

The Syrian Civil Defense

(The White Helmets)

Activity Report

May 2019



About us

We are a group of volunteers from all walks of life. Since 2013, we have been working independently as humanitarian actor, responding to emergency situations, rendering assistance to the local communities, and saving the lives of people in Syria across all of its territory for which we have access without discrimination.

Vision:

Having aspiration for a world in which every single soul is precious, with communities enabled to respond as quickly as possible to emergency situations.

Our mission:

Saving people lives as much as we can and within short notice, minimizing injuries and damage to property, protecting the people's life, and provide the best services as soon as possible in accordance with international standards, and with aim to contribute in breathing life into a conflict affected area.

Educating the community on how to respond to emergencies and the risks of ERWs

Build up community and international pressure to protect civilians

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The Syrian Civil Defense (SCD)

Activity Report

May 2019

Introduction

The month of May has witnessed a serious military escalation in the liberated areas, beyond the regime's control in the north of Syria. The Syrian regime continued its fiercely brutal military aggressions launched against the liberated areas last February 2019. A campaign waged with the direct and flagrant support of the Russian forces stationed in the vicinity of the demilitarized zone. Accordingly, both infringe upon and render blind eyes and deaf ears to the Sochi Agreement signed by the latter with the rest of the international guarantors in order to establish a long-term cease-fire and ensures the neutralization of targeting civilians.

The catastrophic consequences of this barbaric escalation have thus kept on overspreading at the expense of the civilian people's life. An escalation that triggered one of the largest waves of internal displacement. It was reported that between 1-22 May, more than 270,000 civilian population have fled for their life, according to OCHA's statistics.

Executive summary

In parallel with the unprecedented barbaric campaign launched by the Syrian regime's war machine and its allies, to spread death and destruction during the month of May, the SCD teams stationed in 116 search and rescue centers were working in a race against time to reduce the disastrous effects of this brutal aggression. Field reports documented SCD's team responding to 2374 military targetings perpetrated by using various types of weapons. This overwhelming large number of aggressive attacks within the short period of time and tight geographic space has posed demanding challenges to SCD teams, who had but limited recourses to help them through carrying out their operations. And who themselves were not an exception to the regime's military attacks and targeting of its brutal arsenal. However, the White Helmets staff dedications and determination succeeded in taming the worst effects of aggressions. In each case of the targeting, the SCD rushed to offer help package through their emergency, rescue and rubble=removing operations. Accordingly, a total of 785 injuries were provided with emergency service, a quarter of them were children rescued from the rubble.

It should be noted here that despite the challenges posed by this escalation, the SCD centers never stopped performing their leading role in rendering their services to the civil community people, by providing urgent humanitarian response to the cases resulting from non-combat accidents or actions. The number of these cases reached well over 9805 accidents, which included civil and emergency services, including awareness activities. This was in addition to the specialized services provided by the Women Service centers, which is a pioneering initiative meant to ensure reaching an optimal level of service accessibility and participation of all segments of the society. No less important is the leading role undertaken by the SCD to deal with the remnants of war and spare the society the serious and catastrophic consequences of these objects being placed in civilian places.

Methodology

Report preparation timeline

As a primary tool for collecting the data received from the directorates in the area of operations, the forms of the adopted questionnaire in their latest updated version of 2018 were used. At the same time, a special team followed up the incoming of data on a daily basis to ensure finalization of data collection and simultaneous processing.

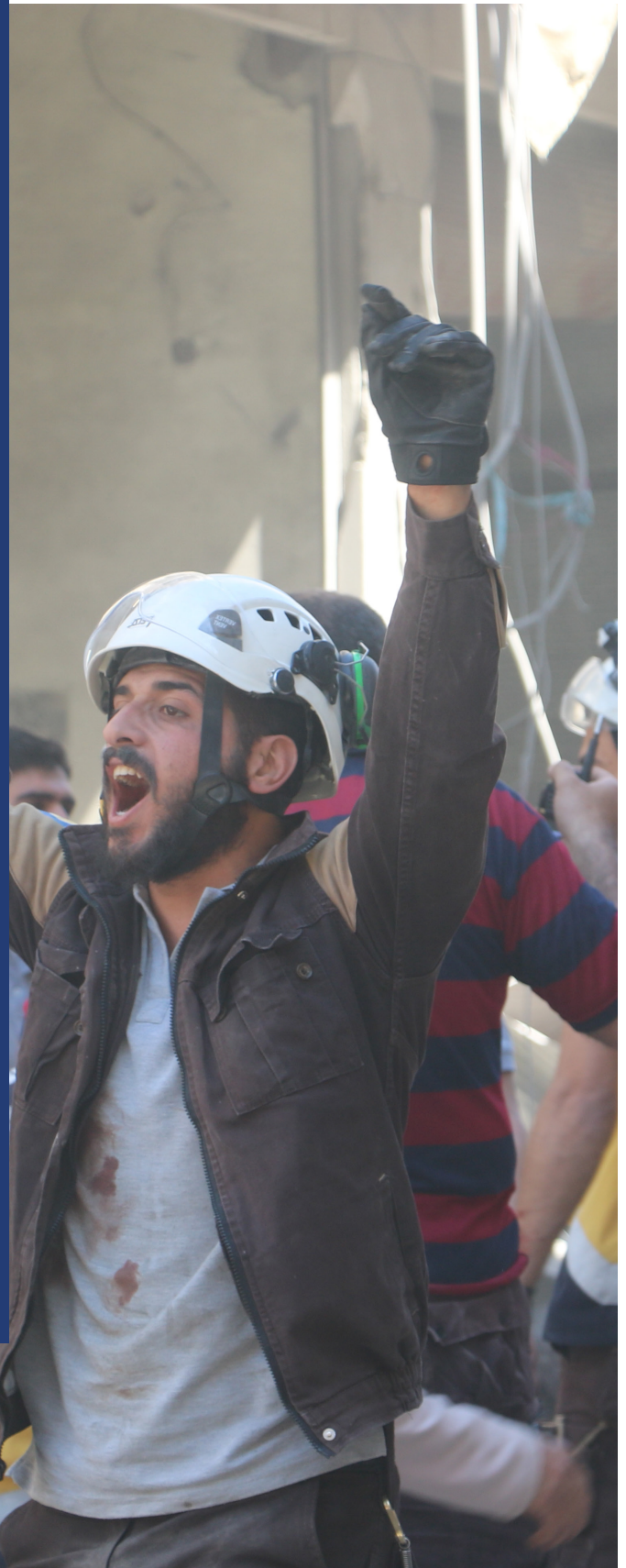
Upon completing data collection at the end of the month, the process of data cleaning, analysis and visualization were set in motion, following which the writing and final design of the report were embarked on. A process that concluded on timely manner and as scheduled at the end of the second week.

Software programs and tools used

The unified system of data collection was used by the members of each field team. These personnel were trained on how to make data collection and classification thereafter; as prescribed in the standard operating procedures upheld by the Information Management Unit. The MS Excel was further used to perform data cleaning and auditing of data deviation in cooperation with the data entry staff. This was followed with data analysis and visual representation and next the final design and lay-out process was implemented in which case both of Arc GIS and Adobe Illustrator were used.

Data scope

The data this report puts into its engineering represent the total cases the SCD teams responded to, including the military targetings, the after effects of the military operations, in addition to the service operations provided directly by the SCD staff. Noting that the total number of military attacks, along with the numbers of consequently damaged facilities and the ultimate resulting damages may well exceed the numbers given in this report. Reference can be made by contacting the special sources shouldering documentation and non-stop update of the data.



FIRST SECTION

Security situation updates

Analysis of the targeting for which the SCD responded to



2,374

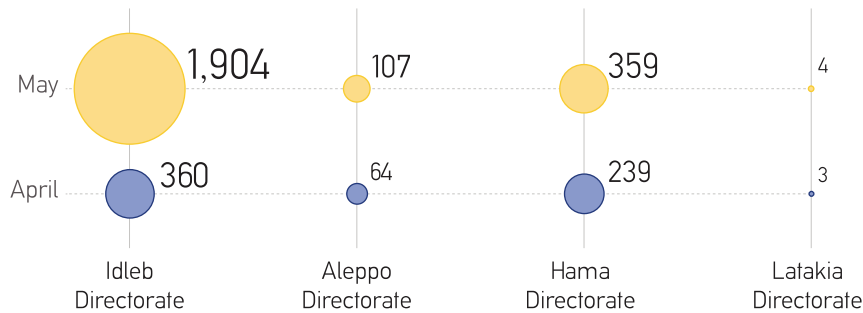
Military Targetings
during May

I: Distribution of the targetings geographically

The total number of documented targetings launched by the Syrian regime and its allies during the barbaric campaign reached 2374 military attacks; indicating an increase of 35% more hostile acts to last month. This number of hostilities reflects a dangerous precedent, indicating how little the regime cares about the lives of civilians and their infrastructure property as well. In fact, the devastating consequences of this vicious campaign had its toll on all of the cities and towns in the liberated northern Syria, especially for Idleb and Hama governorates. The Idleb directorate alone was subject to 1904 attacks, i.e. five times double of the attacks the town had suffered during last month, in April. If anything, this reflects the true nature and the substance of this brutal aggression, which is aiming at and directed against the largest gathering of civilians in the liberated areas. Notwithstanding the reality that the majority of the people in Idleb have been forcibly displaced during the past year and only Idleb has been found virtually as a safe haven.

It should also be noted that the rest of the liberated areas, in equal footing with Idleb governorate, were not an exception from the recent escalation campaign. Reports showed that the Directorate of Aleppo witnessed 107 attacks, almost double times the targetings documented in April, last month. Likewise, the series of systematic targetings of the Directorate of Hama continued unabated and reached 239 targetings, showing an increase of more than one hundred aggressions, compared to last month's.

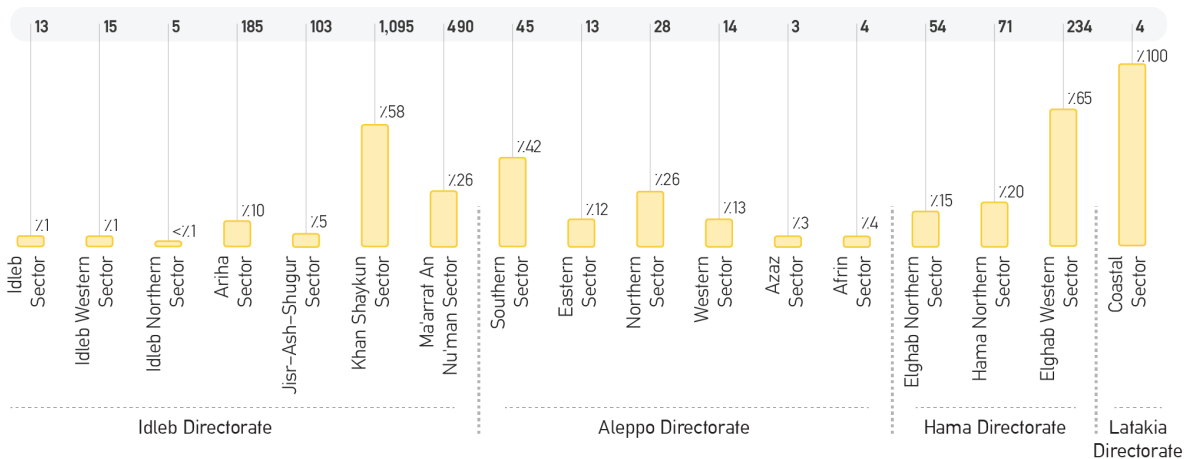
Figure 01: Targetings by governorate



Data received from the teams operating in the said directorate show that the Khan Shaykhun sector has been the most targeted one, with a total of 1,095 targetings, which represents 58% of the total targetings in the Directorate of Idleb had suffered. Furthermore, in comparison with April's statistics, the increased targetings this sector was subject to amount to well over sevenfold. Similarly, the Ma'arrat An Nu'man sector was subject to a total of 490 targetings, which constitutes 26% of the targetings the directorate had suffered, with an increase of more than seven times, in comparison to the statistics of last month, April.

As for the Directorate of Aleppo, the targetings were concentrated on the southern sector, where the number of documented targetings was 45 attacks; almost double times the number recorded in last month. In the meantime, the targetings in the Directorate of Hama were more often than not directed against the western sector, which suffered 234 targetings, i.e. 65% of the total targetings the directorate was subject to.

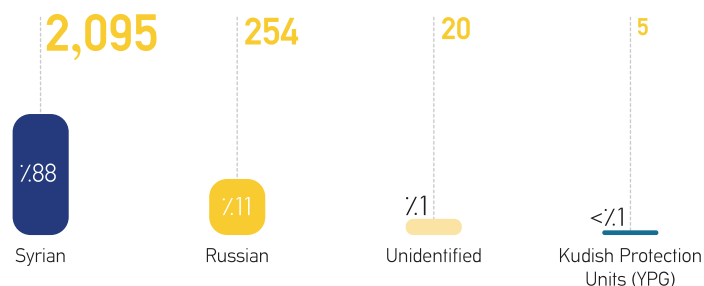
Figure 02: Targetings by Sector



II: Distributions of the targetings according to implementing party

The SCD teams, documented data for May show that the Syrian regime forces carried out a total of 2,095 attacks against the liberated areas, representing 88% of the total recorded targetings during the month. This is while the Russian regime forces are reported to have been the culprit behind 11% of these targetings, i.e. 254 attacks, of which 72 targetings were launched on Khan Shaykhun sector. Whereas the Kurdish Protection Units (YPG) caused a total of five separate attacks in the Aleppo directorate.

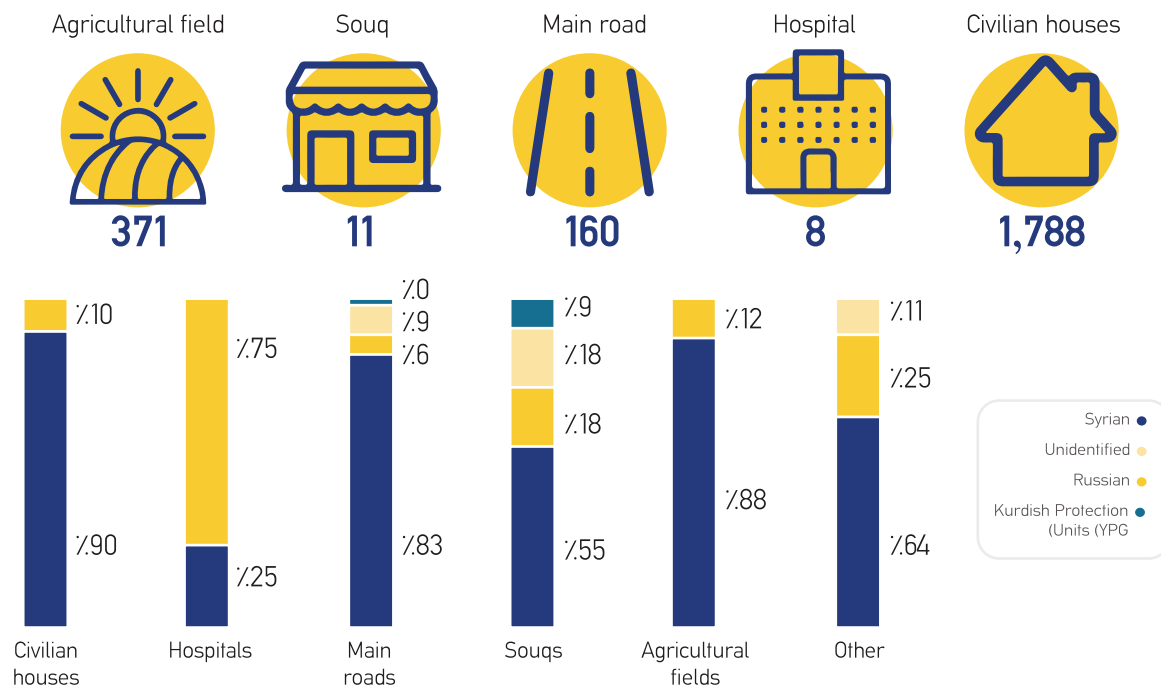
Figure 03: Targetings by perpetrator



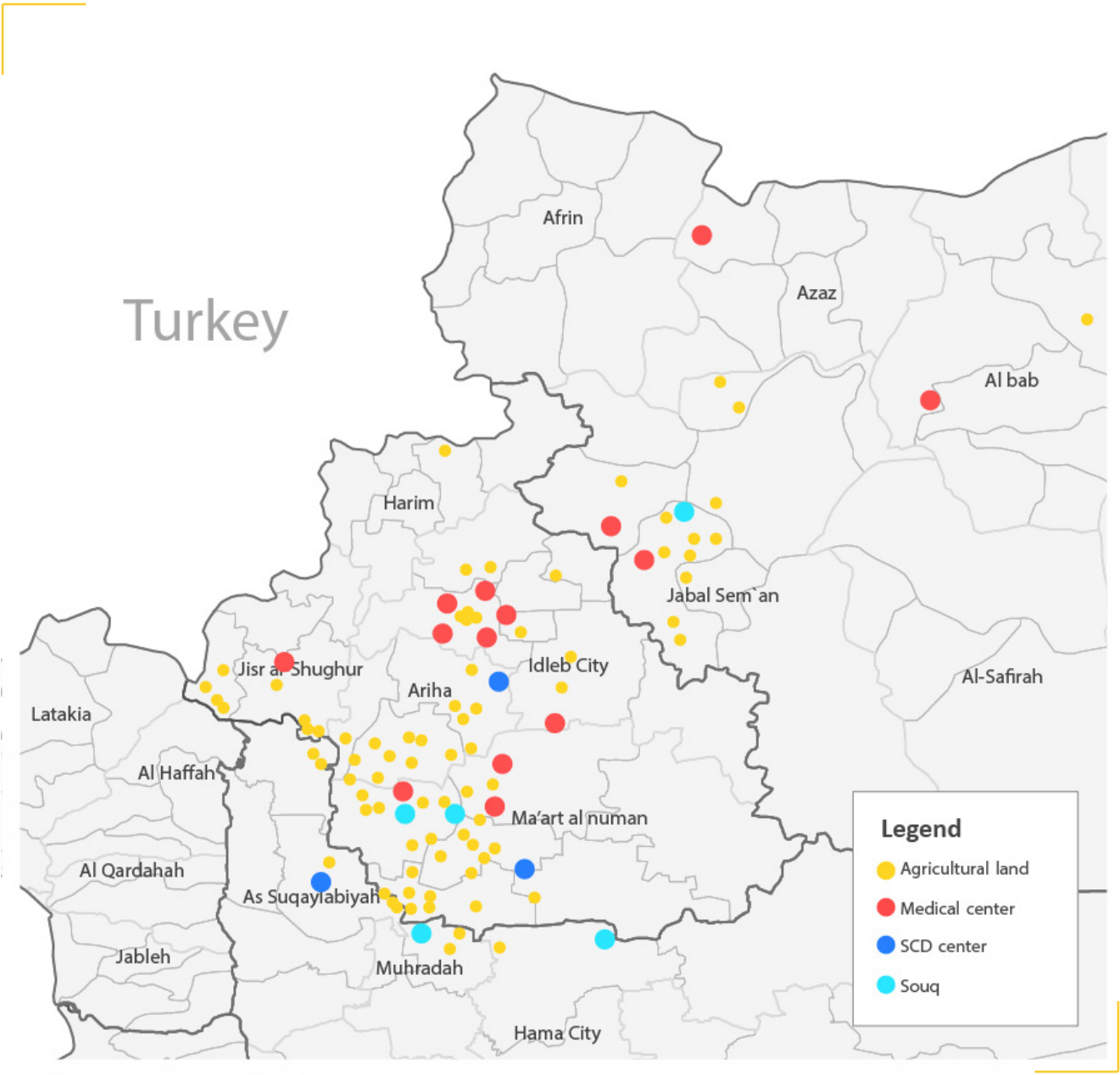
When considering the nature of the targeted civilian facilities attacked by each of the said culprits, we find that 90% of the targetings for which the Syrian regime forces are responsible in its barbaric campaign was against the civilian houses. These attacks were the main cause of the loss of innocent civilian lives, and turning barren 88% of the targeted agricultural fields, the source of sustenance and livelihood for the civilian population in the targeted areas.

Something that indicates the deliberate and systematic targeting against the medical facilities; the geographical coordinates of which are supposed to have been known and shared with the UN bodies and hence be protected and neutralizing from being subject to an act of hostility. Albeit, the deliberate targeting against these facilities by the Russian side raises questions about the integrity of the alleged international protection of the medical facilities.

Figure 04: Targetings by affected place and perpetrator



Map 01: Targetings map of the facilities and the agricultural lands

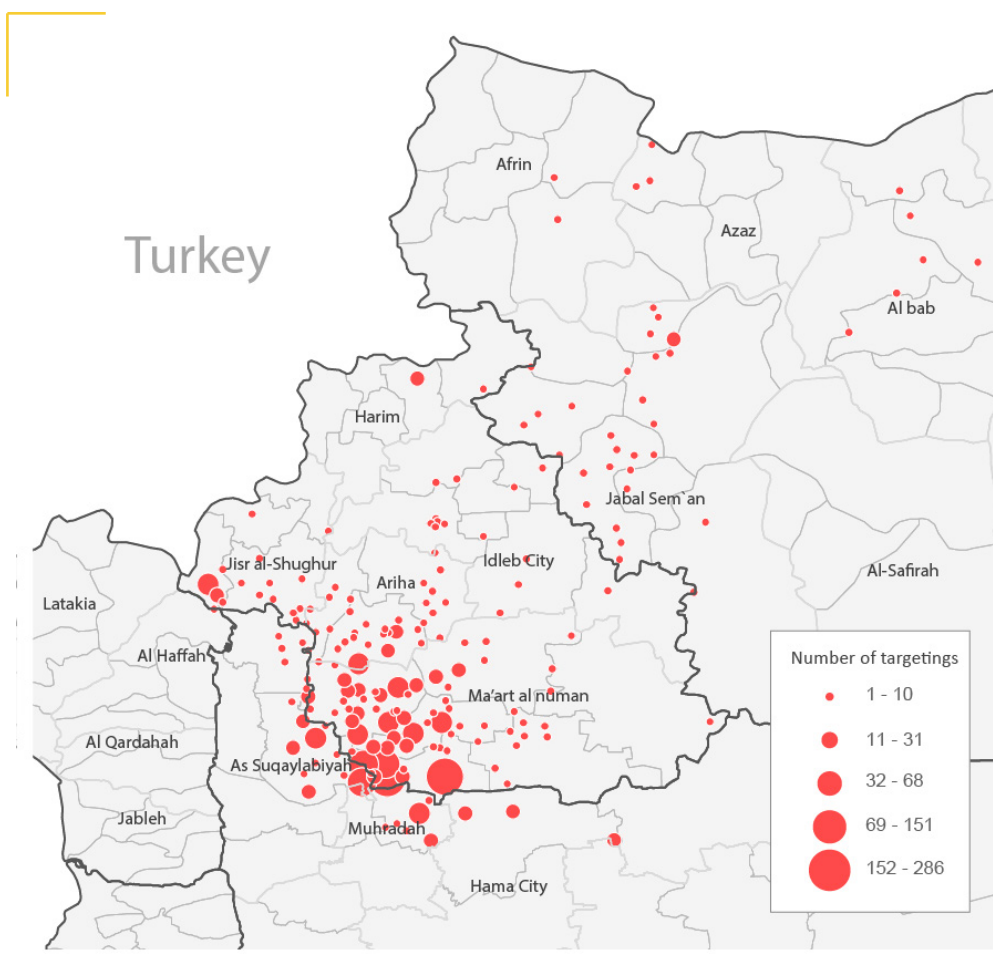


TARGETING AGRICULTURAL FIELDS

DURING THE
HARVEST SEASON



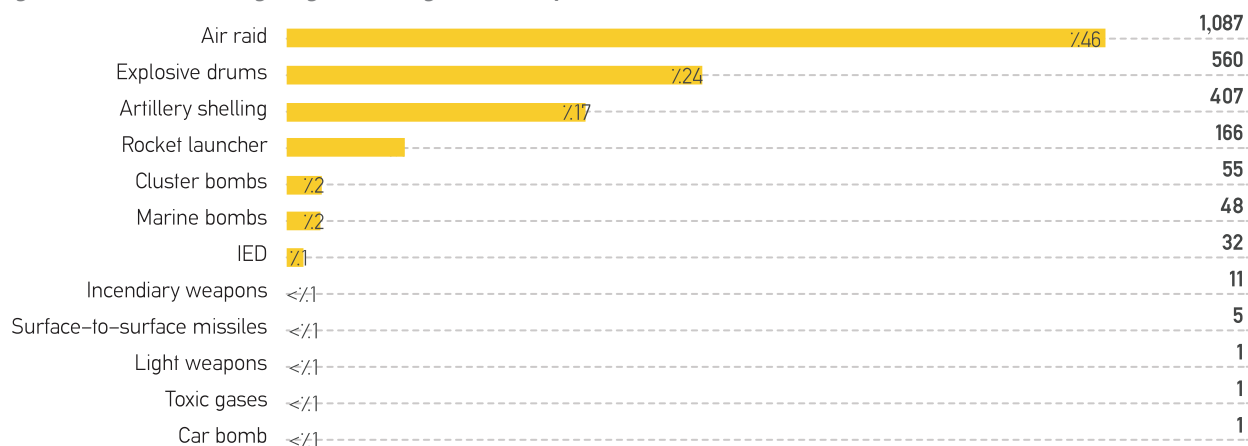
Map 02: Targetings intensity map



III: The targetings distributed according to the type of used weapons

Air raids accounted for the largest proportion of the total documented targetings and was the medium used in nearly half of aggressions, 46%. Accordingly, the liberated north of Syria was subject to 1,087 air strikes. This is while the targetings in which the explosive drums were used reached 560 attacks, representing almost a quarter of the total targetings. Notwithstanding the regime waging its aggression using its military arsenal against defenseless civilians, it nevertheless along with its allies continued to use internationally banned weapons. In this context, 55 incidents of using cluster bomb attacks were documented, in addition to documented targetings in which internationally banned poison gas was used. These atrocities are further additions to the regime's criminal records in its use of chemical weapons; much as it reflects the failure of all actions taken by international parties to deprive this weapon from the hands of the Syrian regime.

Figure 05: Number of targetings according to the weapons used



IV: The targetings distributed according to the type of attacked facilities

The barbaric campaign carried out by the Syrian regime and its allies mainly affected the civilian communities living in the different towns and villages of the area. The campaign, predominately, targeted the residential neighborhoods. It was systematically and deliberately engineered against the civilian facilities and infrastructure, especially in the so-called de-escalation zones declared by the Sochi Agreement as being demilitarized zone. In spite of this, the forces of the Syrian regime and its allies have not only breached the agreement but they also followed the scorched earth policy to force civilians out of their towns and villages. They furthermore, spared no efforts to prevent the people from returning to their homes, by turning these areas into ultimately waste land, not fit for living, and were very careful in destroying the civilian facilities on purpose. In this context, the SCD teams documented more than 21 villages and towns affected by the latest escalation and declared as devastated areas.

Figure 06: Facilities by targetings



Accordingly, it was reported that the civilian houses suffered 1,788 documented attacks, which represents the highest rate, at 75% of the total hostilities. Added to this, the data show that there have been deliberate targetings against the civilian-life supporting structures. Whereby 371 systematic targetings of the agricultural fields were carried out; and even worse, these attacks are taking place during the harvest season. This, in fact, foreshadows a humanitarian catastrophe that looms ahead and threatens the food security of all civilians in the liberated north of Syria. In the same context, the regime forces and its allies deliberately hit and disrupted the main roads network by launching 160 targetings in order to paralyze the movement of civil transport and to dismember the already affected towns and villages. This is in addition to its deliberately targeting the civilians fleeing death during displacement.

The regime's war machine and its allies pursued their concentrated attacks in an attempt to destroy all elements of civilian life, by targeting the bakeries in particular. Nine bakeries were reported to have been targeted and thereby rendered out of service; an act that literally deprives civilians of their basic daily living staple. The attacks also caused the most widespread damages on the lives of the civilian, much as they affected their limited means of livelihood, through the targeted attacks on the souqs; a sort of aggression which was carried out through 11 documented times.

Added to the above series of crimes against humanity, eight medical facilities, including primary care centers, vaccine centers, and central hospitals, were targeted. Noting that most of the locations coordinates were shared with the OCHA, which despite this fact has not relieved them from being directly hit, and hence the whole system of the international protection should stand the accountability for these acts.

The systematic bombardment also preyed upon the power generation vital centers, targeting the electricity station in the Idleb directorate. An aggression that further plagued the educational system, by targeting five schools. The worship places were not an exception; as four mosques were reported to have been targeted in the attacks.

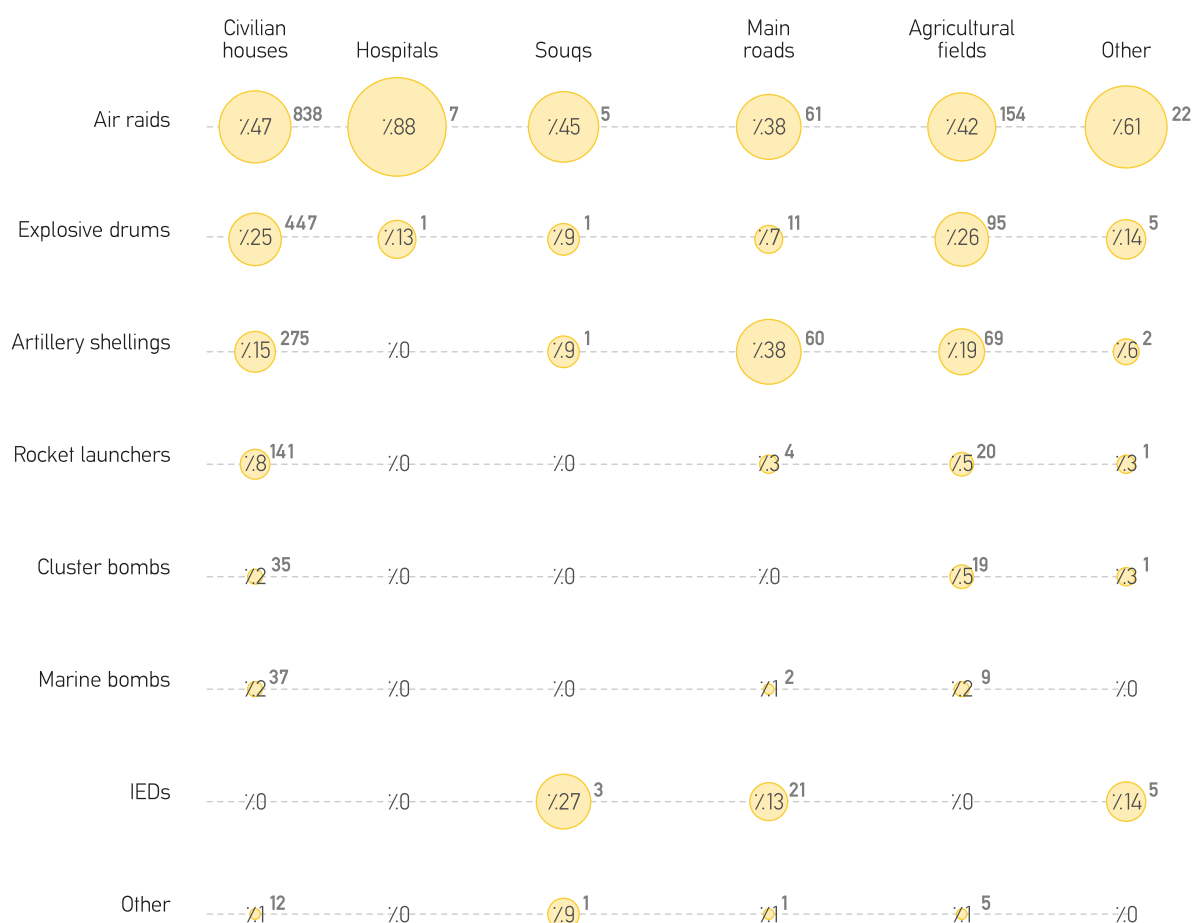
It is worth mentioning that the SCD centers themselves were target of the systematic barbaric campaign. Five targetings were reported to have hit the SCD centers, in which 38 shells, missiles, and explosive drums were used, rendering them out of service after the destruction of their structures, and damaging 16 vehicles and machinery. These centers exit in Atareb, Kafr Nobol, Kafr Nabutha, and Hbit.

V: Qualitative distribution of the targeting according to type of the civil facility

When considering the kind of weapons used in targeting the vital civilian facilities, we come to find out the following:

- Most of the targetings of civilian houses were the result of air raids, an act that accounted for 47% of the attacks. While the explosive drums were used in 25% of the total targetings that hit the civilian houses.
- Similarly, the air strikes accounted for 42% of the total targetings against the agricultural fields. While explosive drums were used in 26% of the attacks. The close proportions in the type of targetings fired against the civilian houses and their fields calls attention on the military common modus operandi and the nature of the designs seeking to deliberately inflict the greatest devastation on the lives of the civilians and their already limited sources of living.
- It is equally worth noting that the Russian forces air raids were concentrated and had the largest proportion of attacks on hospitals and medical centers, by 75%. Something that gives an evidence about the aforethought targeting of these centers with high precision and deliberately.
- As for the targeting of the main roads, these attacks were mainly the result of both air raids and artillery shelling, each accounting for 38% of the attacks on the main road network.
- Upon reviewing the military tools used in attacking the souqs, the data showed that the use of air raids stood as the top reason, reaching 45% of the documented cases, while the IEDs were responsible for 27%.

Figure 07: Number and percentage of targetings

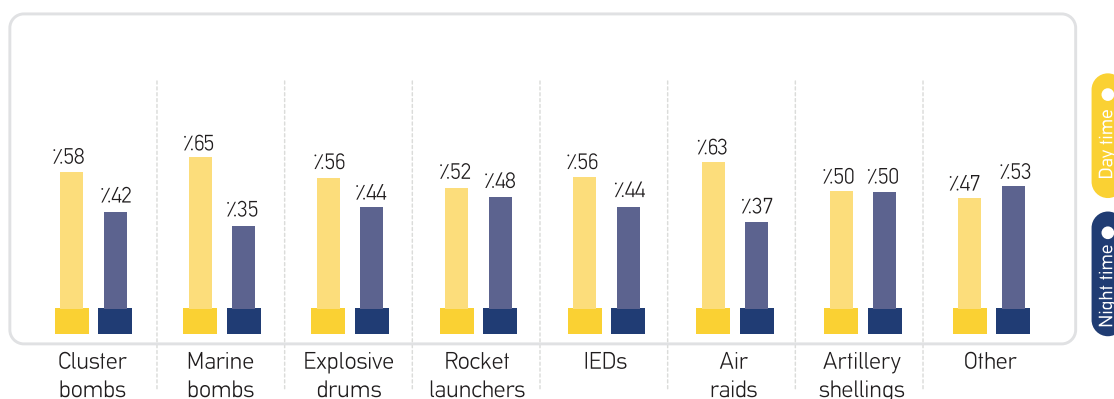


VI: Qualitative distribution of the targeting according to the time of day (day time– night time)

The intensity of the military targetings waged by the Syrian regime and its allies took place during all hours of the day, day-time as well as the night-time, almost equally. The majority of the attacks were carried out at the time when people would be usually eating the meal of Eftar*, at the very end of the day, or at the Sohor's **, at almost the very end of the dawn time after midnight, during the month of Ramadan. In both of the times when civilians most likely will be home.

It should be noted that the number of air raids carried out during the day was slightly higher than that those recorded at night, with a percentage of 63%. Meanwhile, the largest proportion of the reported attacks were carried out using marine mines during the day with 65%, compared to the number of targetings at night.

(Figure 08: Targetings by time of the day (daytime, night-time)



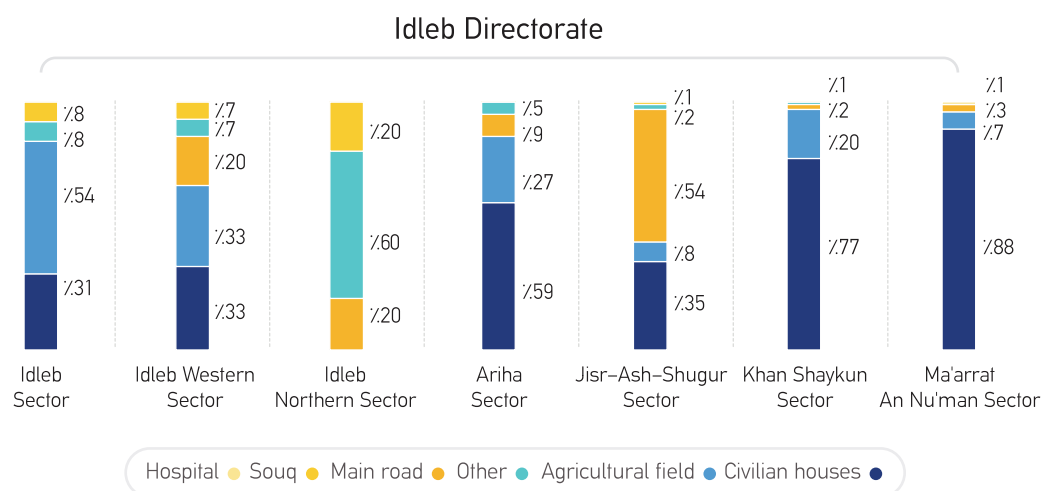
VII: Qualitative distribution of the facilities according to sectors

Taking a deeper analytical look at the nature of the civilian facilities that have been subjected to aggression in terms of their sector location geographically, we can see more clearly the systematic and wide-ranging targeting of the sectors of the Directorate of Idlib. The Syrian regime and its allies have committed wholesale humanitarian crimes in urban centers, densely populated by civilians, residents as well as forcibly displaced people. In the Ma'arrat An Nu'man Sector alone 432 targetings were carried out against civilian neighborhoods, accounting for 88% of the attacks this sector had suffered. In addition to this, the regime continued its violations of international charters and obligations through the deliberate targeting of five medical facilities within that sector. In the meantime, the number of attacks targeting the civilian houses in the Khan Shaykhun sector increased into 843 attacks, which constitutes 77% of the documented targetings within this sector. Furthermore, the systematic shelling targeting the agricultural fields and lands accounted for 54% of the concentrated attacks in the Idlib sector. At the same time, agricultural fields targetings in the eastern Idlib sector constituted 33% of all attacks, within the geographical area of the sector.

Strategically, the danger of this type of targetings lies in the fact that the extensive fires that burned the agricultural lands deprive the farmers of benefiting of the fruits of their efforts, after a whole long agricultural season. What is more serious is that the entire zone was deprived of its already limited food basket. Something which brings to mind the regime's use of starvation and siege as weapons to break the will of the civilians in liberated areas.

In the meantime, most of the targetings carried out on the main roads, concentrated on the bridges, with a total of 56 targetings; representing more than half of the attacks this sector suffered from.

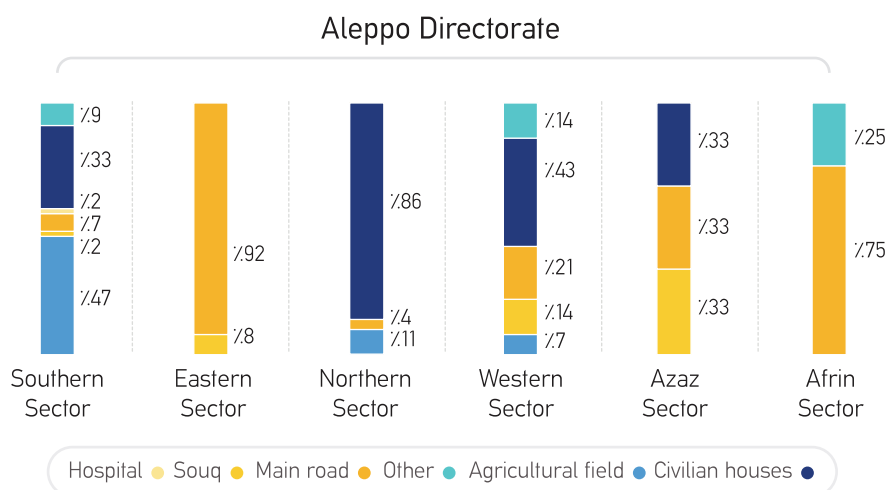
Figure 09: Qualitative distribution of the facilities - Idleb Sector



By the same token, the Directorate of Aleppo was subject to deliberate and systematic targeting against its agricultural fields by the Syrian regime forces and its allies. It suffered almost half of the military attacks directed against the southern sector of the Directorate by 47%. One of the civilian hospitals in this sector was also subject to deliberate targeting. In the eastern sector, the regime's war machine mainly targeted the main roads, accounting for 92% of the overall military attacks this the sector was subject to. This is while the civilian centers were the main targets of the attacks in the northern sector. They were subject to 86% of the overall attacks waged against the sector.

The western sector, however, was subject to 43% of the targetings, against its civilian neighborhoods. In the Azaz Sector, the proportion of documented attacks was equally distributed against the vital civilian facilities such as the residential neighborhoods, the main road, and its souq. Meanwhile, the main roads in the Afrin sector witnessed 75% of the targetings documented by the SCD teams in the sector.

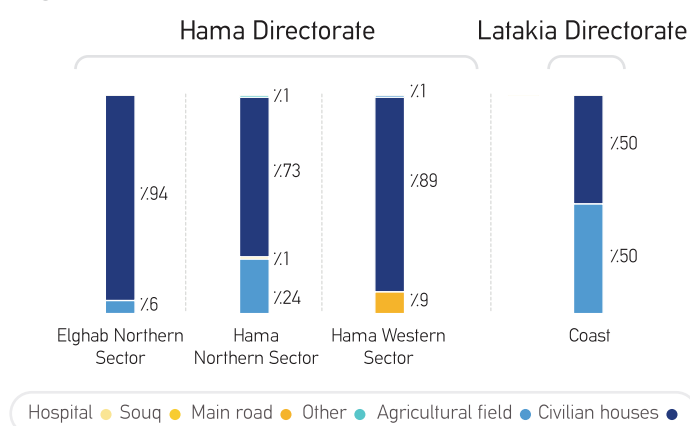
Figure 10: Qualitative distribution of the facilities - Aleppo Sector



Analysis of the targetings data records on the Directorate of Hama sector, give a clear picture of the role that the military arsenal of the regime and its allies played in the systematic destruction of the entire villages and towns; with a view to emptying them from the civilians. The civilian houses in the western Hama sector were subject to a total of 209 attacks, which constitute 89% of the attacks against the sector. In the case of the northern sector, the number reached 52 attacks, with an equal documented number on the 51 attacks against residential areas in the western sector of Hama. Furthermore, the regime forces once more waged their recurring crimes against humanity by targeting two hospitals in the northern and western Hama sectors.

In the Latakia directorate, the targetings split on equal halves 50/50 attacks on the civilian houses and on the agricultural fields.

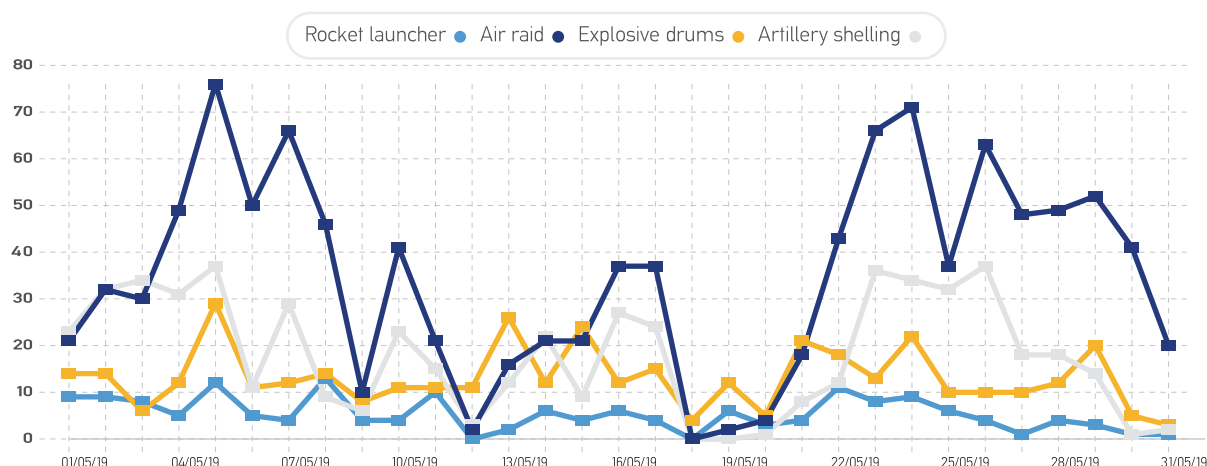
Figure 11: Qualitative distribution of the facilities - Hama Sector



VIII: Frequency of the targetings

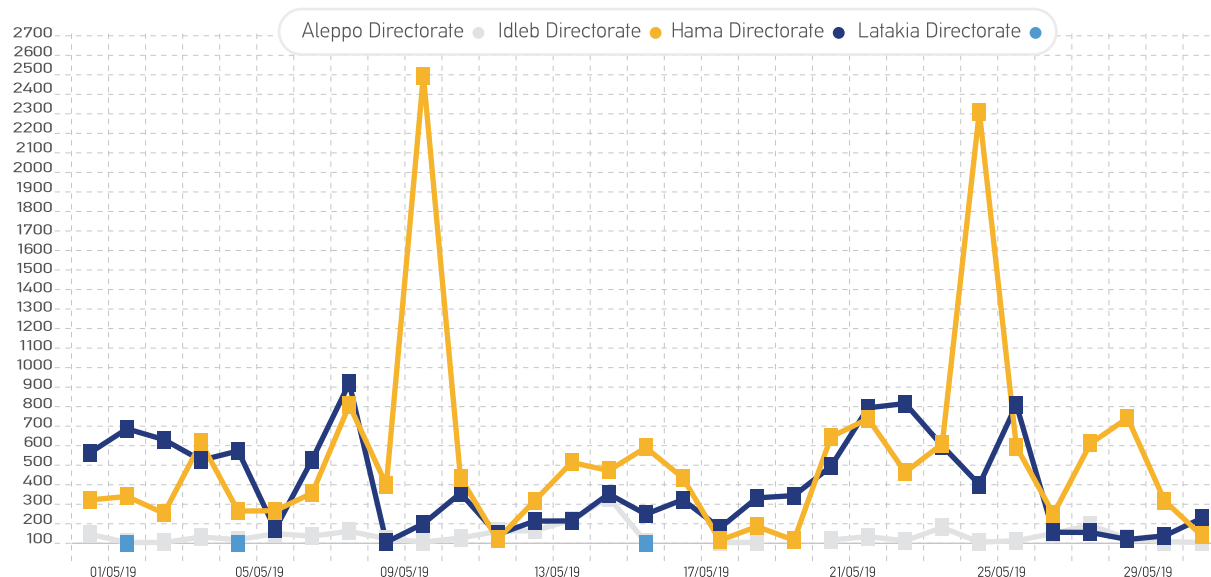
Despite the fact that the vicious campaign of the Syrian regime and its allies in their attacking the civilian areas spread throughout the month of May, nevertheless, in certain few days during the month they showed further ruthless brutality of their attacks; unprecedented number of targetings were reported to have been carried out during one single day in the month. For example, during five days of the month over 60 air raids were recorded in each of those days; whereas the number of daily air raids in most of the other days did not go beyond 20 air strikes. Moreover, in just seven days records showed the use of explosive drums well in over 30 attacks per day. This exaggerated brutality put the SCD directorates and teams under heavy burdens in their responding to this unprecedented intensity in the number of targetings.

Figure 12: Number of targetings in chronological order



When we try to link the number of targetings in comparison to the number of shells used in the attacks, we come to know once again the disastrous results of the barbaric campaign of the Syrian regime and its allies. Thus, in just one day, more than 2,500 shells were documented to have been fired. This practice comes in line with the scorched earth policy adopted by the regime openly and explicitly within limited geographic ranges full of civilians.

Figure 13: Number of shelling in chronological order

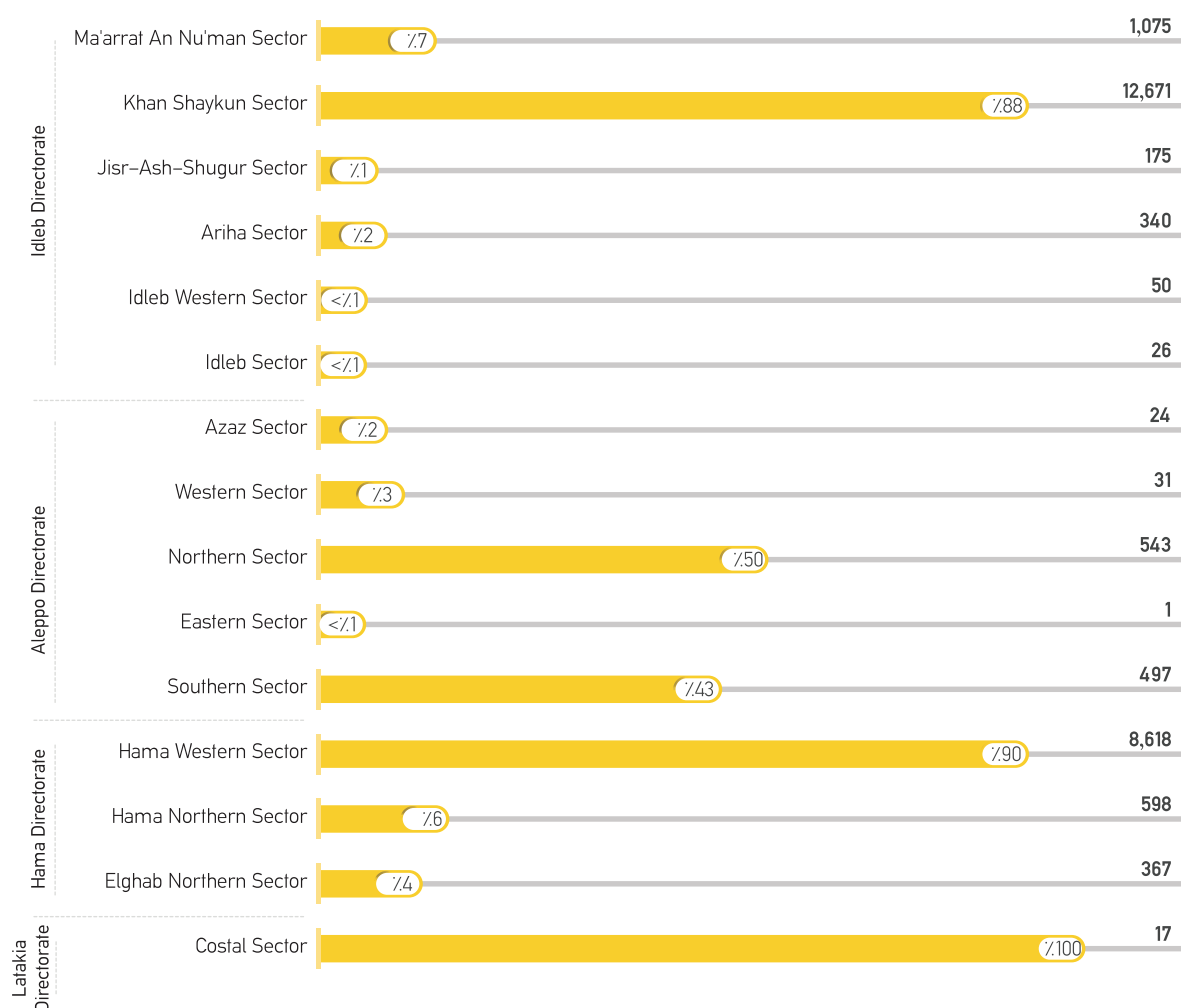


VIX: Intensity of the targetings by geographical locations

Analysis of the targetings' intensity in terms of the shells fired against the sectors as per the directorates' geographic location, shows that the Khan Shaykhun sector in the Directorate of Idlib suffered the largest number of shells compared to the other sectors in the Directorate. The sector was generally exposed to a total of 12671 shells, representing 88% of the shell that hit the Idlib directorate. In the Directorate of Aleppo, this proportion was distributed in a similar manner between the northern and the southern sectors of Aleppo. Accordingly, the northern sector received a total of 543 shells, i.e. 50% of the shells that tainted the Directorate. This is while the southern sector suffered from 497 shells, i.e. 45% of the total shells reported to have been fired against the Directorate. As for the Directorate of Hama, its west sector was subject to a total of 8618 shells, which constitutes 90% of the total shells recorded in the Directorate of Hama. This in fact, reflects the ferocity of the bombing and the systematic destruction of that geographical area.



Figure 14: Number and percentage of the shells by sector



Violations carried out in the de-escalation zones

Special attention needs to be given in addressing the targetings taking place in the de-escalation zones declared by the Sochi Demilitarized Zone Agreement. In reality, the exact opposite has been experienced, and the purpose behind its setting up cleared up. The majority of the targetings fired by the Syrian regime and its allies focused on that zone; in what seems to be an act of rendering the zone into devastated unfit for living one, by targeting all of the vital infrastructures it has.

Overall, the total number of the targetings in the de-escalation zones reached 1,487, attacks or 63% of the total number of the targetings. The Directorate of Hama witnessed

the largest number of violations in its de-escalation zone. The zone was subject to 300 military documented violations, which constitutes 84% of the total targetings the directorate had. This is while the de-escalation zone in the Directorate of Idleb suffered 84% of the targetings carried out against the zone, with a total of 1145 military violations. While 42 violations were recorded in the directorate of Aleppo.

These grave violations have resulted in bloody massacres against civilians and claimed the lives of 132 people living in these areas, which are supposed to be safe under international conventions.





SECOND SECTION

Distribution of casualties
resulting from the targetings,
which received on-field response

786

Injureds

Received Response

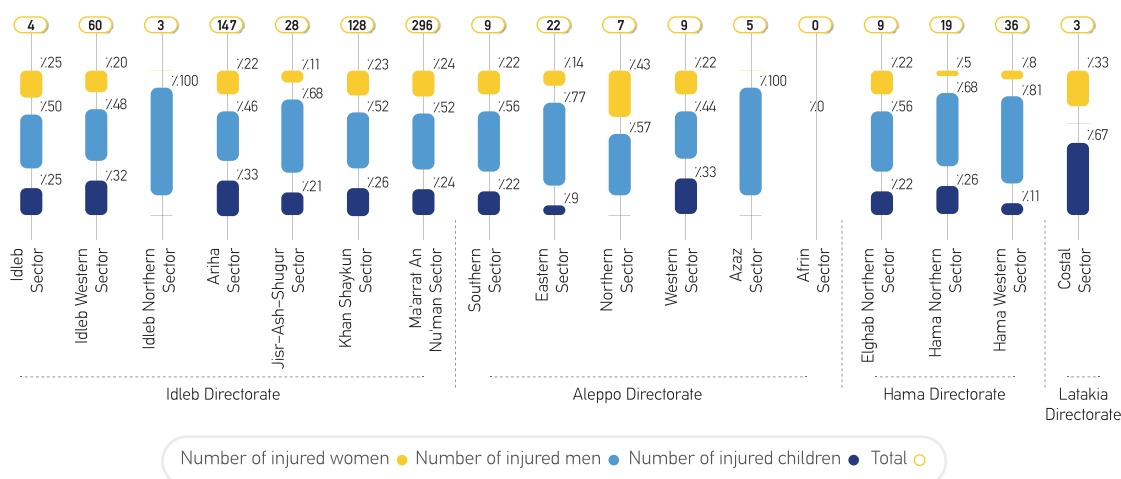
The distribution of casualties resulting from the targetings, which received an on-field response

May was one of the cruelest months in the course of the Syrian revolution. This month witnessed the Syrian regime and its allies committing horrific massacres against civilians, while the international community remained incapable of providing the minimum necessary wished-for protection. The overall number of the injuries that the SCD teams responded to reached 785 cases among unarmed civilians, of whom a quarter was children. While the number of injured civil defense personnel for this month reached eight cases.

Figure 15: Injuries by gender and age



Figure 16: Injuries by governorate and sector

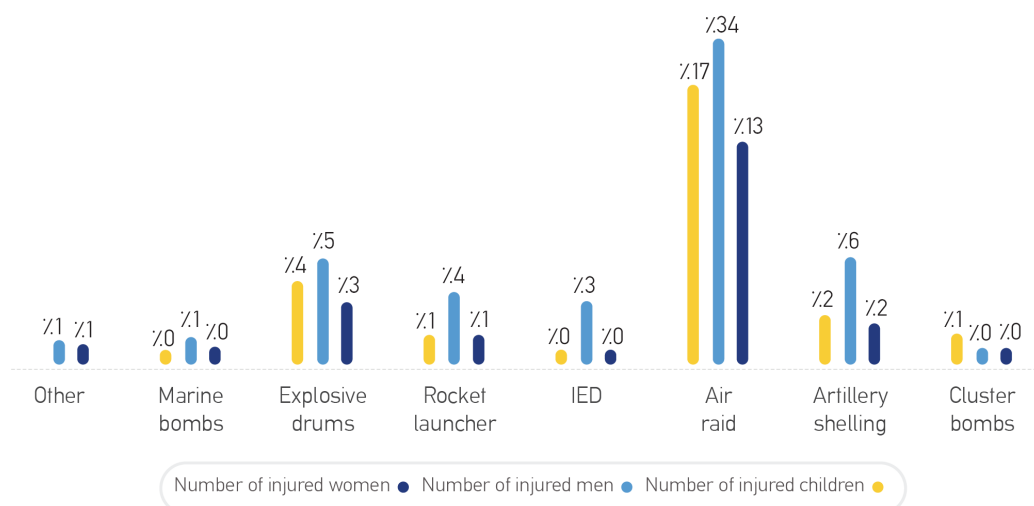


According to data received from the emergency teams operating in the directorates, the largest number of injuries that were rescued and recovered from the rubble was in the Ma'arrat An Nu'man sector, where 296 people were rescued, including 72 children and 71 women.

In the meantime, the number of on-field casualties responded to in the Ariha sector reached 147 casualties, including 48 children and 32 women. The rescue teams in the Khan Shaykhun directorate rushed their help to 128 wounded, 33 cases of which were children and 29 women.

The data received from the centers show that the main cause behind these injuries was the air raids, which resulted in the injury of 500 innocent civilians, of whom 132 were children and women. It should, however, be noted that the air raids are considered one type of direct and relatively high precision weapons, which goes into making this an evidence about the regime's forces and its allies' involvement in the crime of targeting civilians deliberately and directly. An act which is considered one of the systematic war crimes according to international norms and laws.

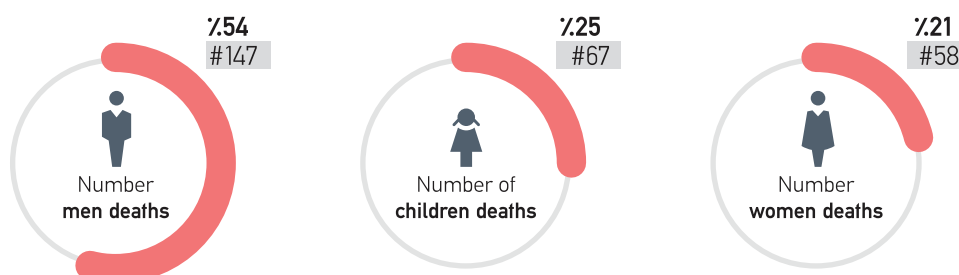
Figure 17: Distribution of casualties according to the type of weapon used



Distribution of the fatalities

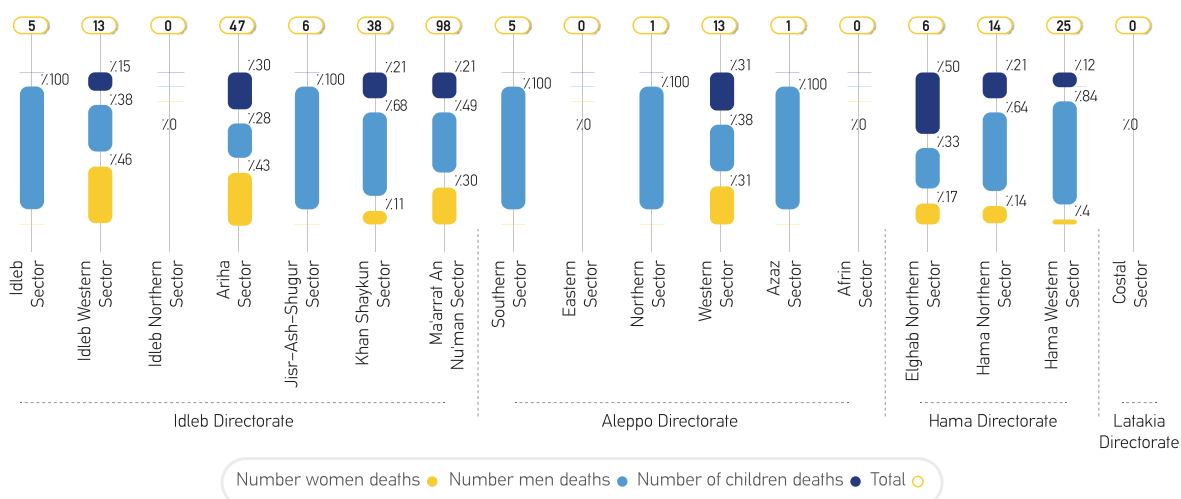
The number of deaths (documented by the SCD teams) who were killed as a result of the fierce campaign launched by the regime and its allies during the month of May reached 272 deaths in a series of daily massacres that were not deterred by the shy denunciations of the international community which proved unable to provide the minimum protection for civilians. Thus, the world kept on watching with cold blood the death of children at the rate of more than two children a day, where the number of victims of children reached 67. Innocents souls who the coward regime, as well as the world's hesitations, did not spare them their simple and basic right to live and celebrate the Eid days they had been waiting for. Meanwhile, the SCD staff have lost one of the team members, who was killed in action during the month.

Figure 18: Number and percentage of total fatalities

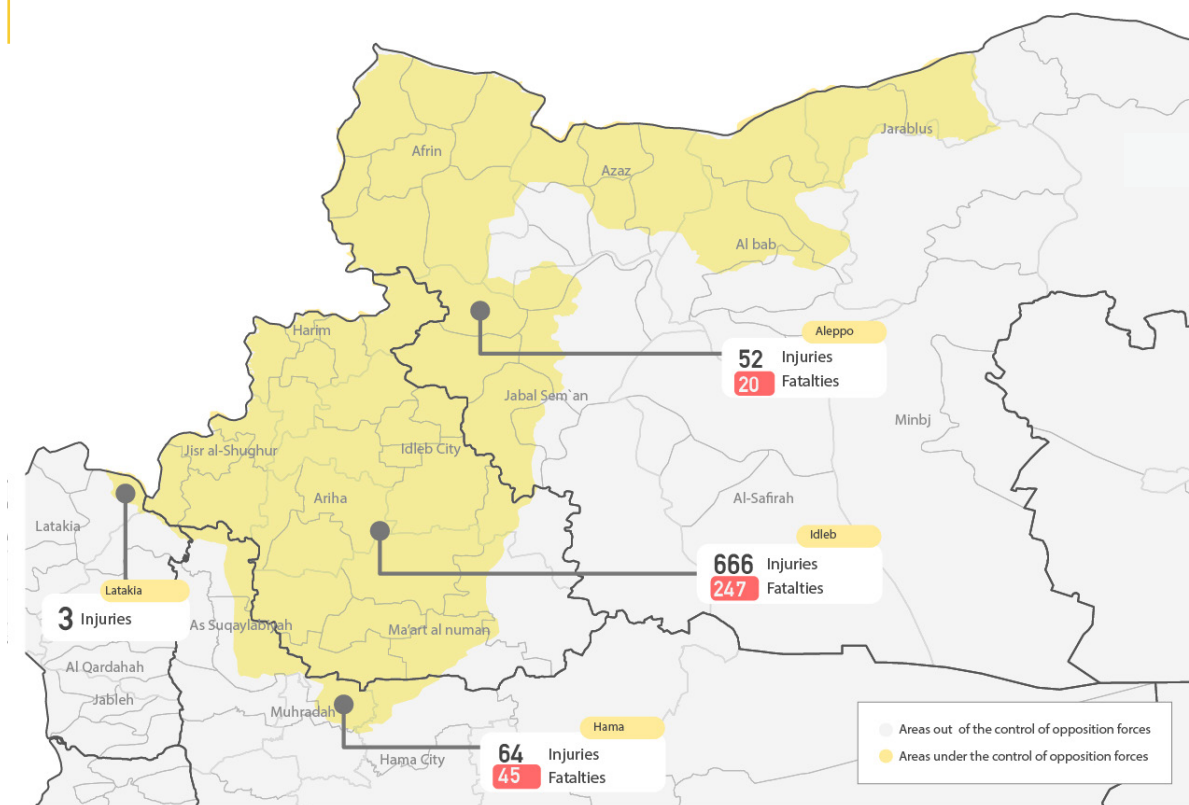


On closer look to the data, we can clearly find out that most of the massacres were concentrated in the Ma'arrat An Nu'man sector, which experienced the killing of 98 people. In the Ariha Sector, 47 people were killed. It should be noted that 46% of the victims who were killed in the eastern Idlib sector were children.

Figure 19: Fatalities by sector and governorate



Map 03: Fatalities and injuries by directorate



Death and injuries of SCD's officers May during:

The brutal aggression caused the death of one of our heroes during a Russian air raid against the region on 04/05/2019 in the Khan Shaykhun sector. In addition to this, six officers were injured in the Ma'arrat An Nu'man sector and Jisr al-Shughur as a result of being targeted by air strikes and artillery shells.



THIRD SECTION

The civil services provided
by the SCD



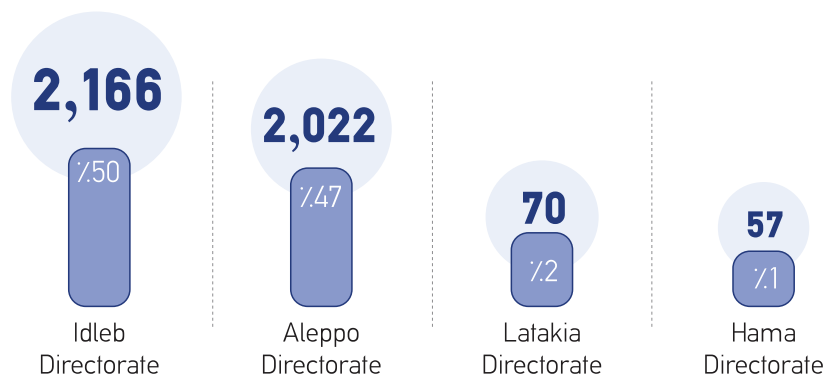
4,315

The number of services
the SCD provided

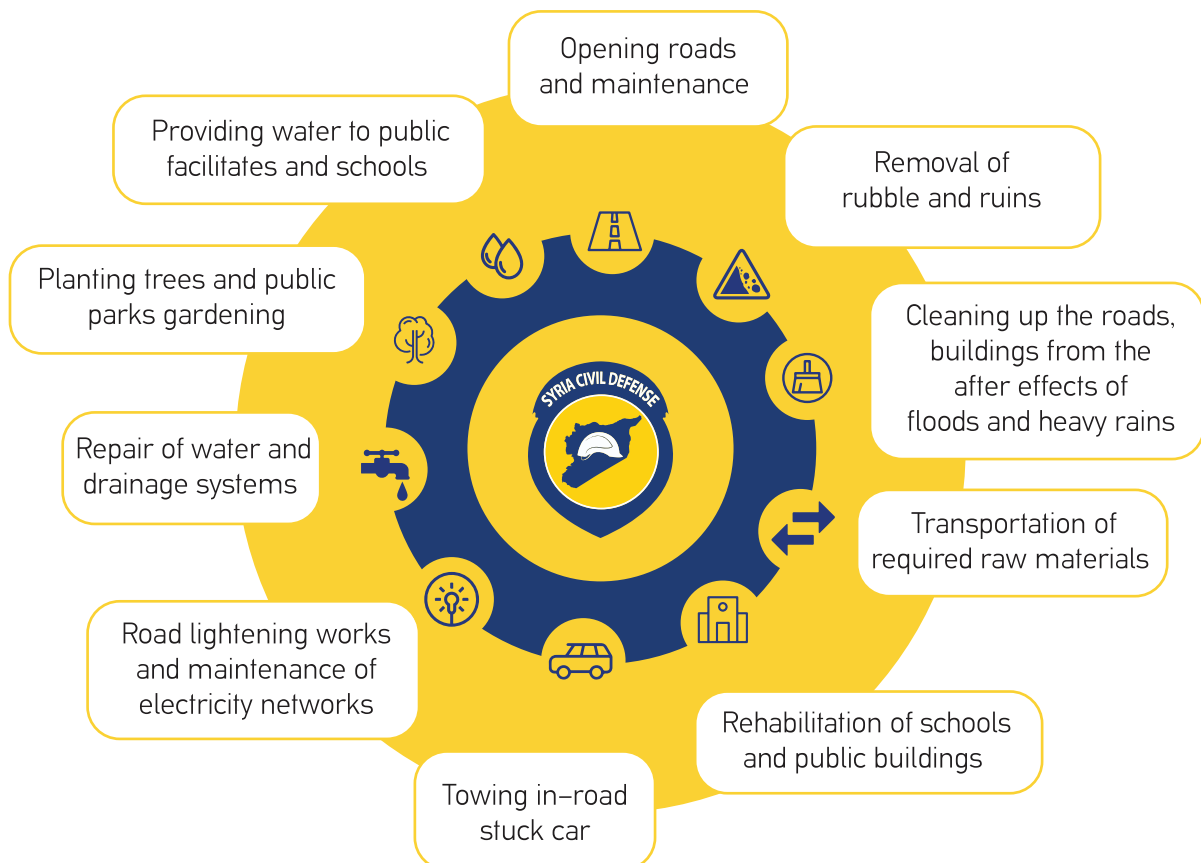
:The SCD Civil Operations

The serious developments in the security situation did not prevent the SCD teams and centers from playing a pivotal role in providing various civil services aimed at supporting basic services in the liberated areas, with a view to increasing the sustainability and the resilience of the of civilians, both residents and well as IDPs. An approach that emphasizes the significance of the SCD system, which proved to have been technically successful and has gained popular acceptance, despite the modest capabilities available to teams and yet the massive challenges they are shouldering. The total number of civil services rendered in the four directorates reached 4315 activities, half of which were provided in the Directorate of Idleb; which commensurate with its geographical and demographic size. This is while 2022 services were provided in the Directorate of Aleppo. Moreover, the recent escalation in the Directorate of Hama did not stand in the way of the SCD to provide 57 civil service; which once again reaffirms the integrated role the SCD directorates have and their ability to deal in equal terms with the results of the military operations and non-combating situation with all efficiency and professionalism.

Figure 20: Number and percentage of operations by governorate

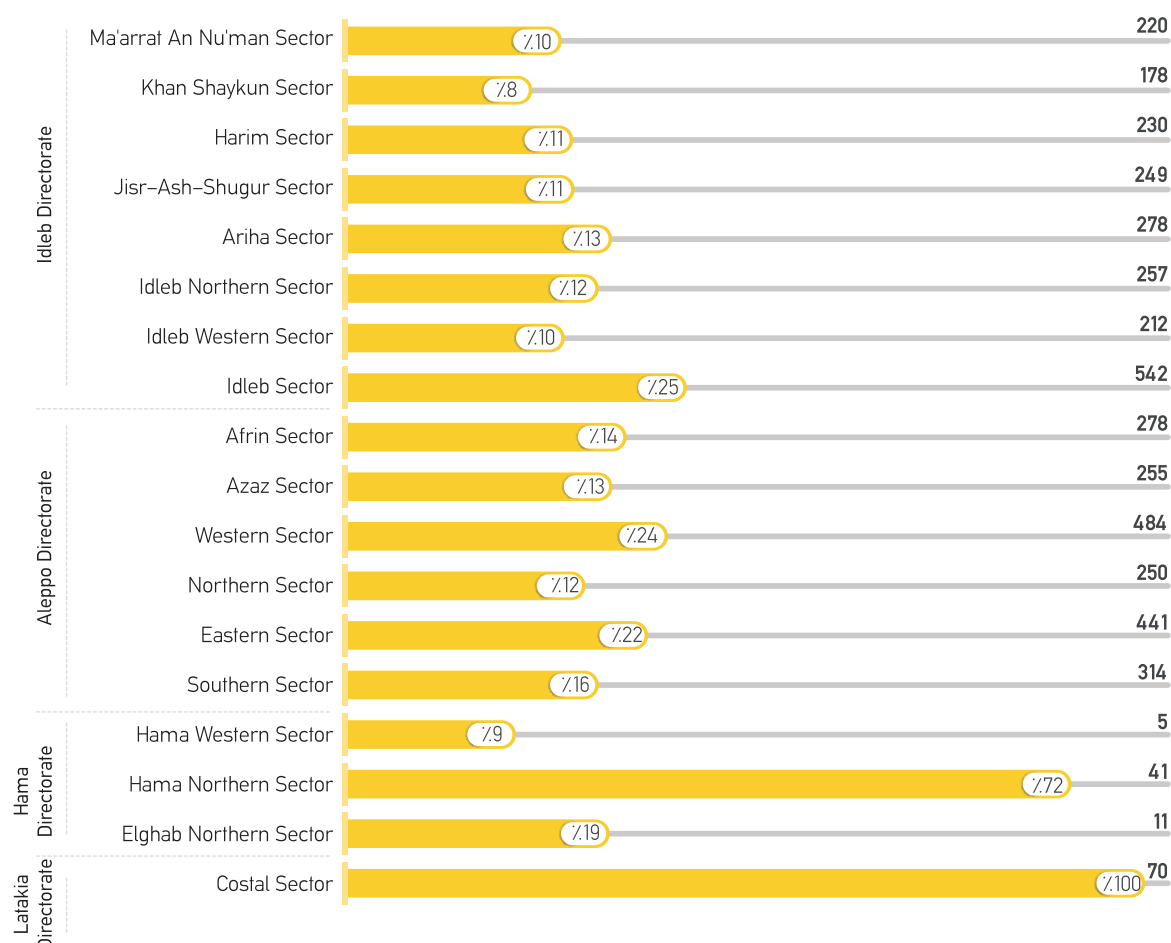


Public services provided by the SCD



As for the geographical scope of the sectors, the largest number of civil services were provided within the Idleb Directorate in the Idleb sector of the city with a total of 542 operations, representing about a quarter of the services rendered in that Directorate. In the Directorate of Aleppo, 484 civil services were provided in the Western Aleppo sector, representing 24% of the services provided by the Directorate. This is while 41 civil services were provided in the northern Hama sector, constituting the highest percentage of 72% of the civil services provided by the personnel working in the said directorate.

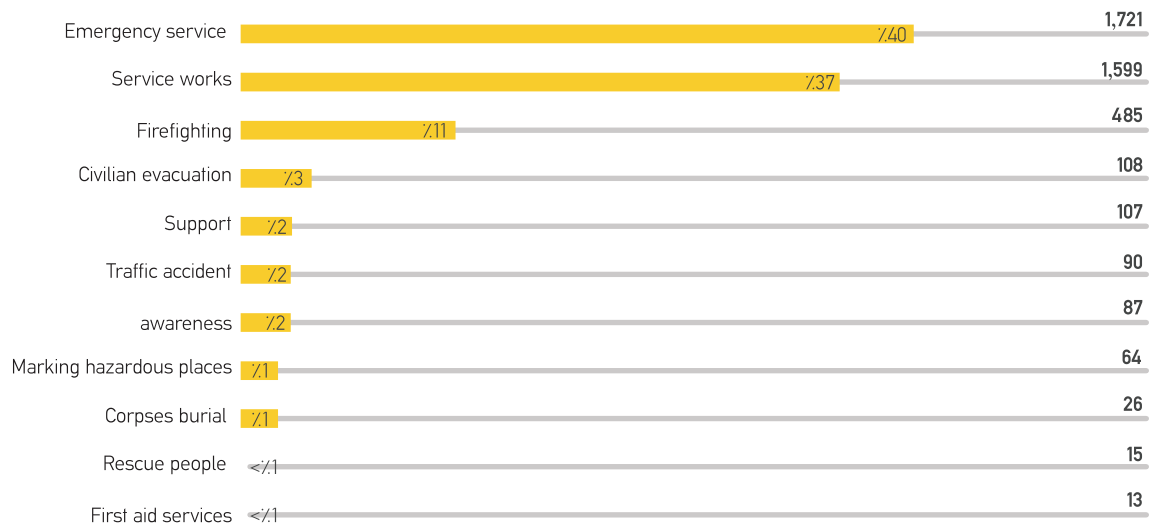
Figure 21: Number and percentage of operations by sector



As for the type of these operations, the emergency services related to non-military situations ranked on top of these activities. The special emergency teams dealt with 1721 urgent cases, which constituted 40% of the civil services provided. In the second place, there came the service works targeted for the buildings and the infrastructure. The importance of these works lies in their role of restoring the operability of the adversely affected infrastructure, whether they may be affected as such by the direct or indirect consequences of the state of war. These operations included the removal of rubble and ruins, the opening and maintenance of roads, the repair of water systems and the filling of the water tanks with drinking water, the maintenance of electricity networks, the restoration of schools' buildings and public service structures, in addition to many other like public works. All of which leaves a distinctive mark behind which the SCD centers and team stand with respect to the civil activities at large in the areas benefiting from their service. The total number of such operations was 1,599, representing 37% of the overall civil services.

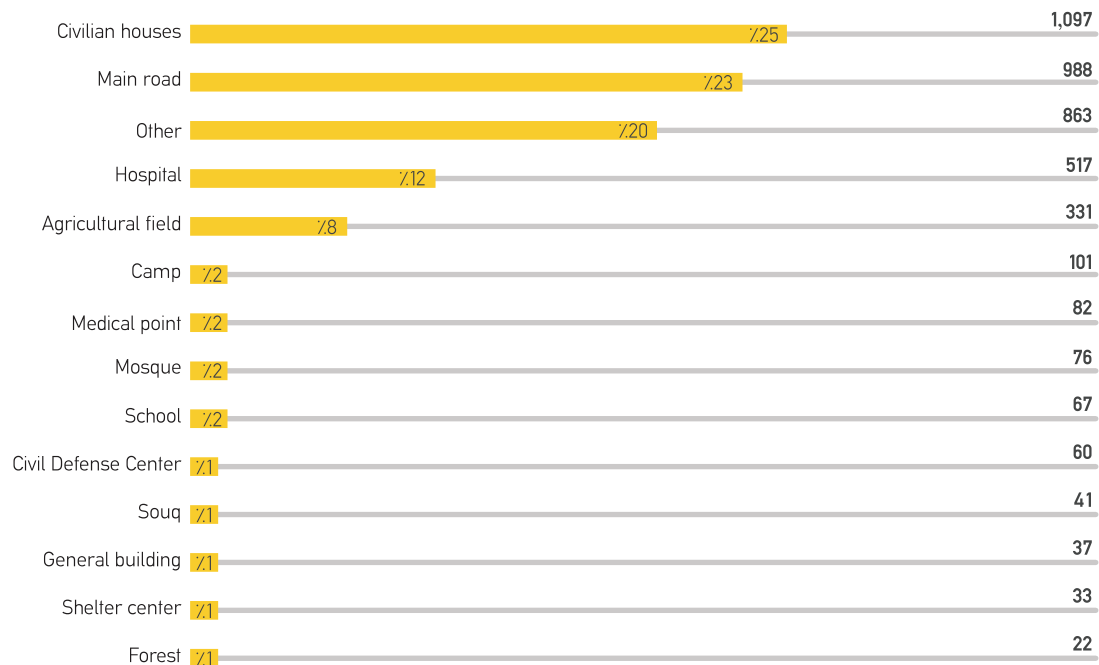
It is also worth noting the success of the teams in dealing with a total of 485 fires, all of which were extinguished and hence preventing the catastrophic consequences they potentially entail, within the limited available resources the SCD have.

Figure 22: Percentage of operations by type



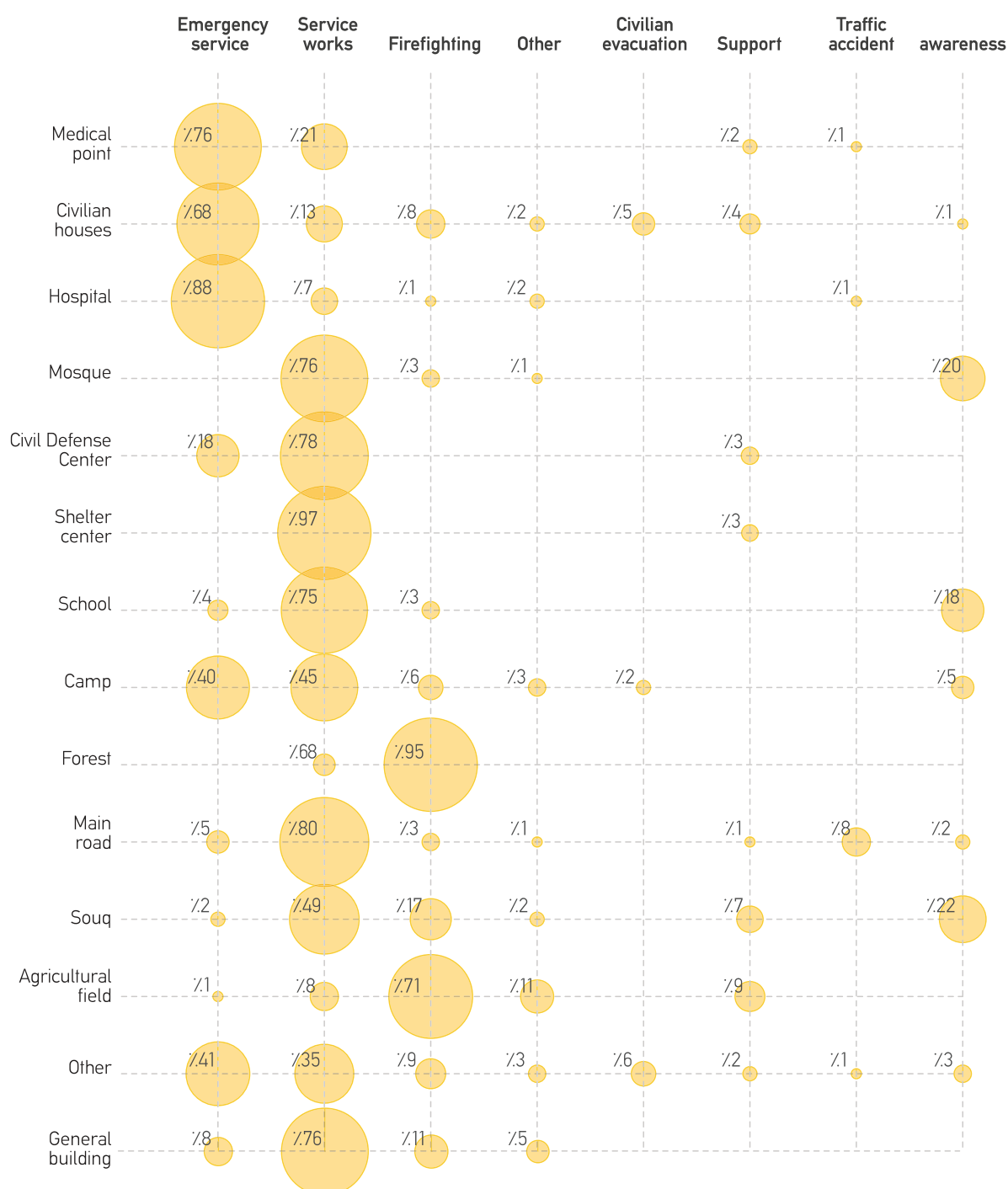
The civilian houses ranked first among the places which the SCD worked on removing their rubble. This work accounted for a total of 1097 operations, representing 25% of the implemented service works. Similarly, the main roads received high priority. The number of road service works carried out reached 988 operations, representing 23% of the total services. In addition to this, the services provided to other vital life-sustaining facilities such as the university, bakeries, power plants, fuel stations, besides factories, shops, and other public and private facilities. All of which the SCD centers were keen on responding to the various urgent and emergency situations appropriately.

Figure 23: Percentage of operations by place of execution



A detailed examination of the analysis in reading the percentage of operations according to the location and type of service rendered, brilliantly reflects the wide range of the vital, life-sustaining, urgent and emergency services provided to various facilities. However, one of the roles that the SCD teams have undertaken needs to be given highlight. It was their dealing with the effects of the systematic bombing by the Syrian regime and its allies on the ready-for-harvest agricultural lands. The regime sought to start large-scale fires with an aim to destroy the already limited food basket of the civilians. It was in this context that the important role of the SCD teams came into play. They were able to contain a total of 234 fires, which they extinguished and thus prevent their spreading to the rest of the agricultural fields. This is in addition to their carrying out 21 forest firefighting operations, which the regime also started the fire in.

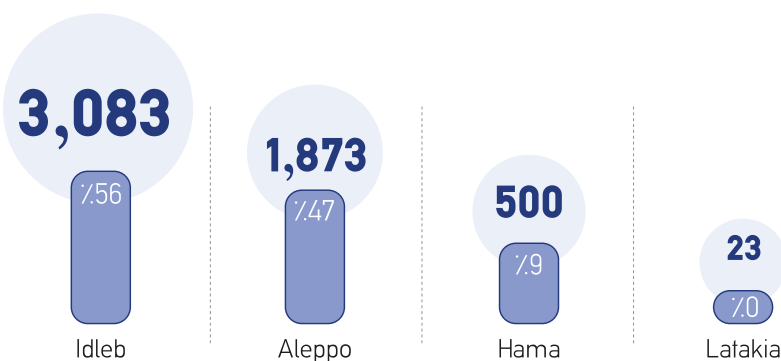
Figure 24: Percentage of the operations by place of execution and service



II: Services provided by women's centers and awareness-raising activities

The SCD's 31 women's centers continued their operations in providing quality health services for women while ensuring the privacy of women and at the same time focusing on the psychological and social aspects that should be taken into account in providing their services to the beneficiaries through these centers. The total number of services provided during the month reached 5479 specialized services, the majority of which 3083 tasks, were rendered in the centers of the Directorate of Idlib. This is while the services provided in the centers of Aleppo reached 34% of the total tasks.

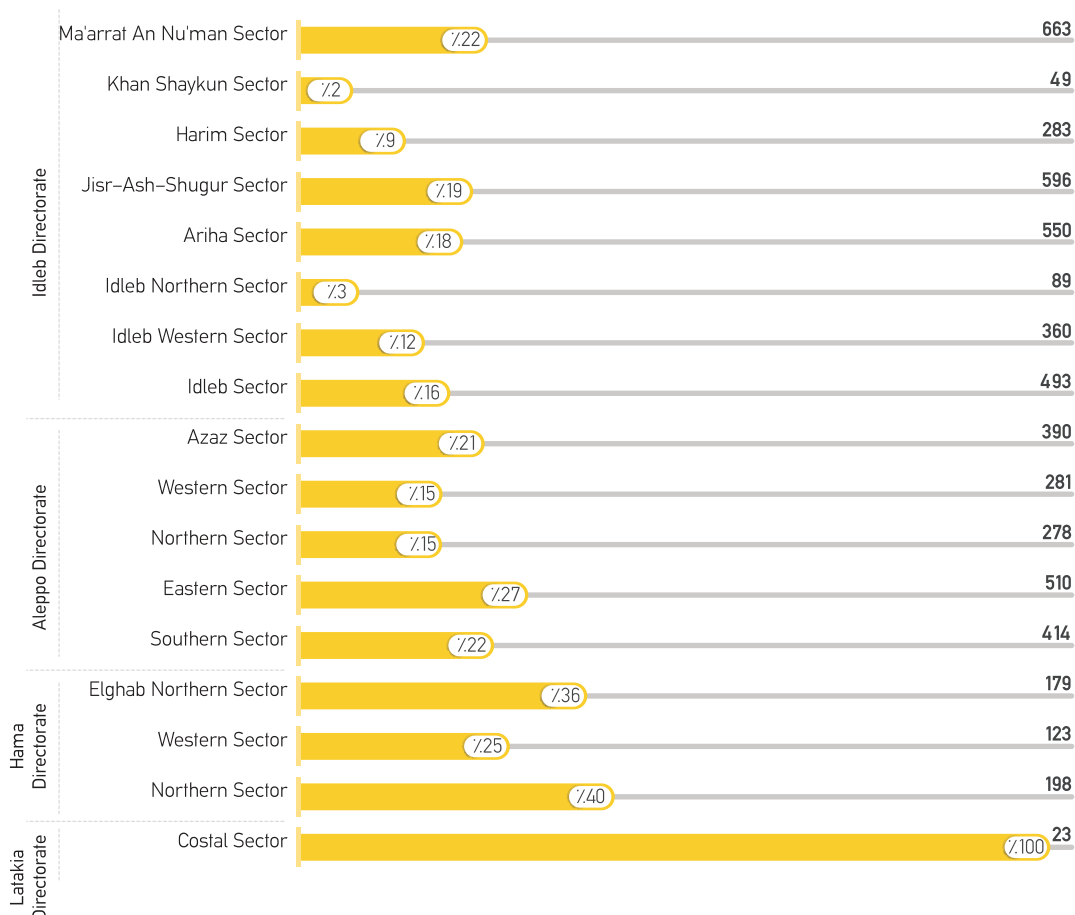
Figure 25: Provided services by governorate



At the sector level, the largest number of women's documented services was rendered at the Ma'arrat An Nu'man center, with a total of 663 services, representing 22% of total services. The rest of the services distributed to other sectors of the Directorate, in keeping with the population density of each. The number of services rendered through the women's centers in the eastern sector in the Directorate of Aleppo was 510 tasks. Accordingly, this sector stands on top by rendering 27% of the total services provided by the directorate for the women-beneficiaries.

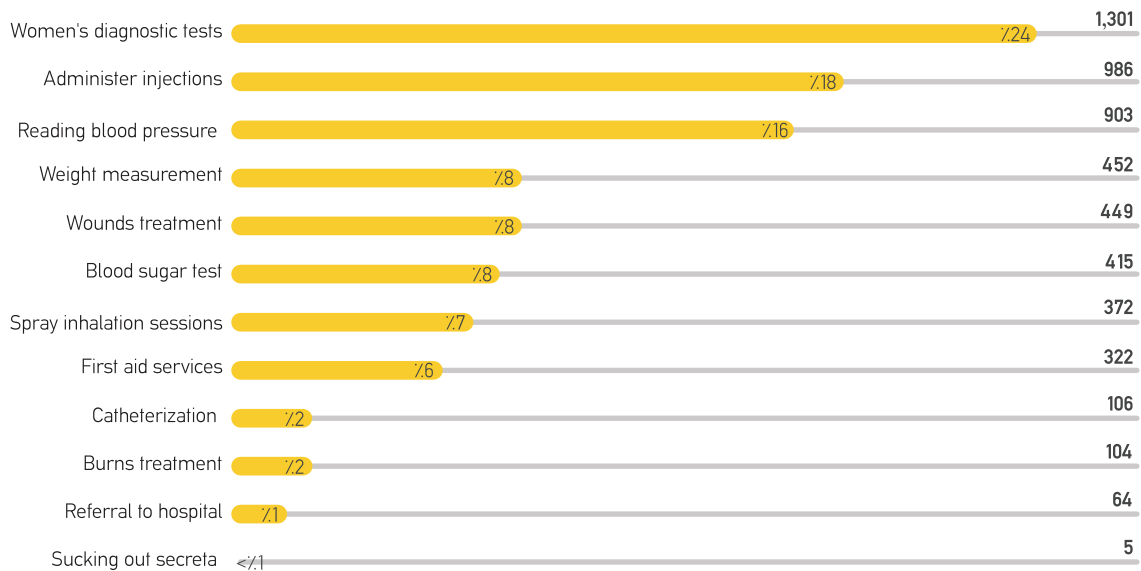
As for the Directorate of Hama, the highest number of services provided to women was registered in the northern sector, whereby the staff of the center rendered 198 women service.

Figure 26: Provided services by sector



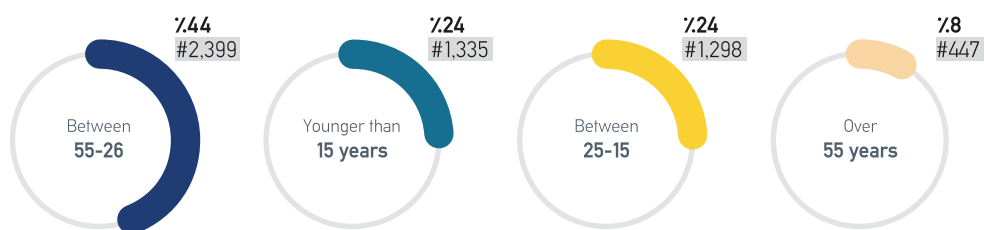
In as far as the type of the women's services is concerned, the data of these centers show that the specialized women's diagnostic tests were predominantly the highest in number. They accounted for about a quarter of the said services, while 986 documented services were administering injections. This is in addition to the role of the centers in rendering the service of reading the physical vital signs for women periodicity. The documented services in this context account for 903 blood pressure reading, along with 452 weight measurement services, as part of various medical conditions follow-up.

Figure 27: Medical services



The percentage of the beneficiaries of these services was distributed to all age groups. The highest percentage of beneficiaries was between 26 and 55 years, representing 44% of the beneficiaries. It should be noted that part of the services rendered through these centers with a percentage of 14% was performed outdoors. Most of which included the referral to secondary medical centers and hospitals, in addition to some first aid services provided outside these centers, when necessary.

Figure 28: Distribution by age variance



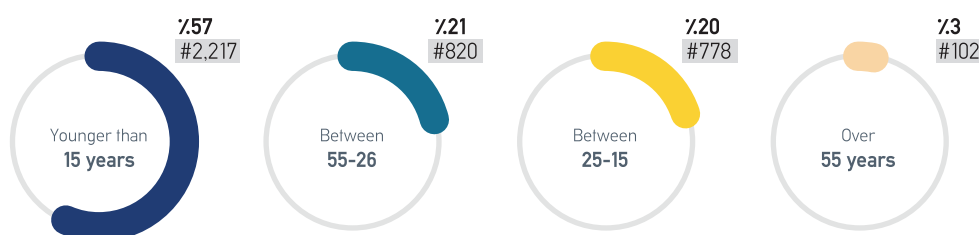
As for the awareness activities carried out by the competent SCD teams, a number of 186 awareness activities were carried out in the various directorates. The Directorate of Idleb had the largest share of these activities, where it had 73% of the total awareness activities, which varied in the subject matters dealt with. They, however, addressed most of the hot topics of interest to civilians to better cope with the state of war. Furthermore, well over the third of these sessions, 39%, were devoted to addressing the dangers of unexploded ordnance and war remnants. This is while the other sessions dealt with first aid and how to act at times of air raids, in addition to other different preventive topics.

Figure 29: Awareness by governorate



The importance of these awareness sessions lies in their keen concern to reach out to the largest number of civilians' people. The number of attendees who followed these sessions reached a total of 3917 beneficiaries. Emphasis was given on the school-aged children, who constituted 57% of the population and for whom special educational materials appropriate to their age were crafted.

Figure 30: Percentage of attendance by age group



III: Activities of the ERWs' and UXO's teams

Specific awareness on the dangers of the ERWs and UXOs

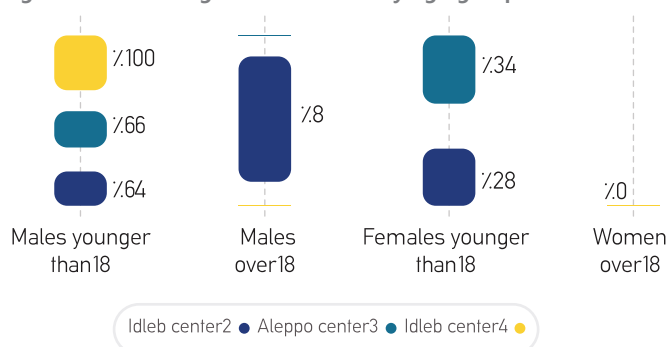
Holding these awareness-raising sessions is considered as a special backup mission for the public awareness campaigns carried out by the SCD training teams, which we mentioned above. The reason behind giving special focus on this subject matter lies in the fact that the UXOs and the ERWs pose a serious potential threat to civilians within their own towns and fields. Accordingly, the specialized teams provide specific awareness education on the ERWs and UXOs in their specialized centers. In this context, 11 awareness sessions were held, eight of which were held in Idleb governorate through both of its specialized centers.

Figure 31: Number and percentage of the awareness sessions



The number of attendees at these sessions was 205 participants, most of whom were children of school age, being the most vulnerable to the risk of the timed-instruments of death, represented by the ERWs and UXOs.

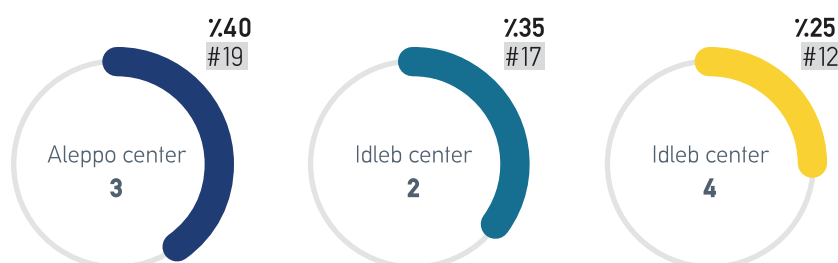
Figure 32: Percentage of attendance by age group



Handling ERWs* and UXOs*

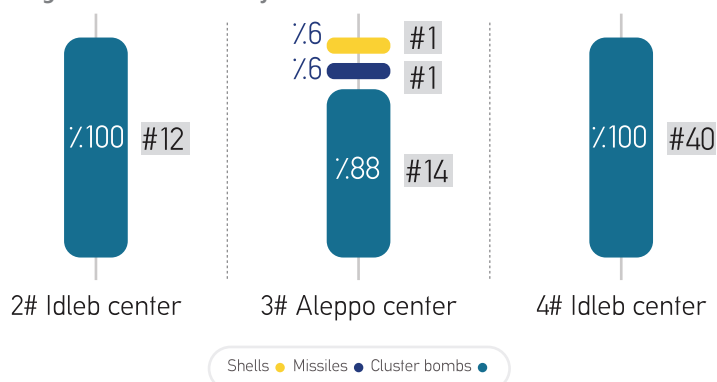
During the month of May, the specialized teams conducted a total of 48 specific missions, undertaken through their three centers in Idleb and Aleppo directorates. These tasks were distributed to the Idleb center, with a total of 29 tasks, while the Aleppo center team carried out 40% of the centers' overall tasks.

Figure 33: Distribution of the tasks by governorate



As to the nature of the objects dealt with by these teams, the internationally banned cluster bombs were the most common cases. In this context, the Idleb center #4 successfully neutralized 40 cluster bombs, while the Aleppo center #4 competent team dealt with the deactivation of 14 cluster bombs, whereas the number reached 12 bombs in the case of the Idleb center #2.

Figure 34: Removed objects





And whoever saves ...[a soul]
it is as if he had saved mankind entirely



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May 2019



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May 2019



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