

EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS AND THE REVERBERATING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS



Action on Armed Violence

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The challenges of conflict reporting – when injuries from explosive weapons don't make the news

29 Jul Research that reveals how the reporting of injuries in English-language media reporting drops off as conflict intensifies.



Explosive weapon harm

Numbers killed or injured globally

People killed in populated areas by explosive weapons 2011-2018 who were civilians

90.03%

People killed in lesser populated areas by explosive weapons 2011-2018 who were civilians

28.41%

Deaths and injuries of civilians from explosive weapons 2011-2018

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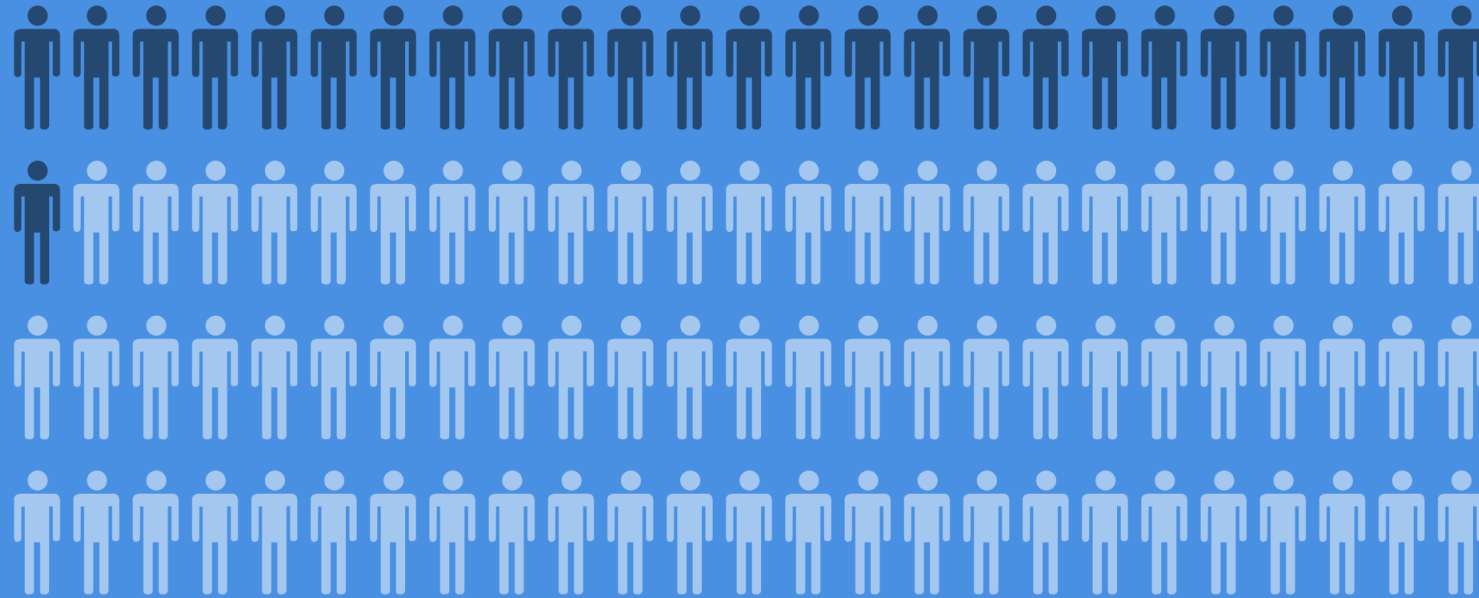
Between 2011 and 2019



25,965

**explosive violence incidents were reported by
English language media globally**

In total, 338,514 people were killed or injured



■ Armed Actors and Security Personnel (25.76%) ■ Civilians (74.24%)

74% of these were civilians

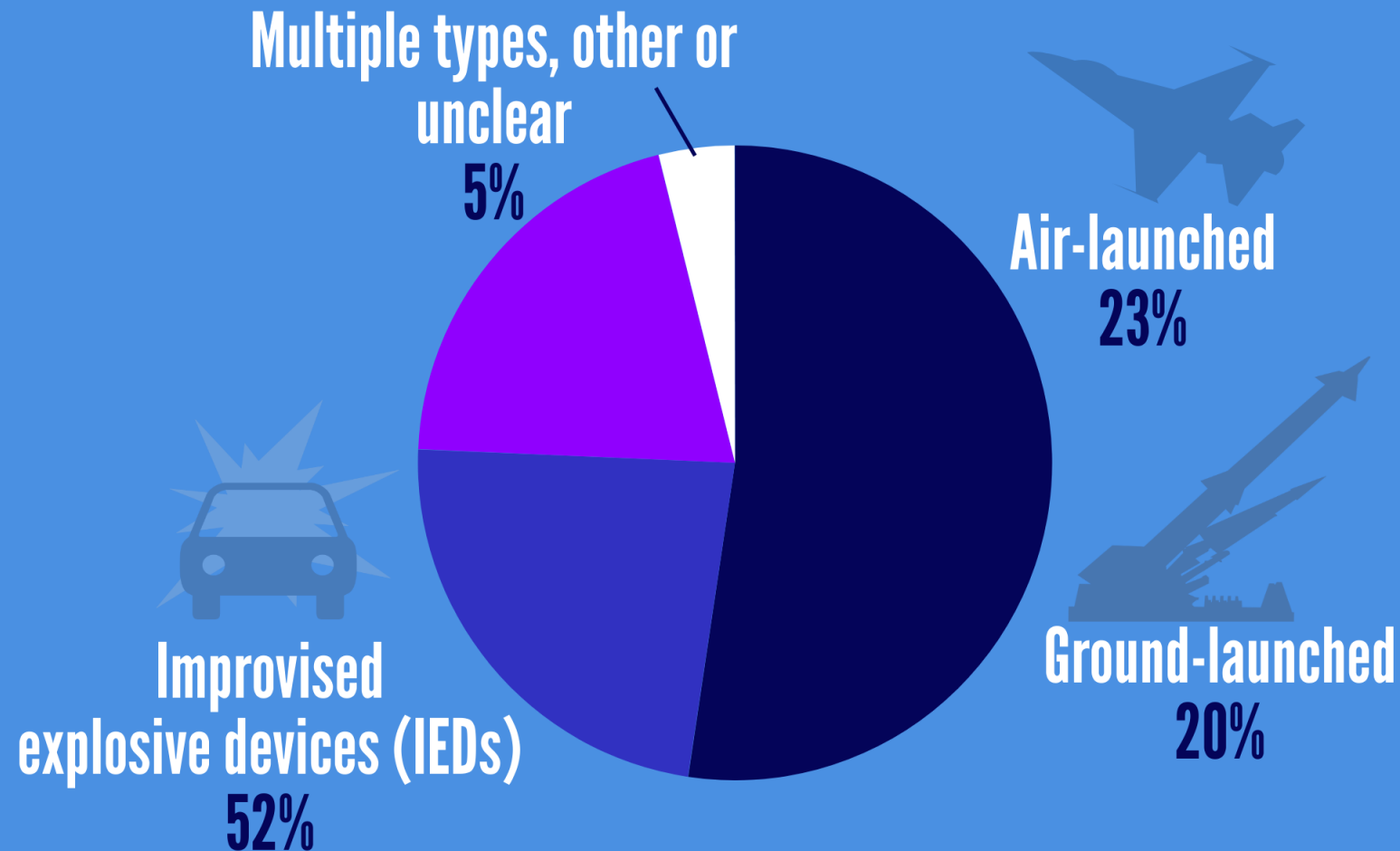
The top 10 worst impacted countries and territories for civilian casualties from explosive weapons



1. Syria: 74,519 civilian casualties
2. Iraq: 56,080
3. Afghanistan: 24,939
4. Pakistan: 20,027
5. Yemen: 15,962

6. Nigeria: 9,657
7. Somalia: 7,264
8. Libya: 5,356
9. Gaza: 5,098
10. Turkey: 3,545

Civilian casualties from explosive weapons by launch method



While A0AV recorded 2,106 casualties from landmine use in active violence or conflict, including 1,314 civilians, there were a further 1,906 casualties from ERW/UXO, including 1,816 civilians, reported in English-language news media.

ENVIRONMENT

INFRASTRUCTURE

By February 2019, over

50,000

homes had been
destroyed as of
February 2019 in
Donbas.



While in Syria, by 2017,

50%

of basic social infrastructure in
Syria was non-operational

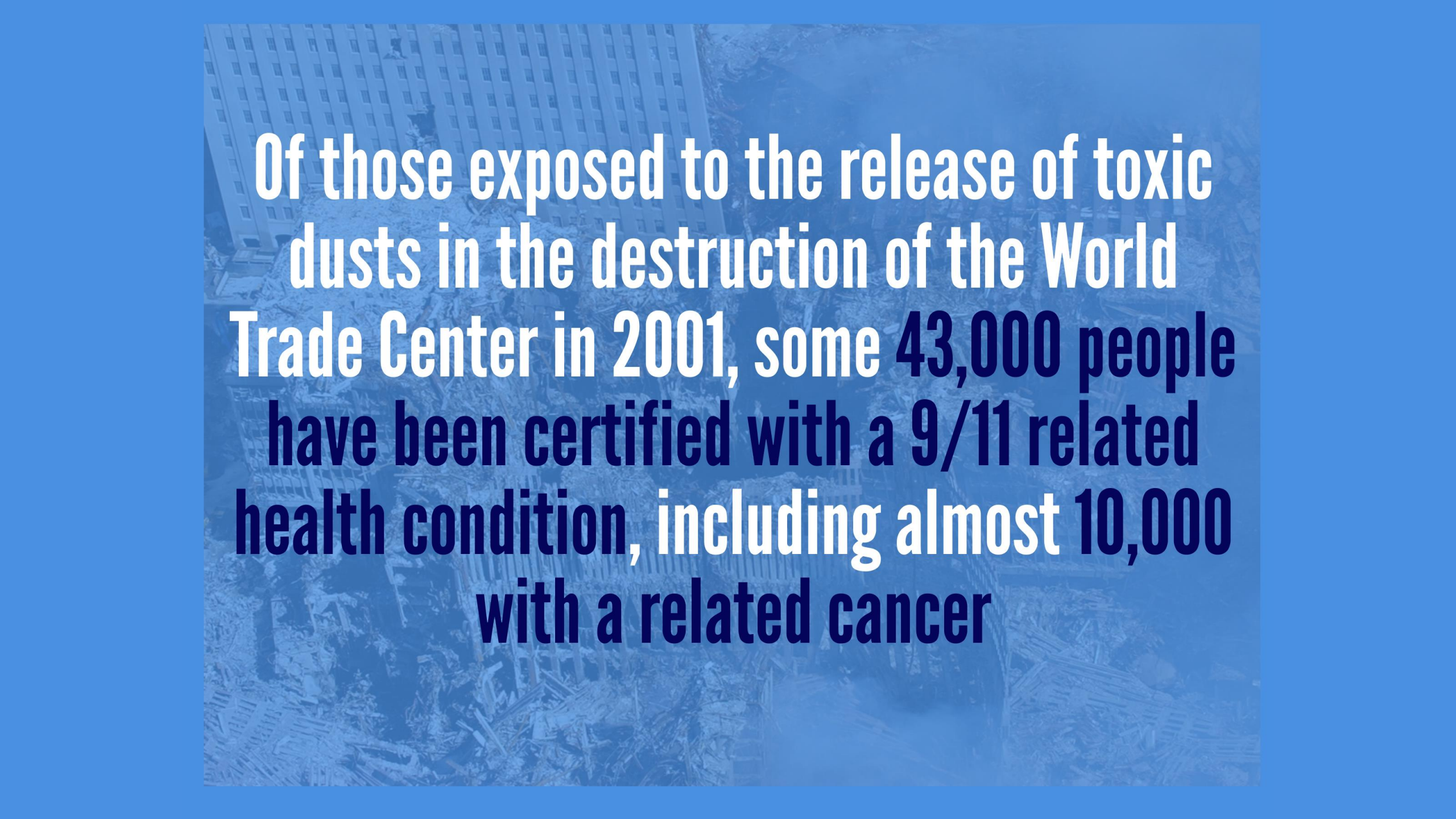


A photograph of a war-torn street in Eastern Ghouta, Syria. The street is filled with rubble and debris, and the buildings on either side are heavily damaged and partially destroyed. A woman in a dark headscarf and a young child are walking towards the camera in the center of the street. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

In 2018 alone, over **34,000** buildings were damaged or destroyed just in Eastern Ghouta.



Estimates on the levels of rubble generated have only been carried out for Aleppo and Homs, with war damage creating **15 million** and **5.3 million tons** of debris in each city respectively.

An aerial photograph of the World Trade Center site in New York City, showing the two towers and the surrounding area. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text is centered on the image.

**Of those exposed to the release of toxic
dusts in the destruction of the World
Trade Center in 2001, some 43,000 people
have been certified with a 9/11 related
health condition, including almost 10,000
with a related cancer**

ERW among the debris is a significant issue.

The failure rate of modern weapons is estimated to be about **3-5%**



AGRICULTURE

A person is standing in the center of a field filled with various agricultural machines, including tractors and harvesters. The scene is set outdoors under a cloudy sky. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text is centered over the image.

In Donetsk, agricultural production is said to have fallen by over **30%**.




In Syria, GDP from agricultural output contracted **41%** between 2011 and 2015

The leaching of ERW threatens agriculture by **impacting the fertility of agricultural land**, through reducing soil nutrient levels.



The risk of landmines and other ERW means agricultural land often goes neglected during and post-conflict.





Bombs, including IEDs and landmines, as well as neglect, destroy irrigation networks

It is estimated that the amount of irrigated land in Syria **shrank by 47%** between 2012 and 2015; water reservoirs had **diminished by 49%**.





Farmers and other agricultural workers are among **those at most risk** from bombardment, landmines and ERW



DISPLACEMENT

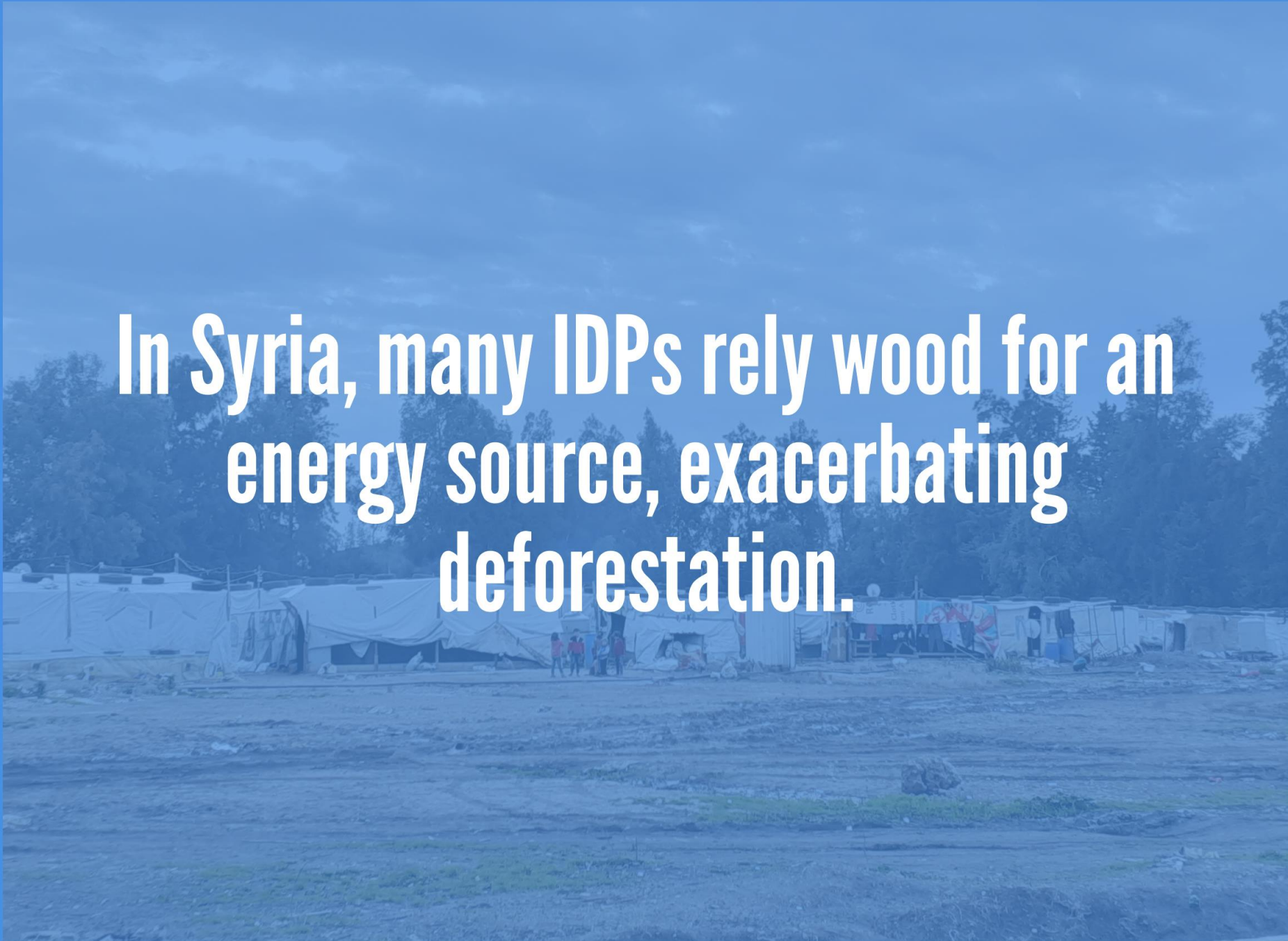
**Landmines and other ERW often
increase the length of displacement**



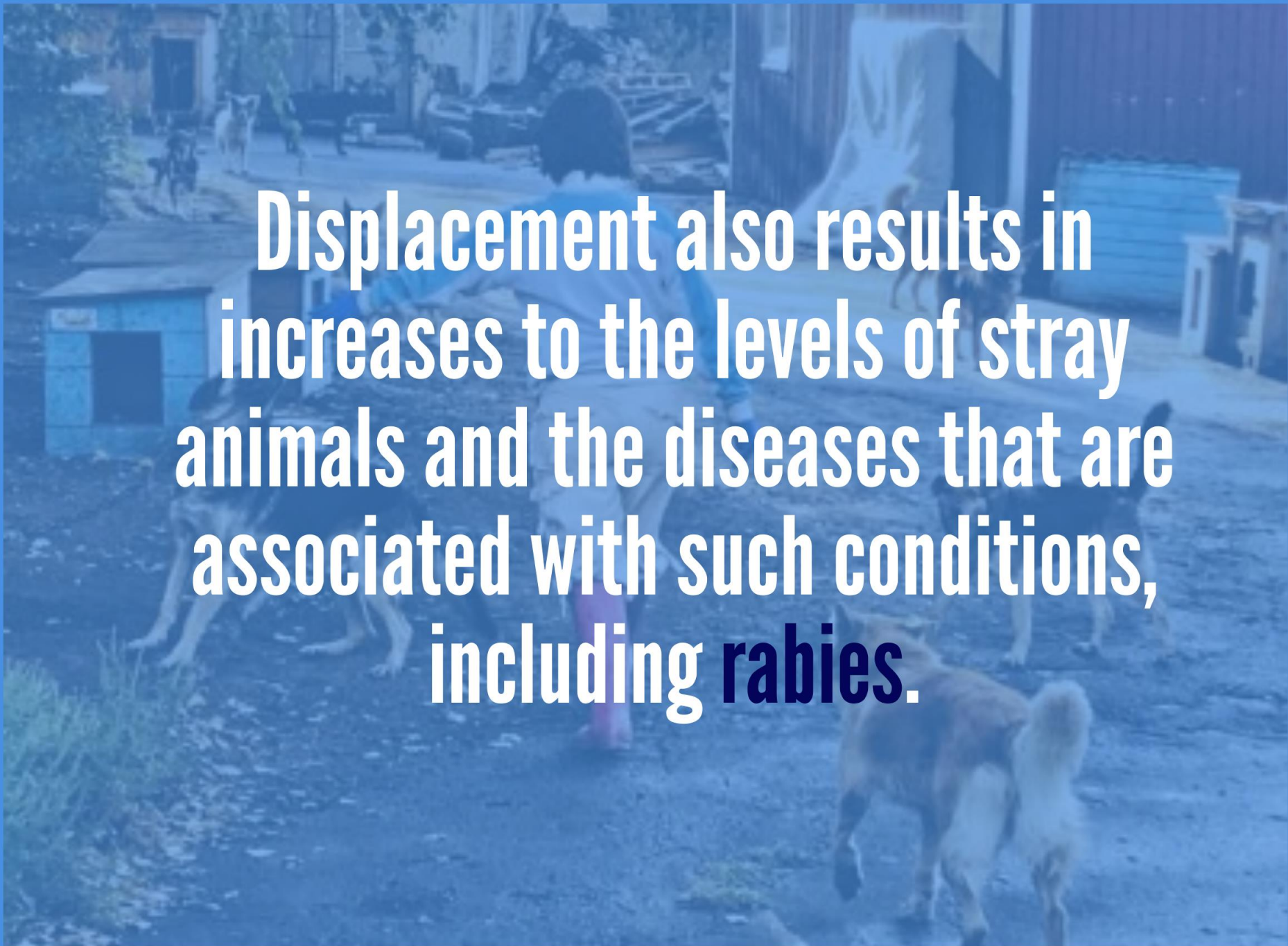


**Camps for the displaced often
severely impact the environment**

In Syria, many IDPs rely wood for an energy source, exacerbating deforestation.



Between 2001-2017, Syria lost 18,600 hectares in tree cover. Of this, at least 14,000 hectares (75%), was lost in the years following the start of the conflict in Syria.

A person wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt and pink pants is walking away from the camera through a dirt area. The area is populated with many stray dogs of various breeds and colors. In the background, there are several small, makeshift structures, some made of corrugated metal or wood, suggesting a settlement or a place of displacement. The overall scene is somewhat desolate and cluttered.

Displacement also results in increases to the levels of stray animals and the diseases that are associated with such conditions, including **rabies**.

A photograph of a refugee camp, showing rows of tents and makeshift structures in the foreground, with multi-story buildings in the background. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. Centered over the image is white text that reads: "Often the host countries feel the impacts if they are hosting refugee populations".

Often the host countries feel the impacts if they are hosting refugee populations



In Jordan there has been a rise in **wildlife violations** as refugees and host populations increasingly rely on the surrounding environment to survive. While in Lebanon, refugees have impacted **water scarcity**.

Displacement can also place IDPs and
refugees at risk from ERW when
displaced in **areas they don't know.**





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22,350

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