study

The significance of this study lies in its timely exploration of the shelter crisis affecting internally displaced persons (IDPs) in northwest Syria, a region that continues to bear the brunt of the country's prolonged conflict and fragile post-conflict transition. While the intensity of armed violence has decreased in recent years, the structural devastation to homes, public infrastructure, and local governance systems continues to hinder sustainable return and recovery for millions of displaced Syrians. Shelter, as both a basic human right and a cornerstone of stability, remains one of the most pressing unmet needs in this context.

This research contributes to both academic and policy-oriented discussions on displacement and post-conflict recovery by offering a grounded analysis of shelter conditions, humanitarian responses, and the barriers to durable housing solutions in northwest Syria. By focusing on the perspectives of IDPs themselves, alongside insights from humanitarian actors and local governance representatives the study provides an inclusive and context-sensitive understanding of shelter adequacy, safety, and sustainability.

The findings are expected to inform more effective and coordinated humanitarian programming by identifying critical gaps in current shelter responses, including issues of affordability, accessibility, and governance. Furthermore, the study highlights the long-term consequences of inadequate shelter on protection, health, livelihoods, and social cohesion, thereby reinforcing the need to prioritize shelter in recovery and development strategies.

On a broader scale, the research also offers insights applicable to other post-conflict and displacement-affected settings. By examining the intersection of humanitarian aid, governance challenges, and community resilience, the study aims to contribute to the development of more responsive, rights-based, and sustainable shelter frameworks in similar fragile and transitional environments.

2. LITERATURE OVERVIEW

2.1. Conceptual and Historical Framework

Displacement is a multifaceted phenomenon that intersects with theories of conflict, migration, and humanitarian crisis. One dominant framework is the Forced Migration Theory, which emphasizes the coercive nature of displacement driven by violence, persecution, or natural disasters (Castles, 2003). This theory contrasts with voluntary migration models by highlighting the limited agency of displaced populations, often caught in situations of life-threatening urgency.

Another pertinent theoretical approach is the concept of “protracted displacement,” which focuses on situations where displaced persons remain in limbo for years without durable solutions (Loescher et al., 2008). This perspective is particularly relevant in contexts like Syria, where displacement has persisted for over a decade, exacerbated by the cyclical nature of conflict and weak institutional responses.

The Livelihoods Framework is also useful in understanding displacement, particularly the shelter dimension. This framework views displaced persons not merely as victims but as actors with strategies to rebuild their lives despite the constraints (Chambers & Conway, 1992). It emphasizes access to basic needs, including housing, as central to resilience.

Finally, Human Security Theory broadens the understanding of displacement by incorporating shelter, health, and dignity into traditional security concerns. This theory is especially relevant in post-conflict zones like northwest Syria, where the absence of state institutions places the burden of protection and shelter provision on humanitarian actors (Tadjbakhsh & Chenoy, 2007).

2.2 The Syrian Conflict and Its Displacement Dynamics in Northwest Syria

The Syrian conflict, which began in 2011, has resulted in one of the largest displacement crises in modern history. As of 2024, over 6.8 million Syrians remain internally displaced, with a significant concentration in the northwest region, particularly in Idlib and northern Aleppo (UNOCHA, 2024). This region is characterized by ongoing instability, a high density of displaced populations, and limited access to basic services, especially adequate shelter.

Northwest Syria presents a complex displacement landscape shaped by continuous waves of conflict-induced migration. The area has become a sanctuary of last resort for people fleeing both government advances and extremist control in other regions. Displacement here is often secondary or even tertiary, meaning many residents have been forced to flee multiple times (REACH, 2023). These dynamics have created acute shelter shortages, with families residing in informal settlements, unfinished buildings, and tents under harsh weather conditions.

The shelter crisis in this region is further complicated by the political fragmentation and the absence of a coherent governance structure. Non-state actors control much of the region, and humanitarian access is constrained, both by security concerns and by restrictions imposed by various actors. This has made it difficult for aid agencies to provide sustainable shelter solutions, resulting in a predominance of temporary structures and a lack of long-term planning (Shelter Cluster Syria, 2024).

Humanitarian responses have been primarily short-term, often focusing on winterization and emergency shelter kits. However, these efforts have struggled to meet the growing and evolving needs of the displaced population. There is a pressing need for approaches that consider the long-term shelter needs, urban integration, and protection concerns of displaced communities in northwest Syria.

2.3 Displacement in Northwest Syria: Trends and Challenges

2.3.1. Historical Background of Displacement in Syria

To grasp why displacement became a strategic tool for the Syrian regime during the conflict, it's essential to consider the urban governance policies that preceded the 2011 uprising. Following decades of socialist rule under Hafez Al-Assad, his son Bashar introduced a so-called "social market economy," which placed increased focus on tackling informal housing developments (Clerc, 2014; Wedeen,

2015). Yet, efforts to manage these areas were hindered by a mix of legal complications and entrenched corruption, especially since many residents of informal neighborhoods had ties to state-affiliated patronage systems (Najm Aldeen, 2018; Poppe and Timreck, 2018; Wedeen, 2015).

Before the conflict erupted, the state employed two main strategies for informal zones: upgrading, where existing homes were brought in line with planning norms, and renewal, which involved demolishing these areas to rebuild according to official plans (Clerc, 2014). In Damascus, where, by 2004, nearly 40% of residents lived in informal settlements, the preference leaned toward upgrading due to its lower cost and greater public acceptance. However, the eruption of civil unrest in 2011 marked a turning point. Rather than viewing urban planning as a tool for development, the regime began weaponizing it, using urban renewal to target and dismantle dissenting neighborhoods (Sharp, 2016). This shift turned planning from a means of improving urban life into a tactic of political retribution (Clerc, 2014).

When demonstrations began in March 2011, protesters called for political reform and the repeal of emergency laws in place since the Baath Party's 1963 takeover (Oweis, 2011). The state responded with violent repression—protesters were arrested, beaten, and shot with live ammunition (Aljazeera, 2018; Sharp, 2016). What followed mirrored the textbook escalation of conflict: peaceful protests led to brutal crackdowns, failed negotiations, the emergence of armed opposition, and foreign involvement, ultimately plunging the country into a civil war with major territorial losses for the regime (Aljazeera, 2018; Sadat, 2015). While the opposition failed to seize Damascus in late 2011 (Abou Zainedin & Fakhani, 2019), by the following year they controlled several districts within and around the capital—such as Jobar, Qaboun, Barzeh, and various towns in Eastern and Western Ghouta, as well as areas in Rural Damascus like Zabadani and Madaya (Shamee, 2012). Simultaneously, opposition forces gained ground in other provinces, including Daraa, Aleppo, Homs, Hama, and Idlib (Aljazeera, 2012).

The rise of ISIS in 2014 and its seizure of large swaths of territory across Syria and Iraq transformed the conflict into a regional war with multiple international actors vying for influence. This complicated battlefield, marked by foreign interference, banned weapons, and massive displacement, left hundreds of thousands dead and forced millions to flee (Aljazeera, 2018).

Some researchers have used the term “urbicide” to describe the regime's systematic destruction of Syrian cities (Bernard-Moulin, 2018; Misachi, 2017; Sharp, 2012). Coward's theory of authoritarian urban violence—where sieges and infrastructure attacks are used to assert control—fits Syria's case well (Coward, 2008; Graham, 2003).

According to Etaywe (2017), urbicide in Syria represents a state-driven campaign of terror, carried out by both official forces and proxy actors. However, the overwhelming evidence—including

destruction maps and military reports—points to the regime itself as the principal perpetrator, especially through widespread bombing and ground assaults (Abou Zainedin & Fakhani, 2019; HRW, 2014; PAX, 2018; REACH, 2019; The Day After, 2019). The UN Human Rights Council reported in 2014 that the government had engaged in grave, systematic human rights abuses, such as indiscriminate bombings and chemical attacks—actions that constitute war crimes under international law (OHCHR, 2014). These acts strongly support the argument that urbicide in Syria was a deliberate, state-orchestrated form of terrorism.

Displacement in Syria has been both a historical and contemporary phenomenon. Long before the 2011 uprising, Syria hosted large populations of displaced people, including Palestinians and Iraqis, while also experiencing internal displacements due to state development projects, drought, and repression (Soguk, 1999). However, the scale and severity of displacement following the outbreak of conflict in 2011 have been unprecedented.

The Syrian civil war has triggered multiple, overlapping waves of forced displacement. Government offensives, aerial bombardments, sectarian violence, and the rise of non-state armed groups have driven civilians to flee repeatedly. Between 2011 and 2024, the United Nations has recorded over 13 million people forcibly displaced, including 6.8 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) (UNOCHA, 2024). Displacement trends have often followed the military dynamics of the conflict, with northwest Syria—particularly Idlib and northern Aleppo—becoming the last refuge for many.

Current Scale and Demographic Patterns of Displacement in Northwest Syria

Northwest Syria now hosts over 2.9 million IDPs, making it one of the most densely displaced regions globally (REACH, 2023). The region's population has more than doubled since 2015 due to large-scale displacement from other parts of the country. A majority of these individuals live in camps or informal settlements under precarious conditions.

The demographic composition of displaced populations in this region skews heavily toward women and children. According to the latest reports, nearly 70% of the displaced population are women and children, many of whom face specific protection risks such as early marriage, gender-based violence, and limited access to education and healthcare (UNHCR, 2024). Additionally, elderly and disabled persons face unique vulnerabilities, often exacerbated by the lack of accessible infrastructure and services.

Seasonal variations further complicate living conditions. Harsh winters and extreme summer heat cause additional health and shelter-related hardships for IDPs, especially those in tents or unfinished

buildings. Humanitarian actors have warned that the shelter needs in northwest Syria far exceed the available resources and response capacity (Shelter Cluster Syria, 2024).

2.3.2. Political and Socio-Economic Barriers to Return in Northwest Syria

Despite the relative military de-escalation in recent years, voluntary return to areas of origin remains limited and risky for most IDPs in northwest Syria. One major barrier is fear of persecution, arbitrary detention, or forced conscription in government-controlled areas. Reports by international human rights organizations have documented reprisals against returnees, including those who previously participated in anti-government activities or resided in opposition-held areas (Amnesty International, 2021).

Socio-economic conditions in both the areas of origin and displacement further hinder return. Infrastructure in many hometowns has been decimated by years of bombardment and neglect. Access to basic services—such as electricity, water, education, and healthcare—remains extremely limited in formerly contested areas. Moreover, economic opportunities are scarce, and property restitution mechanisms are weak or non-existent, especially for those who lack formal documentation (Norwegian Refugee Council [NRC], 2022).

Finally, the political fragmentation of northwest Syria creates ongoing uncertainty. The area is controlled by various opposition and Islamist factions, making governance fragmented and inconsistent. This undermines long-term planning, investment, and reconstruction efforts, which are vital for stabilizing shelter conditions and encouraging safe, voluntary returns.

2.4. Infrastructure Destruction and Barriers to Return

2.4.1. The Impact of Conflict on Housing and Infrastructure in Northwest Syria

Years of intensive conflict in northwest Syria have resulted in widespread destruction of both residential and public infrastructure. Aerial bombardments, ground offensives, and artillery shelling have targeted not only military assets but also civilian neighborhoods, schools, hospitals, and homes. According to a report by UNOSAT, over 50% of residential buildings in key cities like Idlib and western Aleppo have been damaged or destroyed since 2011 (UNOSAT, 2023). The destruction of housing stock has been one of the primary drivers of prolonged displacement, with many internally displaced persons (IDPs) unable to return because their homes are uninhabitable or have been completely leveled.

The deliberate targeting of infrastructure also serves strategic military and political goals, such as weakening opposition-controlled areas and limiting their self-sufficiency. As a result, displacement in northwest Syria is not only a humanitarian issue but also a product of military and political calculus. The lack of habitable housing remains a significant obstacle to return and long-term stabilization.

The Role of Destroyed Utilities in Prolonging Displacement in Northwest Syria

The widespread destruction of utilities—including water supply systems, electrical grids, and transportation networks—has created living conditions that are incompatible with safe and dignified return. In many areas, water infrastructure has been either destroyed or severely degraded, leaving IDPs and host communities reliant on costly and inconsistent water trucking services (REACH, 2023). Access to clean water remains among the top unmet needs across the region.

Electricity networks have been dismantled or are non-functional in many parts of northwest Syria, forcing communities to depend on expensive and environmentally harmful alternatives such as diesel generators. This not only affects day-to-day life but also hampers the functioning of clinics, schools, and small businesses that are crucial for post-conflict recovery.

Moreover, road networks have been damaged or blocked due to conflict, complicating the delivery of humanitarian aid and limiting people's mobility. Poor transportation access hinders reconstruction efforts, disrupts markets, and cuts off IDPs from livelihood opportunities, further entrenching cycles of displacement and poverty (World Bank, 2022).

Reconstruction Challenges: Funding, Governance, and Security Concerns in Northwest Syria

Reconstruction efforts in northwest Syria face significant hurdles, rooted in both the ongoing conflict and the fractured political landscape. International funding for large-scale reconstruction has remained limited due to concerns about legitimizing non-state actors, misappropriation of aid, and the lack of a comprehensive peace settlement (International Crisis Group, 2023). While some humanitarian actors provide emergency shelter and basic repairs, there is a glaring absence of funding for durable housing reconstruction.

Governance fragmentation further complicates the reconstruction process. Northwest Syria is controlled by multiple opposition factions, some with Islamist ideologies, making coordination and regulatory oversight difficult. The absence of unified governance structures inhibits strategic planning, enforcement of building codes, and land tenure verification—all of which are critical for sustainable reconstruction (SCPR, 2021).

Security concerns also dissuade both returnees and investors. Areas near active frontlines or under constant threat of airstrikes are considered too risky for rebuilding. Additionally, unexploded ordnance and the presence of armed groups pose ongoing threats to civilians and development actors alike. These interlocking barriers make it nearly impossible to move from emergency response to reconstruction and development in the current context.

2.4.2. Humanitarian Interventions and Shelter Solutions in Northwest Syria

The shelter crisis in northwest Syria is among the most pressing humanitarian challenges in the region. As of 2024, more than 2.1 million people reside in substandard shelter conditions, including overcrowded camps, unfinished buildings, and makeshift tents exposed to harsh weather conditions (Shelter Cluster Syria, 2024). In response, humanitarian actors—both international and local—have implemented a range of shelter interventions. However, these efforts face significant structural, logistical, and financial barriers, leading to uneven coverage and the persistence of shelter-related vulnerabilities.

2.4.2.1. Role of International Organizations

International organizations have played a critical role in responding to shelter needs in northwest Syria. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) have been central in coordinating shelter responses through funding, logistics, and policy frameworks.

UNHCR has focused on providing emergency shelter kits, winterization support, and transitional shelters. It also supports site planning in formal camps, ensuring that displaced populations have access to basic services such as water, sanitation, and health facilities (UNHCR, 2024). UNHCR's strategy aims to strengthen the protection environment by incorporating shelter into broader frameworks of dignity and human rights.

IOM has worked closely with local actors to assess housing damage, distribute building materials, and rehabilitate infrastructure where possible. However, much of IOM's work remains limited to emergency and short-term shelter due to the lack of long-term political solutions and funding constraints (IOM, 2023).

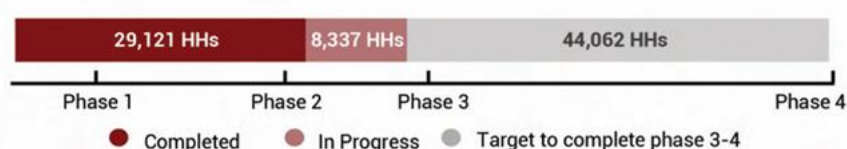
OCHA, through its coordination of the Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) Cluster, plays a central role in strategizing the humanitarian shelter response. It ensures that interventions are harmonized across different organizations and aligned with minimum shelter standards. The Cluster approach,

while effective in information-sharing, still faces limitations in delivering comprehensive shelter assistance due to overlapping mandates and fragmented data (OCHA, 2024).

In addition to these UN agencies, a range of international NGOs (INGOs) such as the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Mercy Corps, and CARE International have implemented shelter programs focused on cash-for-rent, shelter rehabilitation, and non-food item distributions. These organizations often serve as frontline responders, especially in hard-to-reach areas, though they face operational restrictions imposed by local authorities and ongoing insecurity.

In 2024, the Shelter Cluster in Syria, coordinated by OCHA, established a priority plan to guide interventions implemented by UN agencies, NGOs, and INGOs. See the figure below.

Dignified Shelter achievement between March 2022 up until November 2023.



4.4

Dignified Shelter Road Map

The Dignified shelter action plan aims to support an initial 81,520 Families by 2026 with Dignified shelters

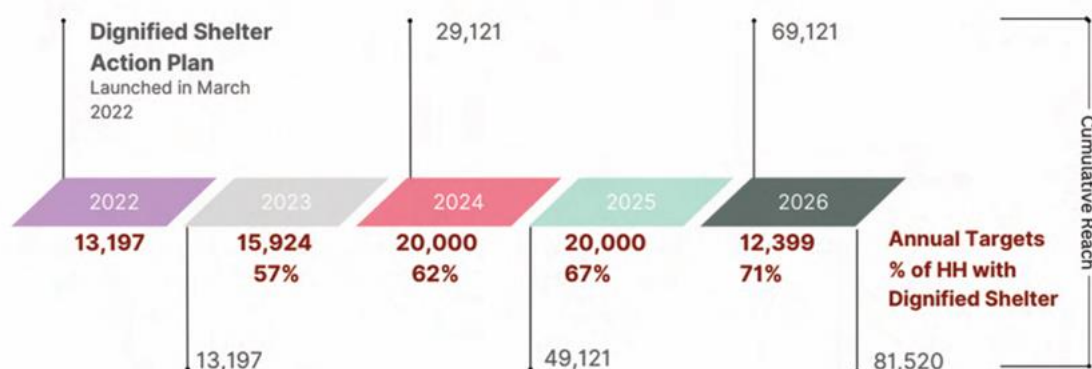


Figure 3: Dignified Shelter Road Map (Shelter Cluster Strategy, 2024)

2.4.2.2. Local Initiatives and Governance in Shelter Provision

Despite the significant role of international actors, local initiatives have emerged as indispensable in the shelter landscape of northwest Syria. Local NGOs and civil society organizations, often staffed by Syrians, have better access, contextual understanding, and trust within communities. Groups such as Violet, Ihsan Relief and Development, and the Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA) have

been instrumental in mobilizing rapid responses, managing displacement sites, and facilitating self-help shelter upgrades.

Local governance structures—such as local councils and the Free Aleppo Governorate—have also taken on shelter-related responsibilities. These actors facilitate land allocation, regulate construction in informal settlements, and collaborate with humanitarian organizations on shelter planning (HRW, 2022). However, governance capacity remains weak, with limited technical expertise, inconsistent coordination, and political fragmentation impeding large-scale planning.

Moreover, informal power structures and local elites often influence access to land and shelter, creating inequality in shelter provision. Discrimination based on perceived political allegiance or displacement history can lead to unequal access to shelter resources, undermining the neutrality and fairness of humanitarian assistance.

2.4.2.3. Best Practices and Gaps in Shelter Responses

Several best practices have emerged in the shelter response in northwest Syria. These include the use of cash-for-shelter programs, which allow households to rent homes or upgrade temporary shelters according to their needs. Such programs have shown high levels of beneficiary satisfaction and cost-effectiveness, while also stimulating local economies (NRC, 2022). Transitional shelters—which use prefabricated materials and are more durable than tents—have also proven effective, especially when integrated into site planning that considers flood risks, accessibility, and proximity to services.

Another promising approach has been community-based shelter planning, where displaced persons are involved in designing and managing their own shelters and settlements. This participatory method fosters local ownership, enhances cultural appropriateness, and increases sustainability.

Despite these advances, numerous gaps persist. Many interventions remain short-term, focusing on immediate relief rather than durable solutions. The lack of long-term funding commitments from donors discourages the development of permanent housing strategies. Additionally, land tenure insecurity remains a major barrier. Without legal clarity on land ownership and rental agreements, many IDPs fear eviction or are unable to safely invest in upgrading their shelters.

Coordination remains another key challenge. While the Cluster system helps in information sharing, overlaps, gaps in coverage, and inconsistent implementation standards across organizations are common. Finally, there is a significant lack of integration between shelter and other sectors such as protection, livelihoods, and education—undermining the broader well-being and resilience of displaced communities.

2.4.2.3. Future Prospects: Towards Sustainable Housing Solutions in Northwest Syria

2.4.2.3.1. Long-Term Shelter Strategies for Displaced Populations in Northwest Syria

As the Syrian conflict stretches into its second decade, addressing the protracted shelter crisis in northwest Syria requires a shift from emergency relief to sustainable housing solutions. With over two million internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in precarious conditions, the current shelter response—dominated by temporary solutions such as tents and emergency kits—remains inadequate for meeting long-term needs (Shelter Cluster Syria, 2024). A future-oriented strategy must integrate resilience, local governance, and socioeconomic reintegration to ensure that shelter becomes a foundation for recovery rather than a symbol of ongoing instability.

One essential pillar of a long-term strategy is the transition from camps to more durable housing options. This can include low-cost modular housing, upgrading informal settlements, and facilitating access to rental markets through cash assistance and rental subsidies. Such strategies are not only more dignified but also enable IDPs to participate in host communities and local economies (IOM, 2023).

A second priority is secure land tenure and property rights. Without legal protections, displaced populations remain vulnerable to eviction and exploitation, discouraging them from investing in housing repairs or improvements. Integrating housing, land, and property (HLP) rights into humanitarian programming is crucial. This includes the issuance of temporary occupancy documents, support for civil documentation, and advocacy for inclusive land policies that respect both host and displaced communities (NRC, 2022).

A third strategic element is linking shelter to broader development frameworks. Sustainable housing solutions must go hand in hand with improved access to education, health services, livelihoods, and infrastructure. Integrated shelter planning—incorporating water, sanitation, roads, and electricity—will enhance the sustainability and functionality of post-displacement housing and foster social cohesion among diverse groups in northwest Syria (World Bank, 2022).

2.4.2.3.2. Policy Recommendations for Rebuilding Efforts in Post-Conflict Syria

Designing effective policy frameworks for shelter and reconstruction in post-conflict Syria requires a nuanced understanding of local realities, power dynamics, and the limitations of current governance structures. Below are several policy recommendations based on lessons learned and best practices observed both in Syria and comparable post-conflict contexts:

Adopt a rights-based, inclusive approach to reconstruction

Reconstruction policies must be inclusive of all Syrians, regardless of political affiliation or displacement status. Shelter should be recognized as a human right, and any rebuilding efforts must be

guided by principles of equity, participation, and accountability. This requires safeguarding the rights of returnees, ensuring access to HLP restitution mechanisms, and preventing demographic engineering or forced returns (Amnesty International, 2021).

Strengthen local governance and participatory planning

Local councils and civil society organizations have demonstrated resilience and legitimacy in many opposition-held areas. Future policies should empower these actors through capacity-building, funding, and meaningful involvement in urban planning and reconstruction. Community-driven approaches can enhance trust, reduce corruption, and ensure that shelter solutions are tailored to actual needs (SCPR, 2021).

Decentralize reconstruction and support local economic recovery

A centralized, state-led reconstruction model risks sidelining opposition-held and marginalized areas. Decentralized planning, in contrast, allows for more context-specific solutions and quicker mobilization of local resources. Linking shelter interventions with job creation—such as supporting local construction industries and vocational training—can also stimulate recovery and reduce aid dependency.

Ensure donor coordination and accountability in shelter programming

Given the multiplicity of international and local actors in Syria, improved coordination mechanisms are critical. Standardizing shelter quality benchmarks, harmonizing aid distribution, and establishing shared monitoring systems can enhance the effectiveness and transparency of interventions. Donors should also commit to multi-year funding that enables transitions from emergency relief to permanent housing (OCHA, 2024).

Integrate conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding into shelter initiatives

Reconstruction must not inadvertently reinforce conflict drivers such as inequality, exclusion, or sectarianism. Shelter programs should be conflict-sensitive—recognizing potential tensions between host and displaced populations—and incorporate peacebuilding elements such as inclusive decision-making and intergroup cooperation.

3. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

This chapter outlines the research methodology employed to investigate the shelter crisis and displacement dynamics in northwest Syria. Given the protracted nature of the conflict and its profound impact on internally displaced persons (IDPs), a robust and context-sensitive methodology is essential to capture the lived experiences, challenges, and aspirations of affected populations. This chapter details the research design, population and sampling methods, data collection methods, data analysis, validity and reliability measures, ethical considerations, and acknowledges the study's limitations.

3.1. Research Design

The research adopts a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative and qualitative methodologies to provide a comprehensive understanding of the shelter crisis in northwest Syria. This approach is chosen for its ability to triangulate data, ensuring both breadth and depth in analyzing shelter conditions, barriers to return, and the effectiveness of humanitarian interventions. The study integrates structured surveys for quantifiable insights and key informant interviews (KIIs) for nuanced, contextual perspectives.

The quantitative component involves an online survey targeting IDPs residing in camps across northwest Syria. The survey is designed to assess shelter adequacy, safety, and sustainability, as well as to identify key barriers to reconstruction and return. The qualitative component includes semi-structured interviews with representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs), local leaders, international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), and camp managers to explore governance challenges, coordination gaps, and humanitarian response strategies.

The thematic framework guiding the research is grounded in the literature review, focusing on key themes such as protracted displacement, shelter governance, and post-conflict recovery. This ensures that data collection tools are aligned with the research objectives and relevant to the northwest Syrian context.

3.2. Sampling Approach

The study targets IDPs living in camps in northwest Syria, specifically in Idlib and northern Aleppo governorates, where the concentration of displaced populations is highest. The population includes adults over the age of 18, ensuring respondents can provide informed perspectives on shelter conditions and displacement challenges. No specific educational criteria are imposed to maximize inclusivity, though survey questions are designed to be accessible and clear for respondents with varying literacy levels.

Table 2: Summary of Quantitative Survey Data Collection

Location of camp	Number of surveys
Harbnush	17
Kafr Yahmoul	30
Rabi' Ma'aysiruna	20
Al-Karim	25
Al-Qasha	20
Al-Hartamiya	20
Al-Sadaqa and Zakat	20
Al-Khalfan	10
Al-Siyah	30
Radwa	30
Blion	28
Saraqib	11
Shaqa'iq al-Nu'man	11
AFAD	30

For the quantitative component, a random sampling method was employed to select 302 IDP respondents living in camps. The online survey was distributed through camp managers, who facilitated access to residents by handing out questionnaires and collecting responses. This approach ensured broad coverage across different camps and minimized selection bias, as camp managers were instructed to distribute surveys randomly among residents.

For the qualitative component, purposive sampling was used to select ten key informants with expertise in shelter and displacement issues in northwest Syria. The sample included:

- Representatives from local CSOs
- Local leaders
- INGO staff
- Camp managers overseeing displacement sites

Table 3: List of Interviewed KIIs

Respondent Code	Role	Affiliation Type
R1	Logistics Officer	INGO
R2	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (WASH)	INGO
R3	Physician	Local Health Facility
R4	Community Mobilizer	Health-Focused CSO
R5	School Principal	Public Education Sector
R6	Camp Manager	Camp Management
R7	Shelter Program Manager	INGO
R8	Education Supervisor in Camps	CSO
R9	Field Protection Program Coordinator	CSO
R10	Field Recovery Program Coordinator	NGO

This diverse sample ensures a range of perspectives on governance, humanitarian operations, and community-level challenges, reflecting the complex socio-political landscape of northwest Syria.

3.3. Purpose of the Thesis

The primary purpose of this thesis is to explore and document the shelter crisis affecting IDPs in northwest Syria, with a focus on assessing current shelter conditions, identifying barriers to return and reconstruction, and evaluating the effectiveness of humanitarian interventions. By centering the perspectives of displaced families and humanitarian actors, the study seeks to provide evidence-based insights to inform more responsive, equitable, and sustainable shelter programming.

The research aims to amplify the voices of IDPs, particularly those living in precarious conditions, and to highlight the structural and governance challenges that perpetuate the shelter crisis. The findings are intended to contribute to academic discourse on protracted displacement and to guide policymakers, humanitarian organizations, and local authorities in designing durable housing solutions for northwest Syria.

3.4. Measurement Tools

The measurement tools are tailored to the research objectives and the specific context of northwest Syria, ensuring they capture both quantitative and qualitative data relevant to the shelter crisis.

Quantitative Tool: Online Survey

The primary quantitative tool is a structured survey administered to 302 IDPs in camps. The survey was developed based on a comprehensive review of literature on displacement, shelter crises, and humanitarian response, as well as consultations with humanitarian actors to ensure contextual relevance. The survey includes:

- **Demographic Questions:** To collect data on age, gender, family size, displacement history, and current shelter type (e.g., tent, unfinished building).
- **Closed-Ended Questions:** To gather quantifiable data on shelter conditions (e.g., safety, access to water/sanitation, exposure to weather), barriers to return (e.g., infrastructure damage, security concerns), and satisfaction with humanitarian aid. These questions use Likert scales, multiple-choice options, and yes/no formats.
- **Open-Ended Questions:** To allow respondents to describe their experiences, challenges, and aspirations in their own words, providing qualitative insights to complement the quantitative data.

The survey was pilot-tested with a small group of IDPs to ensure clarity, cultural appropriateness, and relevance. Adjustments were made based on feedback to improve accessibility and comprehension. The survey was distributed online and through physical questionnaires handed out by camp managers to accommodate varying levels of digital access.

Qualitative Tool: Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

The qualitative component involves semi-structured interviews with nine key informants. The interview guide was developed based on the research questions and literature review, focusing on

themes such as shelter governance, coordination challenges, and long-term recovery strategies. The guide is flexible, allowing the researcher to adapt questions based on emerging insights and respondent expertise. The interviews cover:

- Current shelter response strategies and their effectiveness.
- Governance and coordination challenges in non-government-controlled areas.
- Barriers to reconstruction and sustainable housing solutions.
- Recommendations for improving humanitarian programming.

Interviews were conducted in-person or remotely (via secure platforms) to accommodate the availability and security needs of informants. All interviews were recorded with consent and transcribed for analysis.

3.5. Data Analysis

Quantitative Analysis

Survey data was analyzed using statistical methods to identify trends, patterns, and correlations. Descriptive statistics (e.g., frequencies, percentages) were used to summarize shelter conditions, demographic profiles, and barriers to return. Inferential statistics (e.g., chi-square tests, regression analysis) were applied to explore relationships between variables, such as the impact of shelter type on safety perceptions or the influence of displacement duration on return intentions. Data was processed using software such as SPSS or Excel to ensure accuracy and rigor.

Qualitative Analysis

Interview transcripts were analyzed using thematic analysis, following a six-step process: (1) familiarization with the data, (2) coding, (3) generating themes, (4) reviewing themes, (5) defining and naming themes, and (6) reporting findings. NVivo or similar qualitative analysis software was used to organize and code the data. Themes were aligned with the research questions, focusing on shelter adequacy, governance challenges, and humanitarian response gaps.

3.6. Ethical Assurances and Addressing Possible Risks

Given the sensitive nature of the research and the vulnerable context of northwest Syria, ethical considerations are paramount. The study adheres to the following ethical principles:

1. **Informed Consent:** All participants were fully informed about the study's purpose, their role, and their right to withdraw at any time without consequences. Consent was obtained verbally or in writing, depending on the data collection method.
2. **Confidentiality and Anonymity:** All survey and interview data were anonymized to protect participants' identities. Personal information was not collected unless necessary, and data was stored securely on password-protected devices.

3. **Non-Maleficence:** The research was designed to avoid causing harm or distress. Questions were framed sensitively to avoid triggering trauma, and participants were provided with information on local support services if needed.
4. **Voluntary Participation:** Participation was entirely voluntary, with no incentives offered to avoid coercion. Participants were free to skip questions or withdraw without explanation.
5. **Cultural Sensitivity:** Data collection tools and interactions were designed to respect the cultural, social, and political realities of northwest Syria. Arabic was used as the primary language to ensure accessibility, with translations provided where necessary.

To address risks, the research team collaborated with local partners (e.g., camp managers, CSOs) to ensure safe access to participants and to navigate security challenges. Remote data collection options were offered to informants in high-risk areas. The study also complied with international ethical guidelines, including those set by the Declaration of Helsinki and humanitarian research standards.



4. RESEARCH FINDINGS

4.1. Descriptive Demographic Information

Gender

This gender distribution reflects a male-majority respondent base, which could influence several dimensions of the findings. Male respondents may be more engaged in public matters such as shelter decision-making and return strategies, while women—despite forming a smaller share—may experience different challenges related to privacy, safety, or access to humanitarian assistance. This imbalance should be considered when analyzing responses related to security perceptions or assistance effectiveness.

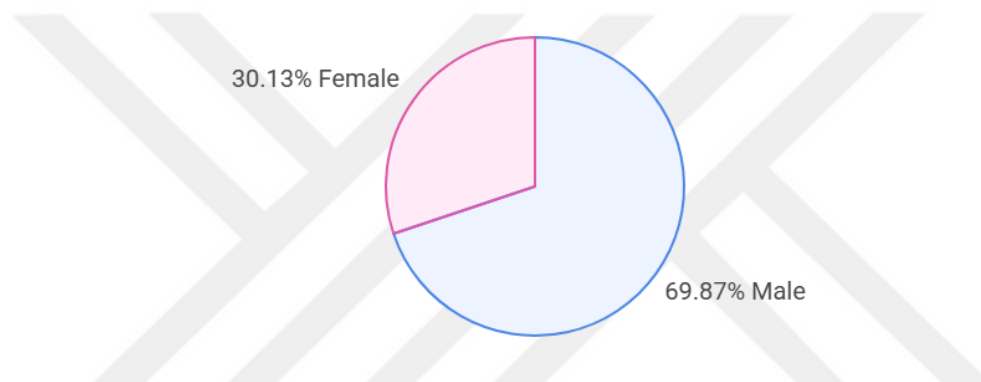


Figure 4: Gender of respondents

Age

The largest group of respondents falls in the 35–44 age range, representing 38.41% of the sample. This suggests that the majority of IDPs are in their economically active years, likely to have dependents, and may prioritize stability and livelihood restoration. The age distribution skews toward middle-aged adults, which may explain the high desire for long-term housing solutions and return to original homes.

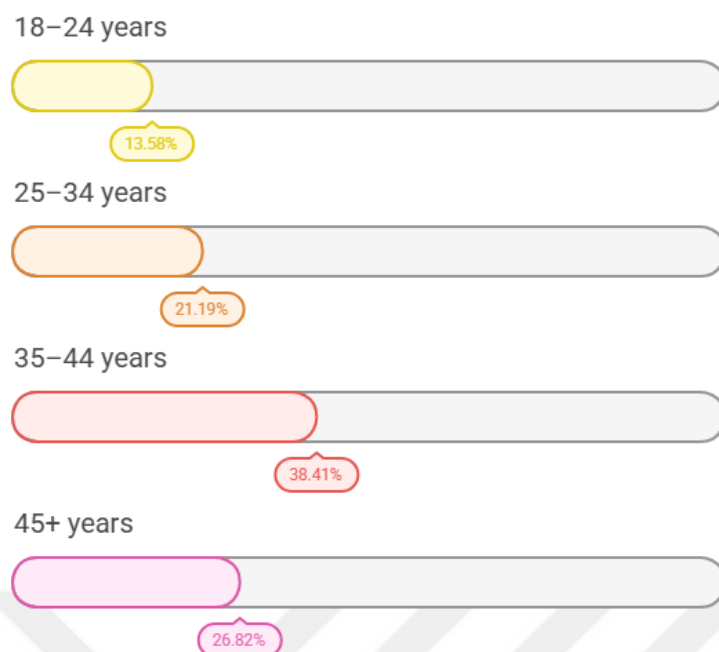


Figure 5: Distribution of Age

Duration of displacement

A striking 99% of respondents have been displaced for over 3 years, indicating that displacement in Northwest Syria is a protracted crisis. The long duration of displacement likely affects shelter quality, psychological well-being, and the erosion of original community ties, reinforcing the need for durable solutions.

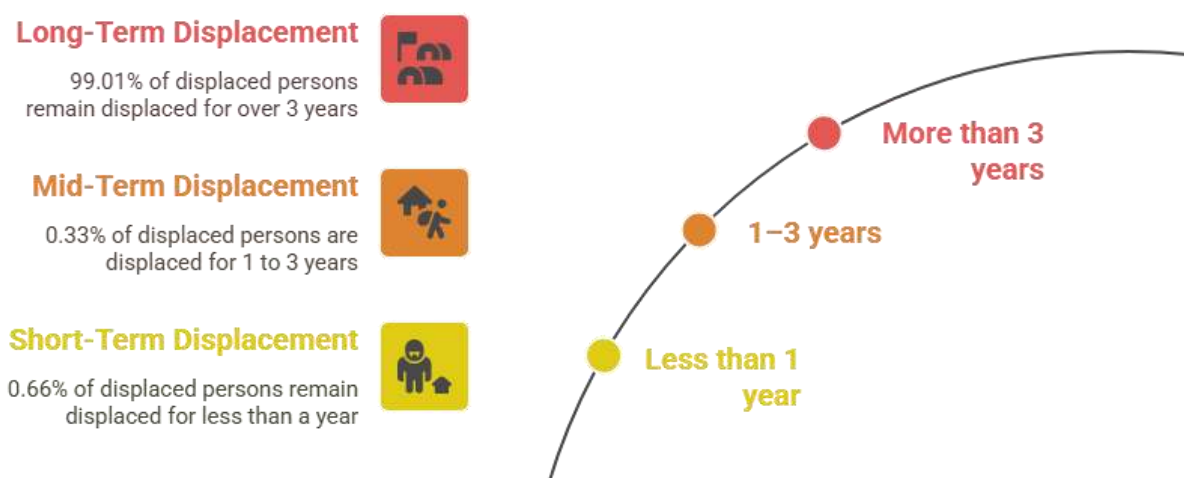


Figure 6: Duration of Displacement Among Displaced Persons

The demographic profile of respondents reveals a male-dominated sample, with nearly 70% of participants identifying as male. This gender imbalance may reflect cultural dynamics in displacement camps where men are often more likely to participate in surveys or take on public-facing roles in households. The predominance of men could influence the perspectives shared on shelter security, return intentions, and decision-making autonomy, potentially underrepresenting the specific needs and vulnerabilities of women.

Age-wise, the majority of respondents are in the 35–44 age range, which typically represents the most economically active population segment. This group is likely to carry familial responsibilities and may be more concerned with the long-term implications of displacement, such as access to sustainable shelter, employment opportunities, and education for children. The age distribution also suggests a strong orientation toward recovery and return, as opposed to permanent resettlement.

Most notably, the vast majority—over 99%—have experienced displacement for more than three years, clearly indicating a protracted crisis. This long-term displacement shapes IDPs' expectations and perceptions of assistance. Rather than seeking temporary solutions, many are now concerned with more permanent housing, stability, and the prospect of returning to their original homes, if feasible.

4.2.Current Shelter Conditions

The majority of IDPs (84.44%) live in temporary or substandard shelters such as tents or makeshift constructions. Only a small fraction (10.26%) reported living in rented houses. These figures highlight a significant reliance on humanitarian-provided or improvised shelters, underscoring the need for investment in better infrastructure and long-term housing.

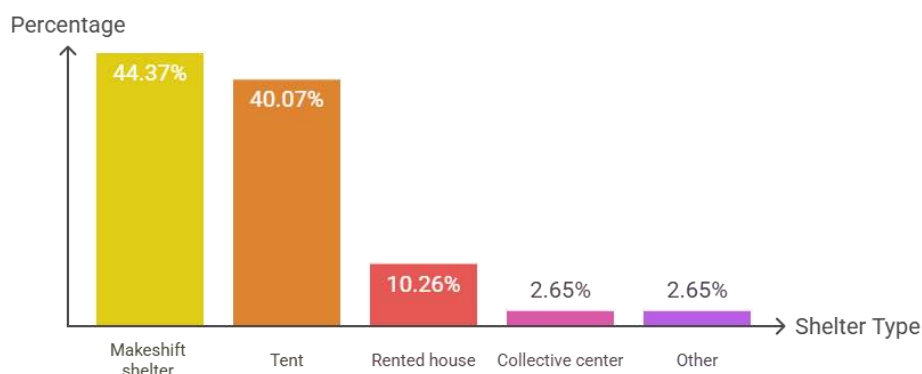


Figure 7: Distribution of Shelter Types

Safety perceptions are mixed, with only 1 in 5 feeling “very safe”. The majority (nearly 60%) reported feeling only “somewhat safe”, while a concerning 1 in 5 described their shelter as “not safe”, indicating vulnerability to environmental or security risks.

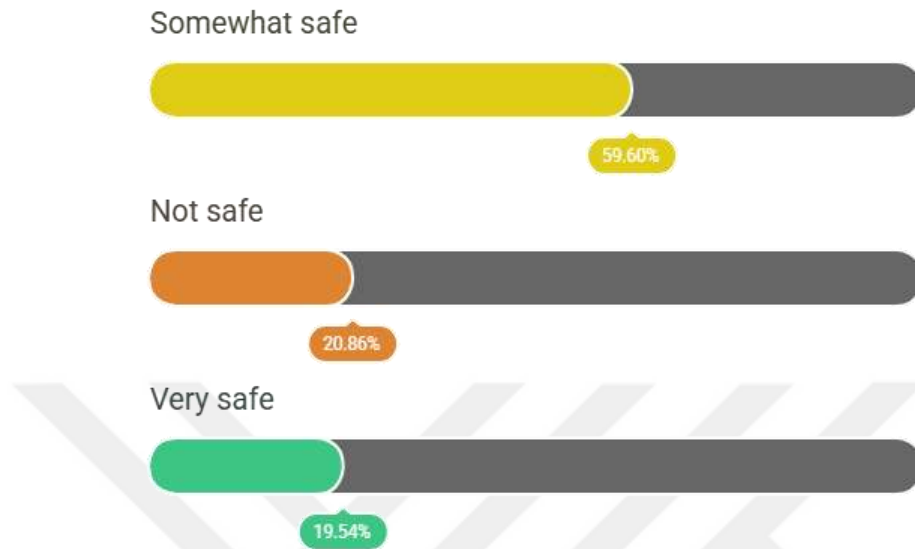


Figure 8: Perception of Shelter Safety

Poor insulation was the most common challenge, mentioned by nearly 40% of respondents. This aligns with the harsh seasonal conditions in Northwest Syria. The significant percentage citing lack of privacy (over 25%) also points to social stressors, particularly for women and families. These challenges suggest a clear gap in shelter adequacy that impacts both physical and psychological well-being.

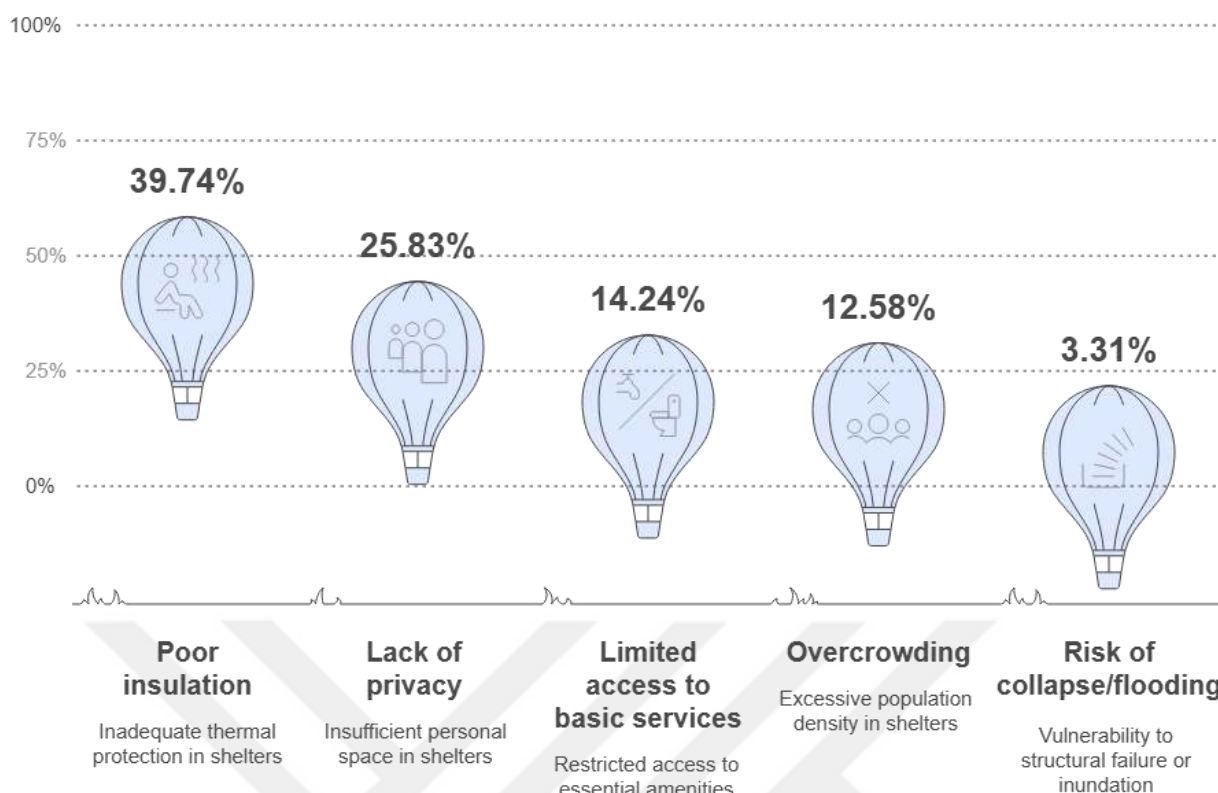


Figure 9: Major Shelter Challenges

Qualitative analysis from KIIs revealed that shelter conditions for IDPs in northwest Syria are profoundly inadequate, characterized by a pervasive reliance on temporary, substandard, and deteriorating shelters that fail to meet basic humanitarian standards. The majority of IDPs reside in worn-out tents, poorly insulated caravans, or makeshift accommodations, which offer minimal protection against extreme weather conditions, including scorching summer heat and freezing winter cold. These shelters are often situated in unplanned camps established on marginal lands, lacking essential infrastructure such as roads, water supply, sanitation systems, and electricity. The absence of these services exacerbates health and safety risks, with respondents consistently reporting issues such as waterborne diseases, fire hazards, and exposure to flooding and other environmental threats.

Overcrowding is a recurring theme, with multiple families often sharing cramped spaces, leading to a severe lack of privacy and compromising the dignity of residents. The economic strain on IDPs, driven by high rental costs, limited income opportunities, and rising prices for basic necessities, further limits their ability to improve their living conditions independently. Respondents highlighted the psychological toll of prolonged displacement, noting that the precarious and inhumane conditions foster a sense of hopelessness among IDPs, particularly as funding shortages constrain humanitarian efforts to address the scale of need. While some camps have seen marginal improvements, such as the

introduction of cement block units, these constitute a small fraction of available shelters, and the overall quality of shelter provision remains stagnant or deteriorating.

The data also underscores the systemic nature of these challenges, with unplanned camp layouts, inadequate materials, and insufficient maintenance contributing to the fragility of shelter conditions. Respondents emphasized that the lack of sustainable infrastructure, coupled with the high cost of living, perpetuates a cycle of vulnerability, leaving IDPs exposed to ongoing risks. For instance, R1 reported the acute humanitarian challenges faced by IDP camps, particularly during winter, stating, "IDP camps in northwest Syria face difficult humanitarian conditions, with millions living in tragic circumstances that worsen every winter due to a lack of heating materials, fire risks, and insufficient water and sanitation services."

Similarly, R7 emphasized the deteriorated state of shelters, highlighting their lack of structural integrity and basic amenities, reporting,

"Shelter conditions are generally deteriorated, with most residences consisting of worn-out tents in unplanned camps lacking infrastructure, or temporary housing units or caravans."

R6 further underscored the impact on residents' dignity and safety, stating,

"Camp residents suffer from difficult conditions due to limited support and unmet needs. Most live in worn-out tents for years, which do not preserve their dignity or safety."

R8 provided a vivid description of the inhumane conditions in many camps, reporting,

"Conditions are inhumane in many sites, where tens of thousands live in worn-out tents that lack protection from rain or cold, with a significant shortage of sanitation networks and clean drinking water."

R9 echoed these concerns, noting the absence of basic components for a dignified life, stating, "Shelter in northwest Syria is not in good condition; it is temporary and lacks the basic components for a dignified life."

R10 highlighted the acute needs in camps, particularly the lack of services and high costs, reporting, "There are very significant needs, especially in camps, with high prices, rents, and a great need for services that require rehabilitation."

. R2 added to the narrative by describing the lack of insulation and basic services, stating,

"Many families live in tents that lack the minimum requirements for decent housing, suffering from a severe shortage of basic services like water and sanitation."

R3 described the broader context of insecurity and inadequate infrastructure, reporting,

"The conditions are among the most difficult, with residents suffering from food insecurity and infrastructure that is not equipped to handle harsh conditions and natural disasters."

R4 noted the incomplete provision of services, stating,

"The conditions are very difficult due to the lack of complete service provision, alongside a severe need for resources and assistance."

Finally, R5 emphasized the health and safety implications of inadequate infrastructure, reporting, "Many IDPs live in difficult conditions in camps that lack basic services like clean water and electricity, which is often unsuitable for health and safety."

The shelter conditions described by respondents reflect widespread inadequacy, with most living in tents or makeshift structures. This situation reinforces the precariousness and transience of life in displacement camps. It also underscores the absence of long-term investment in durable shelter infrastructure, despite the extended duration of displacement for most.

Perceptions of safety further emphasize the fragile nature of current living arrangements. The fact that the majority feel only "somewhat safe" suggests ongoing exposure to both environmental and possibly security-related threats. A fifth of respondents reporting a lack of safety altogether raises concern about protection risks within these settings, especially for vulnerable groups such as women, children, and the elderly.

Challenges such as poor insulation, lack of privacy, and limited access to services reflect both physical and social dimensions of shelter inadequacy. These issues not only compromise comfort and health but may also contribute to psychological distress and social tensions. The widespread mention of poor insulation, in particular, highlights the mismatch between shelter materials and the climate conditions of Northwest Syria, pointing to urgent design and infrastructure gaps in humanitarian shelter interventions.

The findings from the study reveal the dire shelter conditions faced by internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Northwest Syria. A significant majority (84.44%) of IDPs reside in temporary or substandard shelters, such as tents or makeshift constructions. This highlights a profound reliance on humanitarian-provided or improvised shelters, indicating a critical gap in the provision of adequate and permanent housing solutions. Only a small fraction (10.26%) reported living in rented houses, further underscoring the limited availability of stable and secure housing options for the displaced population.

The perceptions of safety among IDPs reflect the precarious nature of their living conditions. While 20% of respondents reported feeling "very safe," the majority (nearly 60%) expressed only a "somewhat safe" feeling, with a concerning 20% perceiving their shelter as "not safe." This mixed perception of safety reflects not only the physical inadequacies of the shelters but also the heightened risks associated with environmental hazards and security concerns, which are common in displaced settings.

One of the most common challenges reported was poor insulation, cited by nearly 40% of respondents. This issue is particularly problematic given the extreme seasonal variations in Northwest

Syria, where temperatures can reach scorching highs in summer and freezing lows in winter. The lack of adequate insulation not only exacerbates physical discomfort but also poses significant health risks. Furthermore, the significant proportion of respondents (over 25%) citing a lack of privacy reveals another layer of hardship, particularly for women and families. This lack of privacy is a critical stressor that contributes to social tensions and the erosion of dignity, further compounding the psychological strain of displacement.

The qualitative data gathered from key informant interviews (KIIs) reinforces these findings, depicting shelter conditions that are profoundly inadequate. IDPs predominantly reside in dilapidated tents, poorly insulated caravans, or makeshift shelters that provide minimal protection from the harsh environmental conditions. These shelters are often located in unplanned camps on marginal land, lacking essential infrastructure such as roads, water supply, sanitation systems, and electricity. The absence of these basic services heightens the risks of waterborne diseases, fire hazards, and exposure to flooding, further deteriorating health and safety outcomes.

Overcrowding is another recurring issue, with multiple families often sharing cramped spaces, leading to a severe lack of privacy and compromising the dignity of the residents. This overcrowding, coupled with economic strain—due to high rental costs, limited income opportunities, and rising prices for basic necessities—leaves IDPs with few options to improve their living conditions independently. The prolonged exposure to these inhumane conditions fosters a sense of hopelessness, particularly as funding shortages limit the scale and effectiveness of humanitarian efforts.

The data further highlights the systemic nature of these challenges, where unplanned camp layouts, the use of substandard materials, and insufficient maintenance contribute to the fragility of shelter conditions. Respondents consistently reported that many shelters lack the structural integrity and basic amenities necessary for safe, dignified living. The lack of sustainable infrastructure, coupled with high living costs, perpetuates a cycle of vulnerability, leaving IDPs exposed to ongoing risks.

While some camps have seen marginal improvements—such as the introduction of cement block units—these changes represent only a small fraction of the total shelter provisions. The overall quality of shelter remains stagnant or continues to deteriorate, emphasizing the need for more comprehensive and long-term solutions. Many camps still suffer from inadequate services and poor living conditions, particularly during winter, when the lack of heating materials, fire risks, and insufficient sanitation become even more pronounced. The continuous shortages in resources and assistance contribute to a persistent gap in meeting the basic needs of IDPs.

In summary, the findings underscore the inadequate and deteriorating shelter conditions of IDPs in Northwest Syria. The reliance on temporary and substandard housing, coupled with inadequate safety and privacy, reveals a critical need for both immediate humanitarian interventions and long-term

infrastructure development. Addressing these challenges requires a systemic approach, focusing on sustainable housing solutions, improved safety, and the provision of essential services, in order to enhance the physical and psychological well-being of displaced populations.

4.3.Barriers to Return

A strong majority—over 84%—expressed a willingness to return if conditions improve, highlighting that displacement is not seen as permanent by most. However, the 9.27% who are uncertain reflect a group whose trust in future stability is weak.

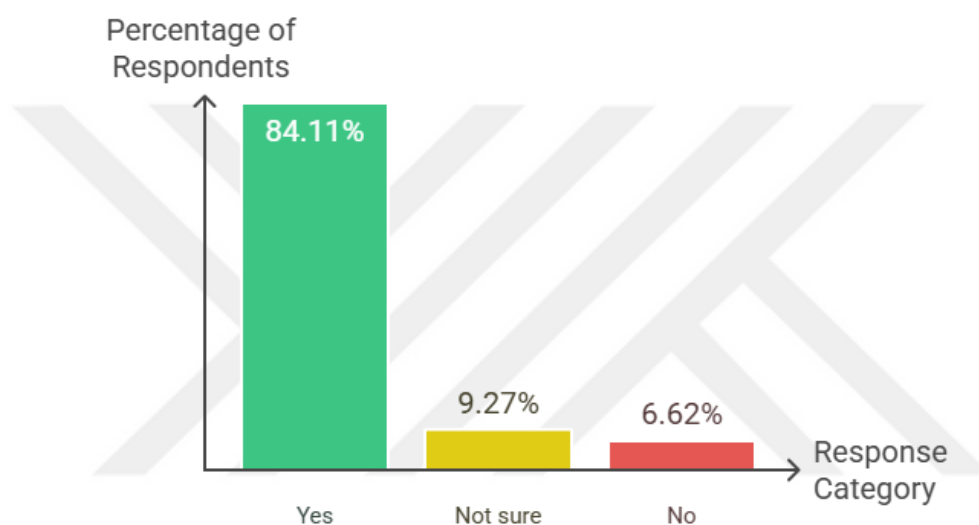


Figure 10: Willingness to Return Among Respondents

The most frequently cited reason for not returning is home destruction, followed closely by lack of access to basic services (water, electricity, sanitation). Economic and security factors were also prevalent. Interestingly, legal issues were nearly negligible, suggesting most barriers are infrastructural or situational rather than bureaucratic. The convergence of multiple barriers highlights the need for comprehensive rehabilitation of both infrastructure and services in origin areas.

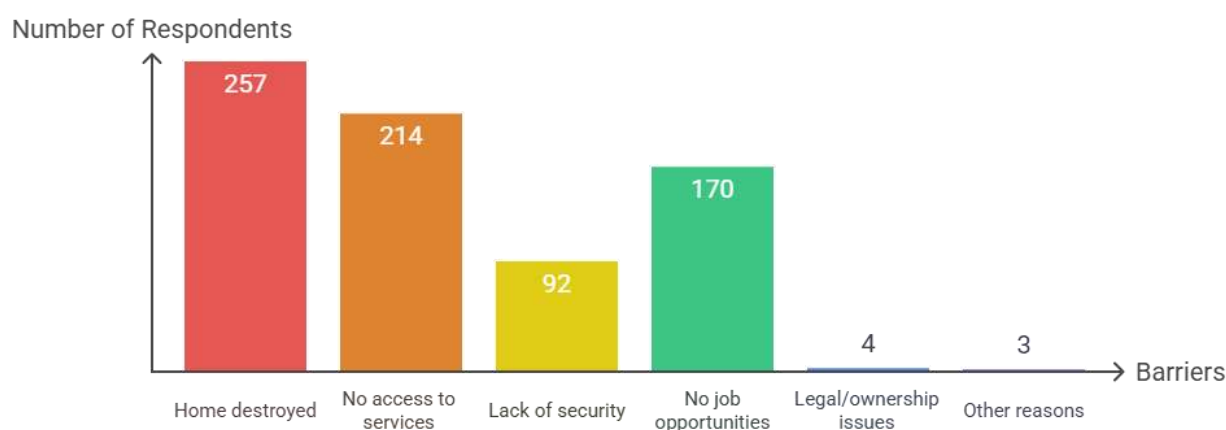


Figure 11: Barriers to Return for Respondents

The data underscore that infrastructure improvement could catalyze returns: 81.46% would return under the right conditions. However, security remains a key determinant, as nearly 20% would only return if it also improves. A small but significant group (4.64%) has resettled, indicating emerging patterns of permanent displacement.

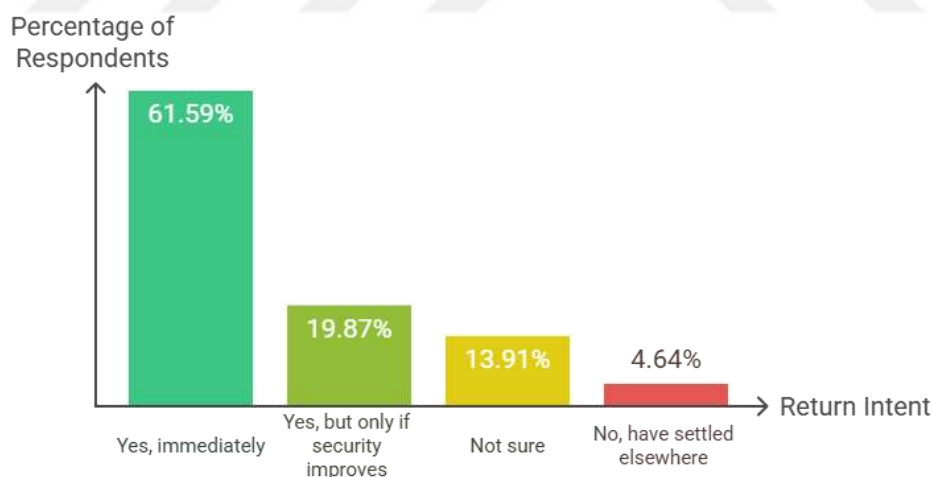


Figure 12: Return Intent After Infrastructure Repair

The results demonstrate a compelling aspiration among displaced populations to return to their original homes, with over 84% indicating willingness to do so if conditions improve. This strong desire to return, despite years of displacement, speaks to the enduring social, cultural, and emotional connections that IDPs maintain with their places of origin.

The key barriers to return—namely the destruction of homes, lack of basic services, insecurity, and absence of livelihoods—highlight that the return process is not only a logistical challenge but also a

deeply structural one. The near-total destruction of physical infrastructure presents a formidable obstacle, requiring coordinated reconstruction and investment in essential services. Notably, legal or bureaucratic obstacles were rarely cited, suggesting that practical and material conditions far outweigh administrative constraints in influencing return decisions.

The high rate of respondents who would return immediately if infrastructure were restored illustrates that rehabilitation of home areas could be a critical turning point in resolving displacement. However, the conditional return plans based on improved security further demonstrate that physical reconstruction alone is insufficient without accompanying guarantees of protection and stability. A small but notable segment has effectively resettled elsewhere, hinting at a slow shift toward permanent displacement for a minority.

Qualitative analysis from KIIs revealed a complex and interconnected array of barriers that prevent IDPs in northwest Syria from returning to their original homes, encompassing physical destruction, economic hardship, security concerns, legal challenges, and social tensions. The most prominent and consistently cited barrier is the widespread destruction of housing and critical infrastructure, including water supply, electricity, sanitation systems, schools, health facilities, and transportation networks. This devastation renders many areas uninhabitable, as homes are either completely or partially destroyed, and essential services necessary for sustainable living are absent. Respondents emphasized that the scale of destruction, coupled with the prohibitively high cost of reconstruction, places return beyond the financial reach of most IDPs, who are grappling with poverty and limited access to income-generating opportunities.

Economic constraints further exacerbate the challenges, with respondents noting a severe lack of job opportunities in areas of origin, making it impossible for families to sustain themselves upon return. The absence of livelihoods, combined with the high costs of rebuilding homes and restoring infrastructure, creates a significant financial barrier, particularly for IDPs living below the poverty line. Security concerns also play a critical role, with fears of arrest, ongoing instability, and the presence of war remnants—such as mines and unexploded ordnance—posing substantial risks to returning families. In some areas, unresolved political tensions and local disputes over land and property ownership further deter return, as IDPs face potential conflicts with other residents or occupying groups.

Legal and administrative challenges, particularly the loss of property documentation, complicate efforts to reclaim homes, leaving many IDPs unable to prove ownership or access their properties. The absence of basic services, such as schools, healthcare, and reliable water sources, in areas of origin undermines the feasibility of resettlement, as families prioritize access to these essentials for their survival and well-being. Respondents highlighted the psychological and social toll of prolonged

displacement, noting that the uncertainty and insecurity associated with return discourage families from leaving the relative stability of camps, despite their poor conditions. The interconnected nature of these barriers creates a formidable obstacle to return, with infrastructure destruction serving as a foundational issue that amplifies economic, security, and legal challenges.

For instance, R2 reported the comprehensive devastation of infrastructure as a primary barrier, stating,

"The infrastructure suffers from comprehensive destruction, with many essential service centers like schools, health centers, sanitation networks, and potable water networks damaged."

Similarly, R8 underscored the combined impact of security fears and physical dangers, reporting, "Fear of arrest and security pursuits previously, and now the destruction of homes, lack of services, and ongoing fears in some areas of mines and war remnants."

R7 emphasized the centrality of infrastructure destruction, stating,

"The destruction of infrastructure is the primary obstacle facing those wishing to return to their original homes."

R10 provided additional context on economic and service-related challenges, reporting, "Currently, homes are completely or partially destroyed, there are no services in original residential areas, and there is a lack of job opportunities."

R3 highlighted the economic hardship faced by IDPs, stating, "The most prominent obstacles are the complete and partial destruction of homes in the original villages, in addition to the poverty that IDPs face, living below the poverty line, amidst the high cost of infrastructure maintenance."

R6 pointed to a broader range of barriers, including local disputes and war remnants, reporting, "Lack of job opportunities, destroyed infrastructure, absent medical and educational services, war remnants, and disputes with some families who exploited lands and properties before liberation."

R1 described the lack of basic services and safety risks in areas of origin, stating,

"Villages in original locations lack basic services, with most homes destroyed, and there are dangerous war remnants like mines and unexploded ordnance that pose a direct threat to residents."

R4 emphasized the role of insecurity and missing services, reporting,

"The main obstacles to return are the lack of habitable homes, absence of infrastructure and basic services, widespread war remnants, and insecurity in some villages."

R5 highlighted the broader social and economic context, stating,

"Return is currently not possible due to insecurity in original areas, lack of resources for living, infrastructure destruction, deteriorating social conditions, and absence of protection systems."

Finally, R9 underscored the critical role of absent services, reporting,

"Most residents need water, sanitation services, and roads, which are not provided, alongside completely or partially destroyed homes requiring repair."

The findings highlight a complex and multifaceted set of barriers that impede the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their places of origin in Northwest Syria. While over 84% of respondents expressed a willingness to return if conditions improve, the 9.27% who remain uncertain reflect a group whose trust in future stability is fragile, signaling that while the desire for return is strong, deep-seated concerns about long-term security and infrastructure remain prevalent.

The primary barriers to return identified by respondents include the widespread destruction of homes, the lack of access to basic services such as water, electricity, and sanitation, as well as economic hardships and ongoing security risks. Legal issues were rarely cited as a significant barrier, indicating that the obstacles to return are predominantly infrastructural and situational rather than bureaucratic. The data suggests that addressing the material and physical conditions of origin areas, such as rebuilding homes and restoring services, is crucial for facilitating the return process.

A striking 81.46% of respondents indicated they would return immediately if infrastructure were restored to adequate levels. However, nearly 20% of respondents emphasized that security improvements would also be necessary for their return, highlighting that the restoration of infrastructure alone is insufficient without guarantees of personal safety and stability. A small but significant portion of respondents (4.64%) reported that they had resettled elsewhere, signaling an emerging pattern of permanent displacement for some individuals, likely due to the persistent challenges of returning to their original homes.

The qualitative data gathered from key informant interviews (KIIs) paints a more nuanced picture of the barriers to return. The most frequently cited obstacle is the extensive destruction of housing and critical infrastructure in areas of origin, including water supply systems, electricity grids, sanitation facilities, schools, health services, and transportation networks. This destruction renders many areas uninhabitable, with homes either completely or partially destroyed, leaving IDPs with no viable options for return without substantial reconstruction efforts. The high costs of rebuilding homes and restoring basic services are particularly burdensome for IDPs, most of whom face significant economic constraints and limited access to income-generating opportunities.

Economic factors exacerbate the difficulties of return. Many IDPs noted that areas of origin suffer from a severe lack of job opportunities, further compounding the challenge of returning. Without livelihoods to support their families, IDPs are unable to sustain themselves upon return. The absence of economic opportunities, coupled with the high costs of infrastructure repair, creates a substantial financial barrier for those wishing to return to their homes. In addition, ongoing security concerns, including fears of arrest, instability, and the presence of war remnants such as mines and unexploded

ordnance, create substantial risks for those contemplating return. In some cases, unresolved political tensions or disputes over land and property ownership further complicate the return process, as IDPs may face conflicts with other residents or occupying groups.

Legal and administrative obstacles, such as the loss of property documentation, present additional challenges for returnees. Many IDPs are unable to prove ownership or access their properties, leaving them in a state of legal limbo that prevents them from reclaiming their homes. Furthermore, the absence of essential services, including schools, healthcare facilities, and reliable water sources, in areas of origin undermines the feasibility of resettlement, as families prioritize access to these basic needs for their survival and well-being.

The psychological and social toll of prolonged displacement also plays a significant role in shaping attitudes toward return. Respondents consistently highlighted the uncertainty and insecurity associated with returning to areas of origin, despite the difficult conditions in displacement camps. Many IDPs prefer to remain in the relative stability of the camps, where essential services—though limited—are at least available, as opposed to returning to areas that remain insecure and devoid of necessary infrastructure. The interplay between infrastructure destruction, economic hardship, security risks, and the absence of basic services creates a formidable barrier to return, with each of these factors amplifying the others and preventing a sustainable resolution to displacement.

In conclusion, the barriers to return for IDPs in Northwest Syria are multifaceted and deeply entrenched, encompassing physical, economic, security, and legal challenges. The destruction of infrastructure and the absence of basic services represent the foundational issues, while security concerns and economic hardship further complicate the return process. Legal and bureaucratic obstacles, while present, appear to be secondary to the practical barriers posed by the lack of infrastructure and the ongoing risks in areas of origin. Addressing these issues through comprehensive rehabilitation of infrastructure, restoration of essential services, and improvements in security is essential for facilitating the return of IDPs. However, as some IDPs begin to resettle permanently in other areas, the dynamics of return are likely to shift, requiring a broader and more sustainable approach to resolving displacement in the region.

4.4.Humanitarian Shelter Assistance

The majority (82.45%) have received some form of shelter-related support, suggesting strong humanitarian coverage, though nearly 1 in 5 have not received any assistance.



Figure 13: Shelter Assistance Received

Material aid dominates the type of assistance, especially tents and construction materials. Relatively few received financial aid or support for repairs, reflecting a focus on emergency relief over long-term solutions or self-reliance.

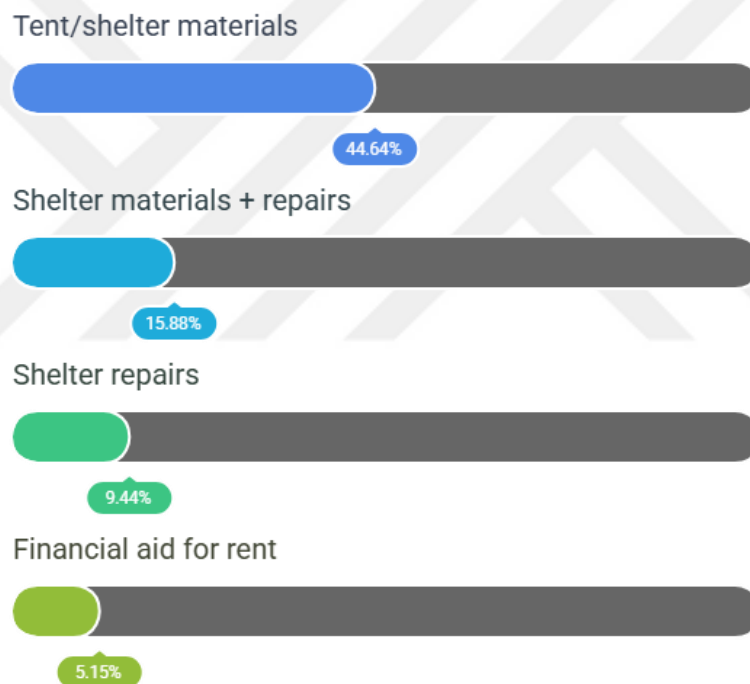


Figure 14: Type of assistance received.

While most respondents found the assistance at least partially effective, only about a quarter rated it as “very helpful.” This suggests that while aid reaches people, its quality and sustainability remain insufficient. The 14.24% who found it “not helpful” likely represent those in prolonged or unmet need.

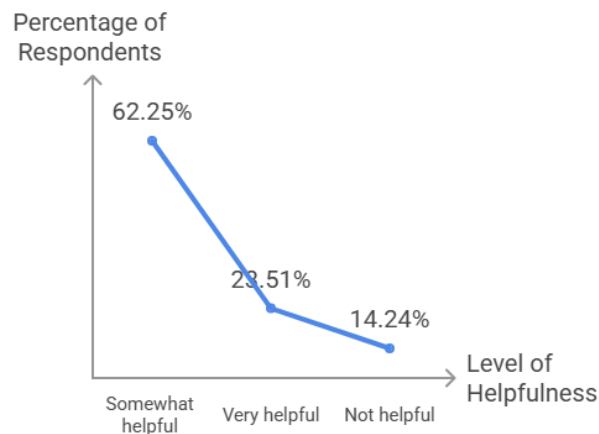


Figure 15: Effectiveness of assistance

An overwhelming majority (92.69%) support rebuilding in original areas, emphasizing a strong desire for return and place-based recovery. The very low preference for improving shelters in camps or relocating elsewhere highlights the temporary nature of camps in the minds of IDPs.

Solution	Percentage
 Rebuilding homes in original areas	92.69%
 Permanent housing in new areas	2.66%
 Improving shelters in camps	1.66%
 Other	2.99%

Figure 16: Long-Term Solution Preferences

The below result aligns with the earlier finding of willingness to return and further reinforces that, for most IDPs, displacement is not a choice, and return remains the ultimate goal if conditions allow.

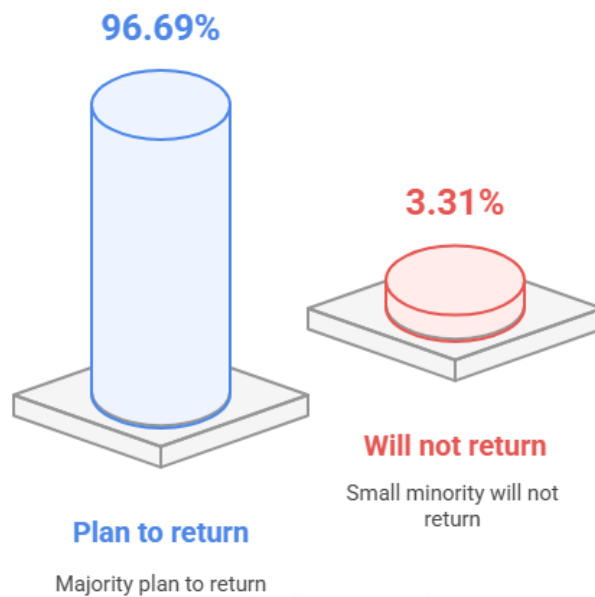


Figure17 : Return Intent

The most frequently cited need, by far, is home reconstruction (294 selections). This highlights a crucial direction for both policy and humanitarian response: facilitating return through reconstruction and basic services. Water and sanitation are also central needs, indicating service access is as critical as structural support.

Need	Count
 Rebuilding/Repairing Homes	294
 Water/Sanitation	143
 Rent Support	61
 Heating/Cooling	60
 Shelter Solutions	58

Figure18 : Top Shelter-Related Needs

A large majority of respondents reported receiving shelter-related assistance, indicating that humanitarian agencies have maintained a significant presence in addressing shelter needs. However, the type and perceived effectiveness of assistance reveal important nuances. Most support has come in the form of emergency shelter materials or tents—suitable for short-term relief but insufficient for long-term stability or resilience. Far fewer received help with durable repairs, financial rent support, or long-term housing improvements.

The perception of assistance as “somewhat helpful” by most respondents suggests that, while humanitarian aid meets basic survival needs, it fails to provide a meaningful pathway toward recovery or dignified living conditions. Only a quarter found the assistance to be “very helpful,” underscoring the limitations of current shelter strategies in responding to prolonged displacement.

The overwhelming preference for rebuilding homes in original areas—expressed by more than 90% of respondents—reinforces the idea that displacement is viewed as temporary, even after several years. Camps are perceived as transitory spaces, not suitable for permanent settlement. This perception aligns with IDPs’ call for long-term investments in reconstruction, infrastructure, and service restoration in areas of origin.

The top needs identified—home reconstruction, access to water and sanitation, and heating/cooling—reflect both the basic and transformative necessities required for return. These results indicate that shelter-related support must go beyond structure provision and integrate broader concerns of habitability, health, and community restoration. Addressing these needs holistically could significantly enhance the prospects for safe, voluntary, and sustainable return.

Qualitative analysis from KIIs revealed that humanitarian interventions in northwest Syria play an essential role in addressing the shelter crisis but are significantly constrained by limited funding, a focus on temporary solutions, and coordination challenges. Organizations provide critical support through the distribution of emergency aid, including tents, shelter kits, blankets, winter clothing, kitchen tools, and hygiene supplies, which help mitigate the immediate needs of IDPs living in dire conditions. Efforts to improve camp infrastructure, such as the construction of sanitation facilities, water supply networks, and health centers, have also been implemented, alongside campaigns to address public health risks. In some instances, organizations have transitioned from tents to semi-permanent shelters, such as cement block units or prefabricated housing, which offer greater durability, insulation, and privacy compared to traditional tents. However, respondents consistently described these interventions as insufficient to meet the overwhelming needs of approximately four million IDPs, with the scale of displacement and destruction far exceeding available resources.

The data highlights a reliance on short-term, emergency-focused measures, which, while necessary, fail to address the root causes of the shelter crisis or provide sustainable solutions. Coordination among humanitarian actors remains a significant challenge, with respondents noting overlapping efforts, uneven geographic coverage, and limited engagement with local councils and communities. International sanctions and political restrictions further exacerbate funding shortages, hindering the ability to scale up interventions or invest in long-term infrastructure. Despite these limitations, organizations are recognized for filling critical gaps in the absence of robust governmental capacity, particularly in areas where public services have collapsed. The effectiveness of interventions varies by region and organization, with some respondents reporting tangible improvements in specific camps, while others emphasized the persistent inadequacy of aid relative to the crisis's magnitude.

For instance, R1 reported the significant contributions of organizations in providing emergency aid, stating,

"Organizations play an important role in providing emergency and non-food aid like blankets, tents, winter equipment, kitchen tools, and hygiene supplies."

In contrast, R6 highlighted the limited impact of these efforts, reporting,

"Humanitarian organizations play a timid and simple role in addressing the shelter crisis, due to limited and insufficient support."

R7 further emphasized the role of funding shortages, stating,

"The effectiveness of current humanitarian interventions remains largely limited due to a lack of long-term funding."

R4 acknowledged specific successes in reconstruction and rehabilitation, reporting,

"Organizations play a significant and effective role through implementing reconstruction, repair, construction, supporting health centers, and removing debris in original residential areas."

R9 underscored the potential for improved coordination to enhance impact, stating,

"The protection, education, shelter, recovery, and food security clusters have a prominent role in coordination at a high level, which could be enhanced to assess needs."

R10 noted the limited scale of interventions relative to need, reporting,

"The support provided by organizations is significant but insufficient due to the large number of IDPs and the extent of destruction."

Qualitative analysis from KIIs revealed a broad consensus on the need for sustainable, coordinated, and community-driven solutions to improve shelter conditions and facilitate the safe and dignified return of IDPs. Respondents proposed a multi-faceted approach to address the shelter crisis, emphasizing the transition from temporary tents to durable, semi-permanent shelters, such as cement block units or prefabricated housing, to provide greater protection, insulation, and dignity. Rebuilding critical infrastructure—including water supply, sanitation, electricity, roads, schools, and health facilities—was identified as a top priority to make return viable and to support sustainable living conditions in both camps and areas of origin. Respondents stressed the importance of focusing reconstruction efforts on original residential areas to encourage voluntary return, alongside improving camp infrastructure for those unable to return in the near term.

Enhancing coordination among humanitarian actors was seen as essential to reducing duplication, optimizing resource allocation, and addressing unmet needs. Recommendations included establishing centralized coordination platforms, developing standardized technical guidelines for shelter construction, and increasing the involvement of local councils and communities in planning and implementation. Economic empowerment was another key focus, with respondents advocating for job creation, livelihood programs, and cash-for-work initiatives to enable IDPs to rebuild their lives and reduce dependency on humanitarian aid. These programs were seen as critical for restoring financial independence and supporting the high costs of reconstruction.

On a broader scale, respondents called for political and programmatic changes to address systemic barriers. Lifting international sanctions was frequently cited as a necessary step to unlock funding and resources for reconstruction, while securing long-term, predictable funding was deemed essential to move beyond emergency aid. The establishment of reconstruction funds or grants was proposed to support large-scale rebuilding efforts, particularly for infrastructure and housing. Ensuring security in areas of origin, including the removal of war remnants like mines and unexploded ordnance, was identified as a prerequisite for safe return, alongside resolving property disputes through legal documentation and mediation processes. Respondents also emphasized the need for psychosocial support, community participation, and legal protections to address the social and psychological impacts of displacement and to foster resilience.

The international community was urged to shift from short-term humanitarian aid to sustainable development, prioritizing support for local organizations and community-led initiatives. Respondents highlighted the importance of peacebuilding efforts, agricultural revitalization, and trade development to create stable conditions for return and recovery. Strategic site selection for new shelters, based on geographic suitability and proximity to services, was also recommended to enhance the effectiveness

of shelter provision. These recommendations collectively aim to create a holistic framework for addressing the shelter crisis, balancing immediate needs with long-term recovery goals.

R2 advocated for systemic policy changes to enable reconstruction, reporting,

"Lifting international sanctions, licensing reconstruction grant funds, establishing unions and centers specialized in coordination and reconstruction."

R7 emphasized the need for durable shelters, stating,

"Improving emergency response and ensuring minimum dignity by replacing worn-out tents with more durable units for families unable to return to their original homes in the near term."

R6 proposed strategic planning for shelter sites, reporting,

"It is suggested to carefully select the geographic location of shelter sites in terms of location and size to match the significant scale of need."

R10 stressed the importance of focusing on original areas of displacement, stating,

"The focus should be on solving the problem in the original displacement areas and rebuilding the areas abandoned by their residents."

R5 highlighted the need for holistic and sustainable solutions, reporting,

"The most prominent improvements required include providing safe and sustainable shelter, improving infrastructure in camps and affected areas, and providing psychosocial support and enhancing livelihoods."

R1 called for increased funding and security guarantees, stating,

"There is a need for long-term funding for sustainable projects, UN-backed security guarantees, and livelihood support to encourage return."

R3 advocated for economic empowerment and flexible housing options, reporting, "Creating job opportunities, providing flexible housing options, and improving living conditions through infrastructure and safety enhancements are critical."

. R4 emphasized the need for robust infrastructure rebuilding, stating,

"Rebuilding infrastructure, including roads, utilities, health, and education facilities, and supporting agriculture and trade are essential for recovery."

R8 proposed improvements in coordination and community engagement, reporting,

"Enhancing coordination through local partnerships and involving communities in planning can address gaps in shelter provision."

Finally, R9 stressed the importance of sustainable infrastructure and local capacity, stating, "Establishing sustainable infrastructure and supporting local organizations to lead reconstruction efforts will ensure long-term impact."

The provision of shelter-related assistance has been a central aspect of the humanitarian response to displacement in Northwest Syria. Data shows that a majority (82.45%) of respondents have received some form of shelter assistance, indicating a broad humanitarian coverage. However, nearly 18% of the displaced population has not received any shelter-related support, highlighting significant gaps in the aid distribution process.

Most of the shelter-related assistance provided has been in the form of material aid, particularly tents and construction materials, reflecting the focus on emergency relief. However, a relatively smaller portion of respondents received financial assistance or support for repairs, suggesting that long-term solutions or self-reliance have not been adequately addressed. The reliance on emergency aid highlights the prioritization of immediate needs, yet there remains an insufficient emphasis on durable, long-term housing solutions.

While a majority of respondents considered the assistance to be somewhat helpful, only a quarter rated it as "very helpful." This indicates that, while the immediate needs of IDPs are being met, the quality and sustainability of the support remain inadequate. The 14.24% of respondents who found the assistance "not helpful" likely represent individuals in protracted displacement situations or those whose needs continue to go unmet, underscoring the inadequacy of the current response to address the extended nature of displacement.

The overwhelming preference for rebuilding homes in original areas—expressed by 92.69% of respondents—reinforces the idea that displacement is considered temporary, even after years of living in camps. The low preference for improving shelters in camps or relocating elsewhere further highlights that camps are viewed as temporary spaces, unsuitable for permanent settlement. This preference aligns with the ongoing desire of IDPs to return to their homes, should conditions permit.

The most frequently cited shelter-related needs include home reconstruction, access to water and sanitation services, and heating/cooling solutions. These needs reflect both the structural and service-related barriers to return. The significant emphasis on home reconstruction indicates that the restoration of housing and the provision of basic services are seen as fundamental to enabling a safe and sustainable return for IDPs.

Qualitative insights from key informant interviews (KIIs) further illustrate the complexities faced by humanitarian organizations in addressing shelter needs. Humanitarian actors have played a vital role in providing emergency relief, including tents, shelter kits, blankets, winter clothing, kitchen tools, and hygiene supplies. Additionally, efforts to improve camp infrastructure, such as constructing sanitation facilities, water supply networks, and health centers, have been implemented. In some cases, organizations have moved from using tents to semi-permanent shelters, such as cement block units or prefabricated housing, offering better durability, insulation, and privacy.

Despite these efforts, respondents consistently pointed out that the scale of the humanitarian response remains insufficient. The reliance on short-term, emergency-focused measures, while necessary, fails to address the root causes of the shelter crisis or provide sustainable long-term solutions. Coordination among humanitarian actors remains a significant challenge, with overlapping efforts, uneven geographic coverage, and limited engagement with local councils and communities. Additionally, political restrictions and international sanctions have exacerbated funding shortages, limiting the ability of humanitarian organizations to scale up interventions or invest in long-term infrastructure.

However, respondents acknowledged that humanitarian organizations have filled essential gaps left by the collapse of public services. The effectiveness of interventions varied by region and organization, with some respondents reporting improvements in specific camps, while others emphasized the ongoing inadequacy of the response relative to the scale of the crisis.

The need for more sustainable, coordinated, and community-driven solutions to the shelter crisis was emphasized by many respondents. A multi-faceted approach was suggested, focusing on the transition from temporary shelters to durable, semi-permanent housing. Rebuilding critical infrastructure—such as water supply, sanitation systems, electricity, and healthcare facilities—was identified as key to enabling return and ensuring long-term sustainability. Improving camp infrastructure was also recognized as important for those unable to return in the short term.

Enhanced coordination among humanitarian actors was seen as essential to reducing duplication, optimizing resource allocation, and addressing unmet needs. Several respondents recommended the establishment of centralized coordination platforms, the development of standardized technical guidelines for shelter construction, and greater involvement of local councils and communities in the planning and implementation of shelter projects. Furthermore, economic empowerment emerged as a critical area, with calls for job creation, livelihood programs, and cash-for-work initiatives to reduce dependency on humanitarian aid and enable IDPs to rebuild their lives.

There was also a consensus on the need for systemic policy changes to address the barriers preventing large-scale reconstruction efforts. Lifting international sanctions was frequently cited as essential to unlocking funding and resources for reconstruction. Long-term, predictable funding was seen as critical for transitioning from emergency aid to sustainable development. The establishment of reconstruction funds or grants to support large-scale rebuilding efforts, particularly in infrastructure and housing, was considered a necessary step. Security in areas of origin, including the removal of war remnants such as mines and unexploded ordnance, was recognized as a precondition for safe return. Additionally, resolving property disputes through legal documentation and mediation processes was seen as crucial for facilitating return and enabling reconstruction.

In conclusion, while humanitarian shelter assistance has been essential in addressing the immediate needs of IDPs, there are significant gaps in providing sustainable, long-term solutions. The reliance on emergency aid has been necessary but insufficient in facilitating the safe and dignified return of displaced populations. Moving forward, it is crucial to adopt a more comprehensive, coordinated, and community-driven approach that integrates shelter provision with broader infrastructure rehabilitation, service restoration, and livelihood opportunities. This holistic framework, supported by long-term political and financial commitment, will be essential in addressing both the immediate and long-term challenges of displacement and return.

Key recommendations include focusing on the rebuilding of original displacement areas, transitioning to durable shelters for those unable to return immediately, improving the coordination and engagement of local actors, and ensuring the security of return areas through demining efforts and legal frameworks. Additionally, addressing economic vulnerabilities and ensuring long-term funding for reconstruction and development are critical to facilitating the recovery process.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1. Conclusion

The primary objectives of this research were to deeply explore the conditions of temporary shelters in Northwest Syria, with a specific focus on evaluating their adequacy, safety, and sustainability from the perspectives of displaced families. Through this exploration, the study aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by internally displaced persons (IDPs) as they navigate their temporary living situations. The second objective was to identify the key barriers preventing the reconstruction of homes and the return of IDPs. These barriers, which include widespread infrastructure destruction, ongoing security concerns, and significant socio-economic challenges, have hindered efforts to support a sustainable return and recovery process for displaced communities. Lastly, the study sought to evaluate the effectiveness of humanitarian interventions in addressing the shelter needs of IDPs. This involved examining both the immediate, emergency responses provided by humanitarian organizations and the longer-term housing strategies that aim to offer more durable and sustainable solutions for those displaced by the crisis. Through these objectives, this research aimed to contribute valuable insights into the displacement and recovery process in Northwest Syria, highlighting the complex interplay of factors that continue to shape the lives of millions of IDPs.

The results of this study underline the multi-dimensional nature of the crisis and the intertwined challenges faced by IDPs, from the destruction of homes and lack of basic services to the psychological toll of displacement and the uncertainty surrounding the future.

A significant majority of displaced populations—over 84%—expressed a desire to return to their homes should conditions improve, suggesting that displacement is viewed as temporary by most. Despite years of displacement, many IDPs maintain strong social, cultural, and emotional ties to their places of origin, underlining the fundamental importance of the concept of home. This finding aligns with broader trends in displacement literature, which consistently demonstrates the centrality of home and place for displaced populations. However, despite this strong desire, the barriers to return are formidable and multifaceted, requiring a concerted and coordinated response from humanitarian organizations, national governments, and international actors.

The most frequently cited barriers to return are the physical destruction of homes and infrastructure, the absence of essential services such as water, electricity, and healthcare, as well as security concerns. The near-total destruction of homes, schools, and health facilities in many areas of origin presents an overwhelming challenge for returnees who cannot realistically return to communities that have been rendered uninhabitable. Infrastructural rehabilitation is urgently needed, but it is not the only obstacle.

Economic hardship, including limited access to livelihoods and job opportunities, exacerbates the already dire situation. Many IDPs, living in poverty with no reliable income streams, find the prospect of returning to devastated communities daunting, particularly given the high costs associated with rebuilding homes and restoring essential services.

Moreover, the survey results revealed that security remains a significant concern for nearly 20% of respondents, many of whom would only consider returning if the security situation improves. Fears of arrest, ongoing instability, and the presence of war remnants, such as unexploded ordnance (UXOs) and landmines, have left many IDPs wary of returning to their places of origin. The lingering insecurity, combined with local disputes over land and property ownership, further complicates the return process. These issues are compounded by the absence of legal mechanisms to resolve property disputes and facilitate the return of IDPs to their homes. The near-total absence of legal frameworks for property restitution, as well as challenges related to the loss of documentation and disputes over land ownership, significantly undermines the feasibility of return for many individuals and families.

The humanitarian shelter assistance provided to displaced populations, while extensive, has been primarily focused on meeting immediate, short-term needs, rather than addressing the long-term requirements for recovery and rehabilitation. Shelter interventions have largely been limited to the provision of tents, emergency shelter kits, blankets, and other essential supplies, aimed at ensuring the survival of IDPs in the short run. These interventions, while crucial, have not sufficiently addressed the underlying structural and infrastructural needs of the displaced population. The study found that the overwhelming majority of respondents (82.45%) had received some form of shelter-related assistance. However, the material aid provided has generally been inadequate in meeting the long-term needs of IDPs. Only a small proportion of IDPs received assistance aimed at permanent housing solutions, such as financial aid for home repairs or the construction of durable shelters. This focus on temporary solutions reflects the prioritization of immediate survival needs over long-term recovery strategies, which has created a gap between the emergency relief efforts and the broader reconstruction needs of the region.

A substantial majority of respondents, 92.69%, expressed strong support for rebuilding in their original areas of residence. This indicates that, despite the challenges, most displaced individuals retain a clear preference for returning to their home communities. However, the low preference for improving shelters in camps or relocating elsewhere underscores the temporary nature of camps in the minds of IDPs. These camps, though essential for providing immediate relief, are not viewed as viable long-term solutions by displaced populations. This reflects a broader trend in the literature on displacement, which suggests that camps are seen as a last resort, rather than a permanent solution, and that displaced

individuals generally wish to return to their places of origin if given the opportunity and the necessary support.

The study also underscores the need for a more holistic approach to shelter-related assistance. Home reconstruction, water and sanitation services, and access to basic services are the most pressing needs identified by the respondents. Addressing these fundamental needs should be at the core of humanitarian and recovery interventions in Northwest Syria. The restoration of essential services—such as reliable water sources, sanitation, healthcare, and education—must be prioritized alongside infrastructure rebuilding to create habitable, sustainable environments for returnees. This finding highlights the interconnected nature of shelter and service provision, and the importance of adopting a comprehensive approach to recovery, rather than treating shelter assistance as a stand-alone intervention.

The results of the study also point to the need for a more effective, sustainable, and coordinated humanitarian response. While humanitarian organizations have played a crucial role in providing emergency shelter and other essential services, their efforts have been limited by a number of factors. Funding shortages, political restrictions, and coordination challenges have hindered the ability of humanitarian actors to scale up interventions and address the full scale of the displacement crisis. Additionally, a focus on short-term relief has diverted attention from the longer-term needs of IDPs, particularly the need for durable shelters and sustainable livelihoods. The overwhelming reliance on short-term, emergency-focused measures has resulted in a lack of meaningful progress toward recovery and rebuilding in the affected areas.

In sum, the findings of this study suggest that the IDP crisis in Northwest Syria is far from resolved, and that current interventions are insufficient to address the long-term needs of displaced populations. While significant humanitarian aid has been provided, it has largely been aimed at addressing immediate survival needs, rather than facilitating the return and recovery of IDPs. A more comprehensive and coordinated approach is needed, one that focuses not only on immediate relief but also on the structural and infrastructural challenges that prevent the sustainable return of displaced populations. The barriers to return identified in this study—ranging from the destruction of infrastructure and insecurity to the lack of livelihoods and legal obstacles—underscore the complexity of the crisis and the need for long-term solutions that go beyond the provision of temporary shelter.

5.2.Recommendations

1. Comprehensive Infrastructure Rebuilding

The destruction of homes, schools, hospitals, sanitation systems, and water supply networks must be addressed through a comprehensive rebuilding effort. This should involve the restoration of not only physical housing but also the broader infrastructure that supports community life. Rebuilding homes must go hand in hand with restoring access to basic services, including water, electricity, healthcare, education, and sanitation. International actors, including humanitarian organizations and governments, must invest in long-term infrastructure projects that go beyond emergency relief and contribute to the creation of livable, sustainable communities.

2. Security and Mine Clearance

Security remains a significant concern for many IDPs, with fears of arrest, ongoing conflict, and the presence of war remnants such as mines and unexploded ordnance preventing return. A comprehensive mine clearance program should be implemented across areas of origin to ensure the safety of returnees. The restoration of law and order, alongside the establishment of local governance and security frameworks, is essential to creating a stable environment for return. These efforts must be accompanied by broader political solutions to ensure long-term stability and peace.

3. Durable Shelters and Housing Solutions

The humanitarian response to shelter needs must shift from short-term, temporary solutions to more durable, semi-permanent housing. This could include prefabricated houses or cement block units that provide better protection, privacy, and insulation compared to tents. Shelter interventions should be designed with the long-term needs of IDPs in mind, ensuring that homes are built to withstand future challenges and provide a safe and dignified living environment for returnees.

4. Economic Empowerment and Livelihood Support

The restoration of livelihoods is critical for enabling IDPs to rebuild their lives and contribute to the reconstruction of their communities. Humanitarian and development agencies must invest in programs that promote economic empowerment, including job creation, vocational training, cash-for-work initiatives, and microcredit schemes. These programs are essential for reducing the dependency on humanitarian aid and facilitating the economic recovery of displaced populations.

5. Enhanced Coordination Among Humanitarian Actors

A more coordinated approach among humanitarian actors is essential to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the response. This should include the establishment of centralized coordination platforms to reduce duplication, ensure equitable distribution of resources, and facilitate collaboration between different actors, including local councils and communities. Humanitarian organizations must work together to ensure that aid reaches those most in need and that interventions are aligned with the priorities of displaced populations.

6. Addressing Legal and Administrative Barriers

Legal obstacles, particularly the loss of property documentation and disputes over land ownership, must be addressed to facilitate the return of IDPs. Legal frameworks for property restitution should be developed, and mediation processes should be put in place to resolve conflicts over land and property ownership. Efforts to restore legal documentation and resolve property disputes are essential for enabling IDPs to return to their homes and reclaim their properties.

7. Long-Term, Predictable Funding

The ability to address the long-term recovery needs of IDPs is contingent on securing predictable and sustained funding for reconstruction efforts. The international community must commit to long-term funding for recovery and rebuilding, moving beyond short-term emergency aid. This funding should support large-scale infrastructure rebuilding, the restoration of essential services, and the creation of sustainable livelihoods for displaced populations.

8. Psychosocial Support and Community Resilience

Addressing the psychological impact of displacement is essential for supporting the recovery process. Programs providing psychosocial support, mental health services, and community rebuilding initiatives will help IDPs cope with trauma and regain a sense of normalcy. Social cohesion programs that bring together displaced individuals and host communities will help foster resilience and reduce tensions in areas of return.

9. Political Advocacy and Peacebuilding**

Political solutions to the conflict must complement humanitarian interventions. International actors should advocate for peace processes that address the root causes of displacement and create the conditions for the voluntary, safe, and dignified return of IDPs. Support for political processes and peacebuilding initiatives is essential for ensuring that displaced populations can return to secure, stable environments.

10. Shifting Focus from Emergency Aid to Development

A paradigm shift is required in the approach to humanitarian aid in Northwest Syria. While emergency relief is essential, the international community must focus on development and long-term recovery. This means investing in infrastructure, economic development, and social services to create sustainable communities. Humanitarian aid should not be seen as a temporary stopgap but as part of a longer-term strategy to support recovery and development in the region.

The IDP crisis in Northwest Syria remains a significant challenge that requires a long-term, integrated approach to recovery and rebuilding. While substantial humanitarian efforts have been made, they have largely focused on emergency relief, and the long-term needs of displaced populations have not been adequately addressed. The barriers to return, including the destruction of infrastructure, security concerns, and the lack of livelihoods, present complex challenges that require coordinated, multi-sectoral interventions. Only through a sustained and comprehensive effort—focused on rebuilding infrastructure, restoring livelihoods, ensuring security, and addressing legal and political barriers—can the prospects for safe, voluntary, and dignified return be realized for the millions of displaced Syrians. By shifting the focus from emergency relief to long-term development and recovery, there is hope that displaced populations can eventually return to their homes, rebuild their lives, and contribute to the reconstruction of their communities in a stable and secure environment.

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DATA COLLECTION TOOLS ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: QUANTITATIVE SURVEY

Kobo Toolbox Questionnaire

Displacement in the Post-Conflict Zone: Assessing the Shelter Crisis in Northwest Syria

Hello, my name is Abdurrahman Aga a master's student at Hasan Kalyoncu University, studying International Relations and Political Science. Thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey, which is a crucial component of my thesis research on displacement and shelter challenges in post-conflict Northwest Syria.

My research focuses on understanding the ongoing shelter crisis faced by displaced populations in Northwest Syria. Despite the reduction in active conflict, many internally displaced persons (IDPs) remain unable to return to their homes due to the extensive destruction of infrastructure, lack of essential services, and inadequate living conditions in temporary shelters. This study aims to assess the availability, quality, and safety of current shelter options, explore the barriers preventing return, and evaluate the role of humanitarian efforts in addressing these challenges.

Your experiences and insights are invaluable in shedding light on the difficulties faced by displaced individuals and families, as well as the factors influencing their decisions to remain in temporary shelters or attempt to return. The information collected will contribute to a better understanding of the shelter crisis and inform policy recommendations for more effective humanitarian interventions and reconstruction efforts.

To ensure the confidentiality of all information, please do not mention your name. The data you provide will be used solely for academic purposes. Participation in this research is entirely voluntary, and by completing and submitting the survey, you indicate your willingness to take part in this study.

The survey should take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. Your honest responses will not only contribute to academic research but may also help shape better policies and programs aimed at improving shelter conditions and supporting displaced populations in post-conflict Syria. Thank you for your valuable time and participation.

Target Respondents: Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Northwest Syria camps

Estimated Completion Time: 20-30 minutes

Section 1: General Information

1. What is your gender?

- Male
 - Female
 - Prefer not to say
- 2. What is your age group?
 - 18-24
 - 25-34
 - 35-44
 - 45+
- 3. Where did you live before displacement? (*District name or nearest city*)
 - *[Open-ended response]*
- 4. How long have you been displaced?
 - Less than 1 year
 - 1-3 years
 - More than 3 years

Section 2: Assessing Current Shelter Conditions

(Research Objective 1: Assess the availability, quality, and safety of shelter options for displaced populations in Northwest Syria.)

- 5. What type of shelter do you currently live in?
 - Tent
 - Makeshift shelter
 - Rented house
 - Collective center
 - Other: *[Specify]*
- 6. How would you rate the safety of your current shelter?
 - Very safe
 - Somewhat safe
 - Not safe
- 7. What are the biggest challenges in your current shelter? (*Select up to 2*)
 - Overcrowding

- Poor insulation (cold in winter, hot in summer)
- Risk of flooding or collapse
- Lack of privacy
- Limited access to basic services (water, electricity, sanitation)
- Other: *[Specify]*

Section 3: Identifying Barriers to Return

(Research Objective 2: Identify the primary obstacles preventing IDPs from returning to their original homes, including infrastructure damage.)

8. Would you return to your original home if conditions allowed?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

9. What is preventing you from returning home? *(Select all that apply)*

- My home is destroyed
- No access to water, electricity, or basic services
- Lack of security in my hometown
- No job opportunities in my hometown
- Legal/ownership issues with my property
- Other: *[Specify]*

10. If infrastructure was repaired in your hometown, would you consider returning?

- Yes, immediately
- Yes, but only if security improves
- No, I have settled elsewhere
- Not sure

Section 4: Evaluating Humanitarian Shelter Solutions

(Research Objective 4: Assess the effectiveness of humanitarian efforts in providing shelter solutions.)

11. Have you received any shelter-related assistance from humanitarian organizations?

- Yes
- No

12. If yes, what kind of assistance have you received? *(Select all that apply)*

- Tent or shelter materials
- Winterization support (blankets, heating)
- Repairs or upgrades to my shelter
- Financial aid for housing
- Other: *[Specify]*

13. How would you rate the effectiveness of the assistance you received?

- Very helpful
- Somewhat helpful
- Not helpful

14. What do you believe is the best long-term solution for displaced people in your situation?

- Rebuilding homes in original areas
- Improving shelters in camps
- Providing permanent housing in new locations
- Other: *[Specify]*

15. Do you have any additional comments or concerns?

[Open-ended response]

ANNEX 2 : QUALITATIVE QUESTIONNAIRES

Key Informant Interview (KII) Questionnaire

Introduction:

Hello, my name is Abdurrahman Aga a master's student at Hasan Kalyoncu University, studying International Relations and Political Science. Thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey, which is a crucial component of my thesis research on displacement and shelter challenges in post-conflict Northwest Syria.

My research focuses on understanding the ongoing shelter crisis faced by displaced populations in Northwest Syria. Despite the reduction in active conflict, many internally displaced persons (IDPs) remain unable to return to their homes due to the extensive destruction of infrastructure, lack of essential services, and inadequate living conditions in temporary shelters. This study aims to assess the availability, quality, and safety of current shelter options, explore the barriers preventing return, and evaluate the role of humanitarian efforts in addressing these challenges.

Your experiences and insights are invaluable in shedding light on the difficulties faced by displaced individuals and families, as well as the factors influencing their decisions to remain in temporary shelters or attempt to return. The information collected will contribute to a better understanding of the shelter crisis and inform policy recommendations for more effective humanitarian interventions and reconstruction efforts.

To ensure the confidentiality of all information, please do not mention your name. The data you provide will be used solely for academic purposes. Participation in this research is entirely voluntary, and by completing and submitting the survey, you indicate your willingness to take part in this study.

The survey should take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Your honest responses will not only contribute to academic research but may also help shape better policies and programs aimed at improving shelter conditions and supporting displaced populations in post-conflict Syria. Thank you for your valuable time and participation.

Section 1: General Information

1. Name: (Optional)
2. Interview Code:
3. Organization/Position:

4. Role in Shelter and Infrastructure Support:

Section 2: Current Shelter Conditions

5. How would you describe the current shelter conditions for displaced populations in northwest Syria?
6. What are the most pressing challenges regarding temporary shelters in the region?
7. How has the availability and quality of shelter changed over the past few years?

Section 3: Challenges to Returning Home

8. What are the primary obstacles preventing displaced individuals from returning to their original homes?
9. How significant is the role of infrastructure destruction in delaying returns?
10. Are there any ongoing efforts to rebuild homes and essential services? If so, what are the main challenges they face?

Section 4: Humanitarian Assistance and Coordination

11. What role do humanitarian organizations play in addressing the shelter crisis?
12. How effective are current humanitarian interventions in providing durable shelter solutions?
13. Are there any gaps in coordination among different humanitarian actors? If so, what improvements would you suggest?

Section 5: Recommendations and Future Planning

14. In your opinion, what measures should be prioritized to improve shelter conditions in northwest Syria?
15. What policy or programmatic changes would help facilitate the return of displaced populations?
16. How can the international community better support sustainable housing solutions for IDPs?

ANNEX 1 :ARABIC

النزوح في المنطقة ما بعد الصراع: تقييم أزمة المأوى في شمال غرب سوريا
مرحباً، اسمي عبد الرحمن آغا، طالب ماجستير في جامعة حسن كاليونجو، أدرس العلاقات الدولية والعلوم السياسية. شكرًا لك على تخصيص وقتك للمشاركة في هذا الاستبيان، الذي يُعد جزءاً أساسياً من بحثي حول النزوح وتحديات المأوى في شمال غرب سوريا بعد الصراع.

يركز بحثي على فهم أزمة المأوى المستمرة التي تواجهها الفئات النازحة في شمال غرب سوريا. على الرغم من انخفاض حدة النزاع المسلح، لا يزال العديد من النازحين داخلياً غير قادرين على العودة إلى منازلهم بسبب الدمار الواسع للبنية التحتية، ونقص الخدمات الأساسية، وظروف المعيشة غير الملائمة في الملاجئ المؤقتة. يهدف هذا البحث إلى تقييم توفر وجودة وأمان خيارات المأوى الحالية، واستكشاف العوائق التي تحول دون العودة، وتقييم دور الجهود الإنسانية في معالجة هذه التحديات.

تعد تجاربك ورؤاك ذات قيمة كبيرة في تسليط الضوء على الصعوبات التي يواجهها الأفراد والعائلات النازحة، فضلاً عن العوامل التي تؤثر على قراراتهم بالبقاء في الملاجئ المؤقتة أو محاولة العودة. ستساهم المعلومات التي سيتم جمعها في توفير فهم أعمق لأزمة المأوى وتقديم توصيات سياساتية لتحسين التدخلات الإنسانية وجهود إعادة الإعمار.

لضمان سرية جميع المعلومات، يرجى عدم ذكر اسمك. سيتم استخدام البيانات التي تقدمها لأغراض أكاديمية فقط. المشاركة في هذا البحث اختيارية تماماً، وبإكمالك وإرسالك للاستبيان، فإنك تبدي استعدادك للمشاركة في هذه الدراسة.

يستغرق ملء الاستبيان حوالي 30 دقيقة. ستساعد إجاباتك الصادقة في تطوير الأبحاث الأكاديمية، وربما تساهم في وضع سياسات وبرامج أفضل لتحسين ظروف المأوى ودعم النازحين في سوريا ما بعد الصراع. شكرًا لك على وقتك القيم ومشاركتك.

الفئة المستهدفة: النازحون داخليًا (IDPs) في مخيمات شمال غرب سوريا
المدة المقدرة لإكمال الاستبيان : نصف ساعة

القسم الأول: المعلومات العامة

1. ما هو جنسك؟

1. ذكر

2. أنثى

3. أفضل عدم الإفصاح

2. ما هي الفئة العمرية التي تنتمي إليها؟

1. 18-24

2. 25-34

3. 35-44

4. 45+

3. أين كنت تعيش قبل النزوح؟ (اسم المنطقة أو أقرب مدينة)

4. منذ متى وأنت نازح؟

1. أقل من سنة

2. 1-3 سنوات

3. أكثر من 3 سنوات

القسم الثاني: تقييم ظروف المأوى الحالية

5. ما نوع المأوى الذي تعيش فيه حاليًا؟

1. خيمة

2. مأوى مؤقت

3. منزل مستأجر

4. مركز جماعي

5. أخرى: [حدد]

6. كيف تصف أمان مأواك الحالي؟

1. آمن جدًا

2. آمن إلى حد ما

3. غير آمن

7. ما هي أكبر التحديات التي تواجهها في مأواك الحالي؟ (اختر ما يصل إلى خيارين)

1. الاكتظاظ
2. ضعف العزل (البرد في الشتاء، الحر في الصيف)
3. خطر الفيضانات أو الانهيار
4. نقص الخصوصية
5. محدودية الوصول إلى الخدمات الأساسية (المياه، الكهرباء، الصرف الصحي)
6. أخرى: [حدد]

القسم الثالث: تحديد العوائق أمام العودة

8. هل ستعود إلى منزلك الأصلي إذا توفرت الظروف الملائمة؟

1. نعم
2. لا
3. لست متأكدًا
9. ما الذي يمنعك من العودة إلى منزلك؟ (اختر جميع الخيارات المناسبة)

1. منزلي مدمر
2. لا يوجد وصول إلى المياه أو الكهرباء أو الخدمات الأساسية
3. نقص الأمان في مسقط رأسي
4. لا توجد فرص عمل في مسقط رأسي
5. مشاكل قانونية / ملكية تتعلق بممتلكاتي
6. أخرى: [حدد]

10. إذا تم إصلاح البنية التحتية في مسقط رأسك، هل ستفكر في العودة؟

1. نعم، فورًا
2. نعم، ولكن فقط إذا تحسنت الأوضاع الأمنية
3. لا، لقد استقررت في مكان آخر
4. لست متأكدًا

القسم الرابع: تقييم الحلول الإنسانية للمأوى

11. هل تلقيت أي مساعدة تتعلق بالمأوى من المنظمات الإنسانية؟

1. نعم
2. لا

12. إذا كانت الإجابة نعم، فما نوع المساعدة التي تلقيتها؟ (اختر جميع الخيارات المناسبة)

1. خيمة أو مواد بناء للمأوى
2. دعم لفصل الشتاء (بطانيات، تدفئة)
3. إصلاحات أو تحسينات لمأوي
4. مساعدة مالية للسكن
5. أخرى: [حدد]

13. كيف تصف فعالية المساعدة التي تلقيتها؟

1. مفيدة جدًا
2. مفيدة إلى حد ما
3. غير مفيدة

14. ما هو برأيك الحل الأفضل على المدى الطويل للنازحين في وضعك؟

1. إعادة بناء المنازل في المناطق الأصلية
2. تحسين الملاجئ في المخيمات
3. توفير مساكن دائمة في أماكن جديدة
4. أخرى: [حدد]

15. هل لديك أي تعليقات أو مخاوف إضافية؟

ANNEX 2 :ARABIC

استبيان المقابلة مع المخبين الرئيسيين (KII)

مرحبًا، اسمي عبد الرحمن آغا، طالب ماجستير في جامعة حسن كاليونجو، أدرس العلاقات الدولية والعلوم السياسية. شكرًا لك على تخصيص وقتك للمشاركة في هذا الاستبيان، الذي يُعد جزءًا أساسيًا من بحثي حول النزوح وتحديات المأوى في شمال غرب سوريا بعد الصراع.

يركز بحثي على فهم أزمة المأوى المستمرة التي تواجهها الفئات النازحة في شمال غرب سوريا. على الرغم من انخفاض حدة النزاع المسلح، لا يزال العديد من النازحين داخليًا غير قادرين على العودة إلى منازلهم بسبب الدمار الواسع للبنية التحتية، ونقص الخدمات الأساسية، وظروف المعيشة غير الملائمة في الملاجئ المؤقتة. يهدف هذا البحث إلى تقييم توفر وجودة وأمان خيارات المأوى الحالية، واستكشاف العوائق التي تحول دون العودة، وتقييم دور الجهود الإنسانية في معالجة هذه التحديات. تعد تجاربك ورؤاك ذات قيمة كبيرة في تسليط الضوء على الصعوبات التي يواجهها الأفراد والعائلات النازحة، فضلاً عن العوامل التي تؤثر على قراراتهم بالبقاء في الملاجئ المؤقتة أو محاولة العودة. ستساهم المعلومات التي سيتم جمعها في توفير فهم أعمق لأزمة المأوى وتقديم توصيات سياساتية لتحسين التدخلات الإنسانية وجهود إعادة الإعمار. لضمان سرية جميع المعلومات، يرجى عدم ذكر اسمك. سيتم استخدام البيانات التي تقدمها لأغراض أكاديمية فقط. المشاركة في هذا البحث اختيارية تمامًا، وبإمكانك وإرسالك للاستبيان، فإنك تبدي استعدادك للمشاركة في هذه الدراسة. يستغرق ملء الاستبيان حوالي 30 دقيقة. ستساعد إجاباتك الصادقة في تطوير الأبحاث الأكاديمية، وربما تساهم في وضع سياسات وبرامج أفضل لتحسين ظروف المأوى ودعم النازحين في سوريا ما بعد الصراع. شكرًا لك على وقتك القيم ومشاركتك.

القسم الأول: المعلومات العامة

1. الاسم: (اختياري)

2. الكود:

3. المنظمة/المنصب:

4. الدور في دعم المأوى والبنية التحتية:

القسم الثاني: أوضاع المأوى الحالية

5. كيف تصف ظروف المأوى الحالية للنازحين في شمال غرب سوريا؟

6. ما هي أبرز التحديات المتعلقة بالملاجئ المؤقتة في المنطقة؟

7. كيف تغيرت توافر وجودة المأوى خلال السنوات القليلة الماضية؟

القسم الثالث: التحديات التي تواجه العودة إلى الوطن

8. ما هي العوائق الرئيسية التي تمنع النازحين من العودة إلى منازلهم الأصلية؟

9. ما مدى أهمية دور تدمير البنية التحتية في تأخير العودة؟

10. هل هناك جهود جارية لإعادة بناء المنازل والخدمات الأساسية؟ إذا كان الأمر كذلك، ما هي التحديات الرئيسية التي تواجه هذه الجهود؟

القسم الرابع: المساعدات الإنسانية والتنسيق

11. ما هو الدور الذي تلعبه المنظمات الإنسانية في معالجة أزمة المأوى؟

12. ما مدى فعالية التدخلات الإنسانية الحالية في توفير حلول مأوى دائمة؟

13. هل هناك فجوات في التنسيق بين الجهات الفاعلة الإنسانية المختلفة؟ إذا كان الأمر كذلك، فما التحسينات التي تقترحونها؟

القسم الخامس: التوصيات والتخطيط المستقبلي

14. برأيك، ما هي التدابير التي يجب إعطاؤها الأولوية لتحسين أوضاع المأوى في شمال غرب سوريا؟

15. ما هي التغييرات السياسية أو البرامجية التي من شأنها أن تسهل عودة النازحين؟

16. كيف يمكن للمجتمع الدولي دعم حلول الإسكان المستدامة للنازحين داخليًا بشكل أفضل؟

ANNEX 3: ETHICS COMMITTEE DOCUMENT

Evrak Tarih ve Sayısı: 19 January 2025



ÖZGEÇMİŞ

KİŞİSEL BİLGİLER

Adı Soyadı : Abdurrahman MURATAGA
Uyruğu : Turkish - Syrian

EĞİTİM

Derece **Adı** BA of English Language and Translation **Bitirme Yılı:** 2015
Üniversite : Al Baath University - Homs, Syria

İŞ DENEYİMLERİ

- Awards and Partnerships Coordinator – Relief International 2023-2025
- Grants and Partnerships Coordinator – Takaful Al Sham 2018-2023
- Emergency Response Program Coordinator – Takaful AL Sham 2017-2018
- Relief and Livelihood Program Officer - Takaful AL Sham 2016-2017
- Radio Room Operations Officer – Syria Arab Red crescent 2013-2016
- Disaster Management Committee Staff - Syria Arab Red crescent 2012-2016

YABANCI DİLLER

English – Advance
Arabic - Mother Tongue