



SYRIA POLLING MARCH 2018

15 March 2018



HEADLINE FINDINGS

1. The International community is perceived to have largely failed the Syrian people; majorities believe that the West prioritized their own interests in getting involved in the conflict. As the war drags on through its 7th year, failure by the international community remains on the mind of Syrians.
2. Support for Assad is high in Regime territory but low in Opposition and SDF territory. Those in Opposition areas reject the idea that Assad should be allowed to participate in future election; his participation would be a dealbreaker for a peaceful end to the conflict.
3. Slightly fewer than one-third (30%) of respondents report having an immediate family member who left the country within the last seven years. Return for many of these Syrians is thought to hinge on a neutral transitional period and ensuring Assad is not able to participate in the process.
4. The humanitarian situation is dire, in particular in areas outside of the control of the Regime. There is a lack of access to basic necessities, such as food, water, electricity.
5. There is strong support for elections provided they come after a fair transitional period. Free and fair elections are supported by majorities in areas both under and outside of the control of the Regime.
6. There does remain a glimmer of hope; a majority (65%) agree that Syrians can put aside their differences, and large majorities reject the prospect of dividing the country.

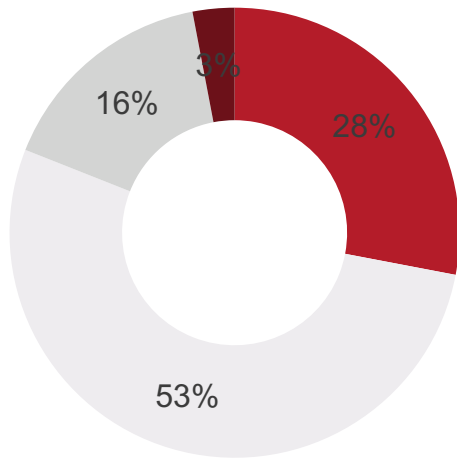


METHODOLOGY

SYRIA – SURVEY METHODOLOGY

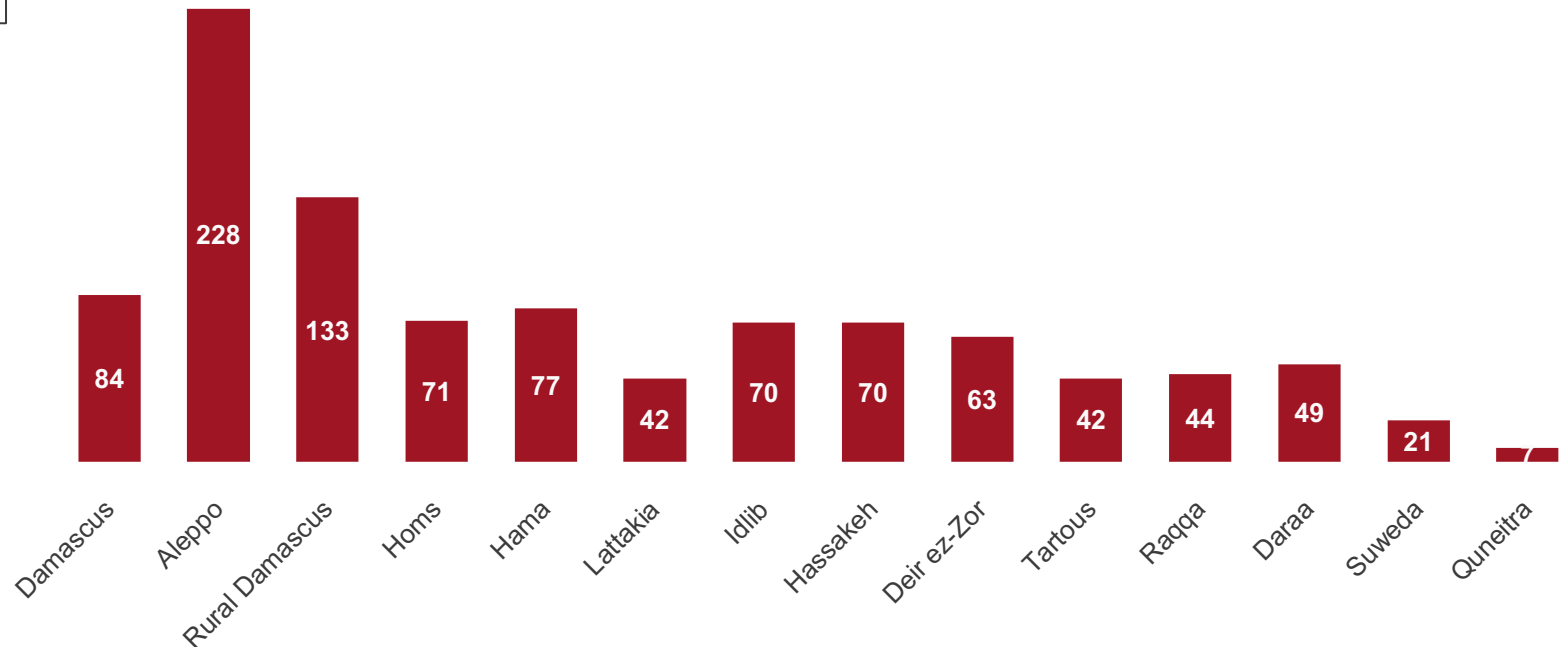
ORB International conducted n=1,000 face-to-face interviews across in all 14 governorates of Syria. Fieldwork was completed 7-12 March, 2018 to coincide with the 7 year anniversary of the conflict. Data is compared with historic survey data conducted for public release in 2015 and 2017.

Local Sample Control



■ Opposition/FSA ■ Assad Government
 ■ Kurds/SDF ■ Other

Interviews per Governorate



DEMOGRAPHICS

Age	2018
18-25	20%
26-35	39%
36-45	25%
46-55	15%
56-65	9%
65+	1%

Education	2018
No formal	5%
Elementary	12%
Complementary	21%
Secondary	28%
University	31%
Graduate Degree	2%

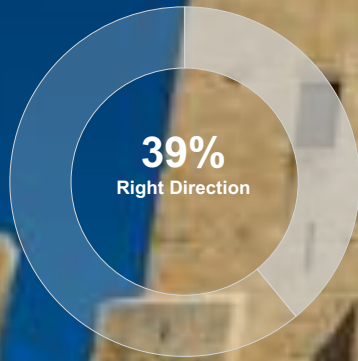
Gender	2018
Male	55%
Female	45%

Employment	2018
Working full-time	16%
Working part-time	18%
Housewife	26%
Student	9%
Retired/ Disabled	7%
Unemployed, seeking employment	9%
Unemployed, not seeking	7%
Other	6%



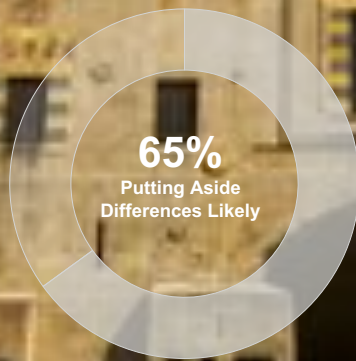
FINDINGS

KEY INDICATORS



Direction of Syria

Do you think Syria is heading in the right direction or the wrong direction?



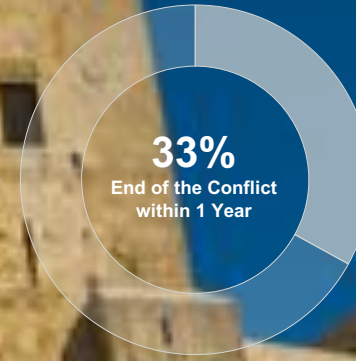
Likelihood of Putting Aside Differences

How likely do you think it is that Syrians can put their differences aside and live side by side again?



Support for Division of Syria

Some people argue that the solution in Syria is to divide the country into autonomous regions, which can govern themselves. Do you support or oppose such a splitting of the country?

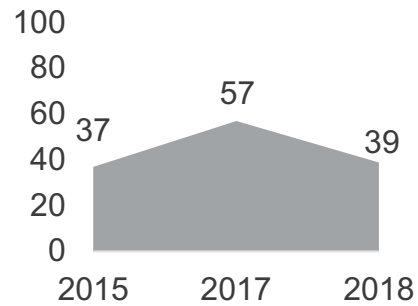


End of the Conflict within 1 Year

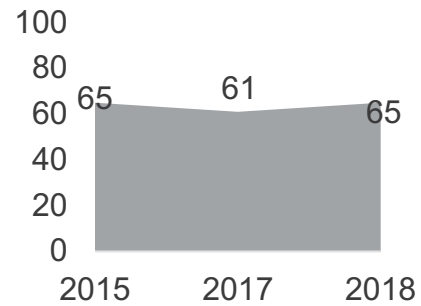
And how long do you think it will be before this conflict ends?

INDICATORS SINCE 2015

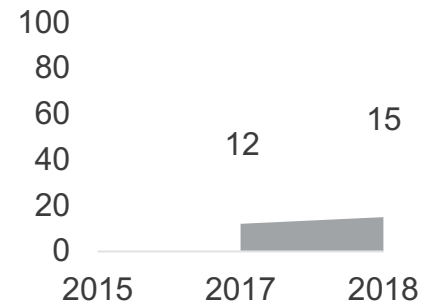
Right Direction



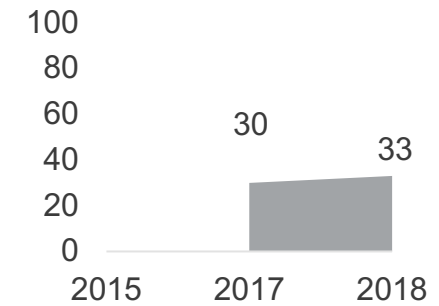
Putting Aside Differences Likely



Support for Division of Syria



End of the Conflict Within 1 Year



ACTORS IN SYRIA

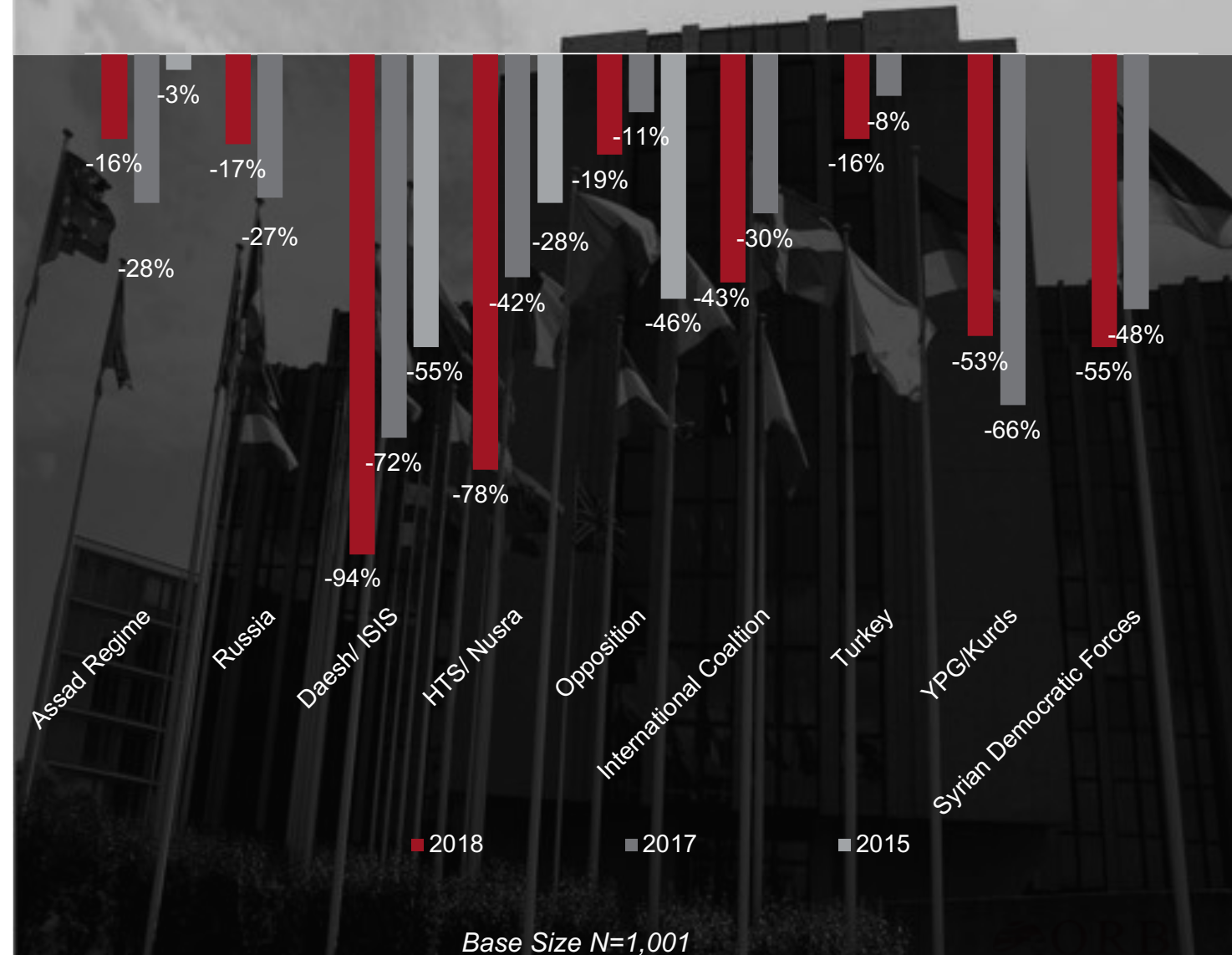
Levels of discontent are high among Syrians with regards to a variety of actors both foreign and domestic involved in the conflict in Syria. Not a single actor receives a net positive score at the national level.

As violence has dragged on, there is a perception that the international community has failed the Syrian people, only acting in the interest of foreign interests. 72% of respondents agree with the statement that the West ignored its more obligation in Syria in favor of serving its own interests.

The Coalition and its strategic partner in Syria (the Syrian Democratic Forces, or SDF) are both viewed very negatively.

Daesh is rejected, as is HTS (Al Nusra), the Al Qaeda affiliate in Syria. Promises of the caliphate have been proven false, and the group now only controls only small tracts of territory. Rejection of Daesh and is at its highest level today.

NET SCORE
Positive MINUS Negative Influence on Syria

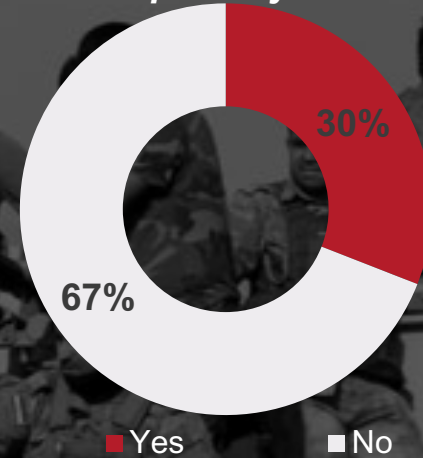


DISPLACEMENT OF FAMILY MEMBERS

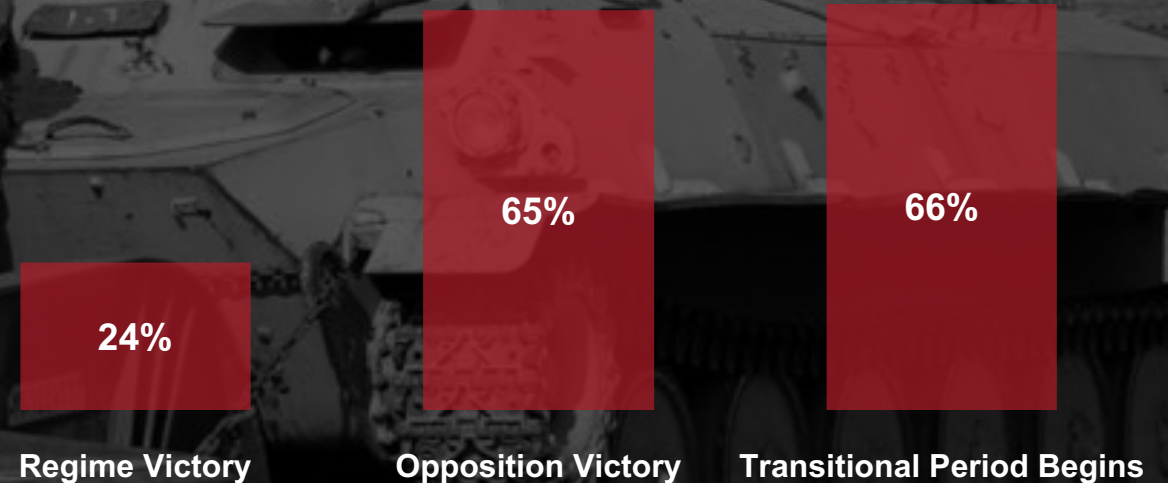
Nearly one-in-three Syrians report having a first-degree family member who has left the country. But this number is higher in locations outside of the control of the Assad Regime (26% in Regime controlled, 30% in Opposition, and 42% Kurdish controlled areas).

Whether or not they believe their family members will return hinges on several factors. If the Assad Regime is able to end the conflict and remain in power, only 24% believe it is likely that their family members will return (however, this number is significantly higher in Regime controlled areas, 35% compared with only 6% in Opposition controlled locations). If a transitional period begins or the Opposition is victorious, then more than then two-thirds of respondents believe that their family members will return.

First-degree Family Member left Syria within past 7 years



Likelihood of Return of Displaced Family Members



Base Size N=1,001

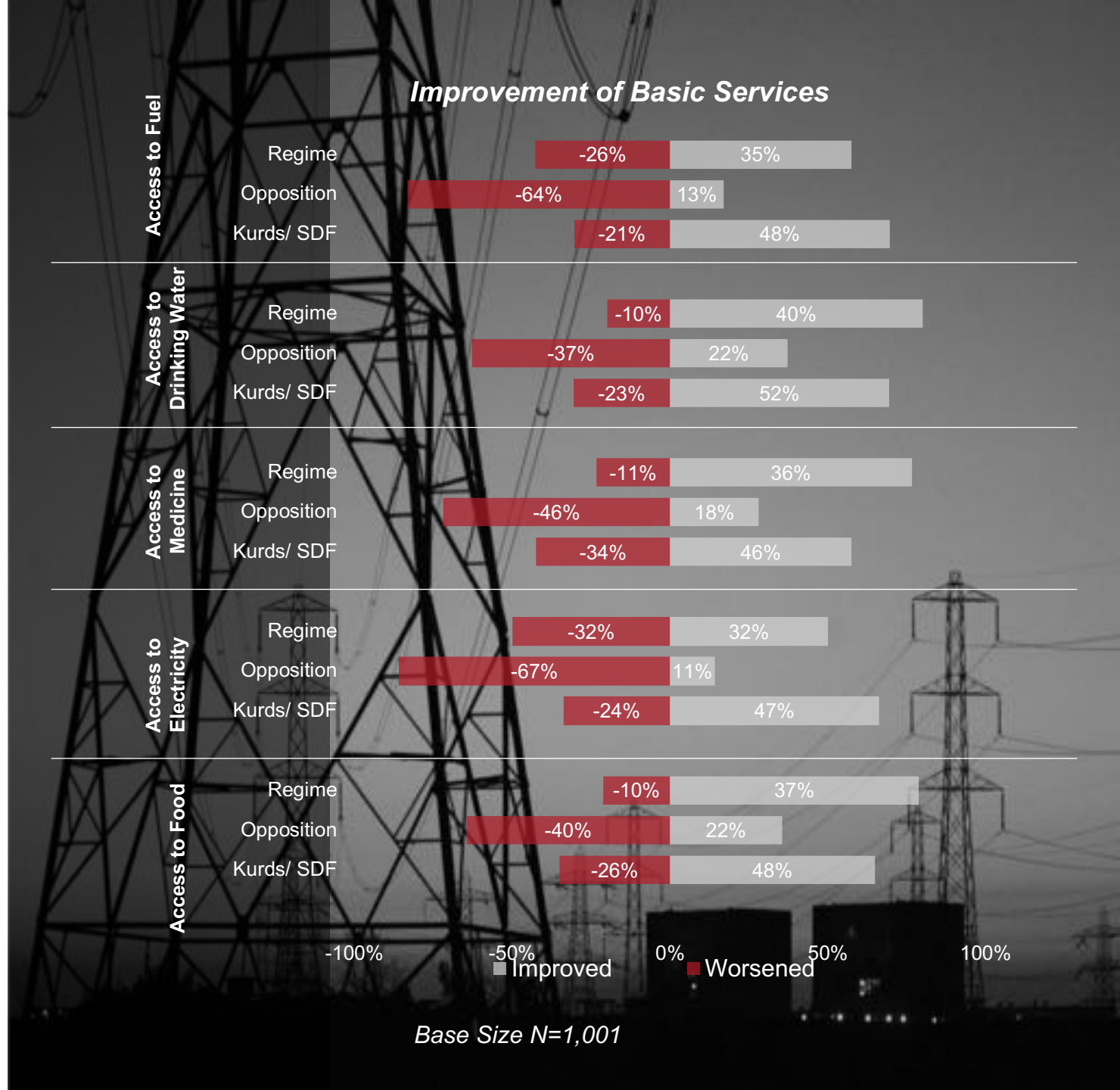
NEEDS OF SYRIANS

Syrians living in Opposition controlled areas are more likely than their counterparts in Regime or Kurdish controlled locations to say that their access to basic necessities has worsened in the past year.

In Regime held areas, respondents are more likely to cite improving conditions than worsening with regards to basic necessities; those which are most improved are access to drinking water (40%) and access to food (37%).

In Opposition held areas the the situation is dire, 40% rate their access to food as worsening, and further 67% and 64% believe their access to electricity and fuel have worsened respectively. When measured by access to basic services, the quality of life is much lower in Opposition held locations.

With regards to providing relief and basic services, Syrians living in areas outside of the control of the Assad Regime trust NGOs and local relief organizations to provide, rather than international NGOs such as the UN, or the Assad Regime itself. Local relief is more trusted than international intervention.

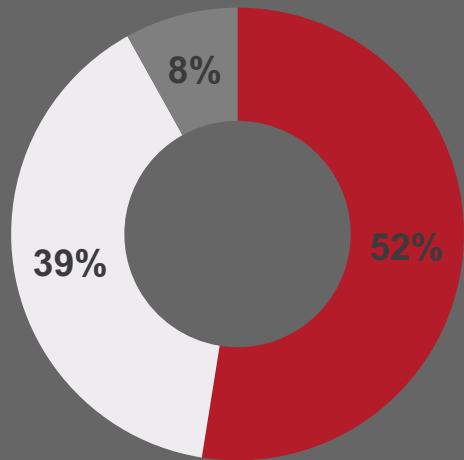


SECURITY AND THE FUTURE

Few see the conflict ending within the next six months, but those most optimistic about this are found within Regime or SDF locations. Currently, slightly more than half (52%) believe the Regime will emerge victorious.

Majorities in all locations are optimistic that the security situation will improve. Those in Kurdish areas see security improving as the most likely.

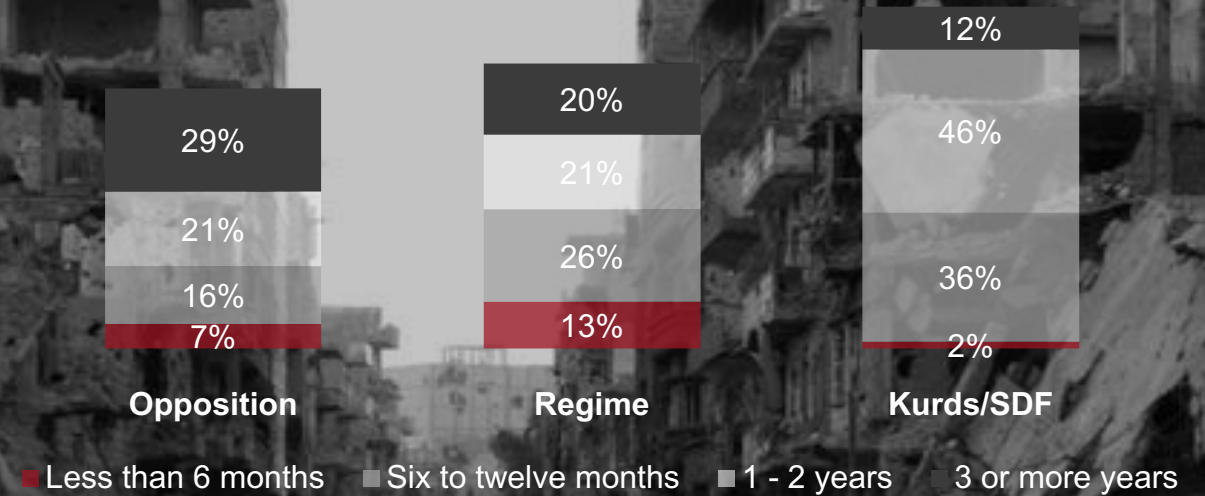
Who will be Victorious?



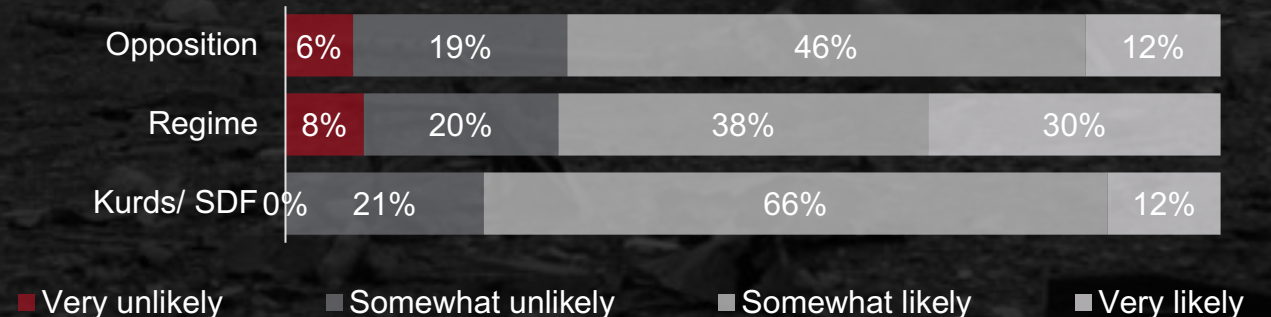
■ Assad Regime ■ Opposition ■ Other

March 2018 – 7th Anniversary Poll

When will the Conflict End?



Will the Security Situation Improve?



■ Very unlikely ■ Somewhat unlikely ■ Somewhat likely ■ Very likely

Base Size N=1,001

RESOLUTION AND FUTURE

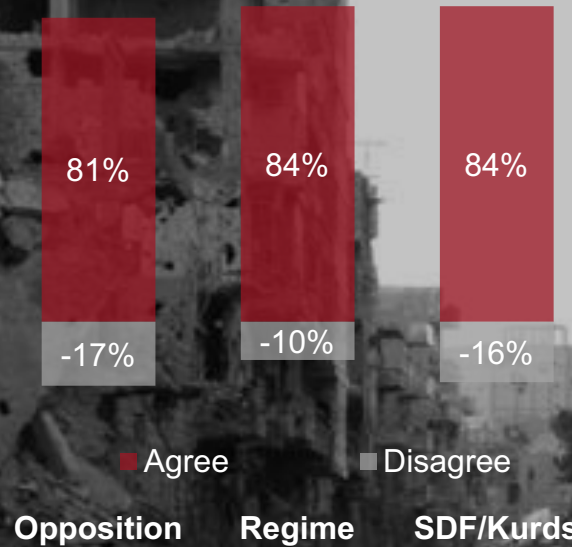
Support for “free and fair” elections following a transitional period is nearly unanimous. Even in Regime territory, 84% agree that the President of Syria should be elected in “free and fair” elections.

However, with regards to whether or not Bashar al-Assad should be allowed to stand, results are split based on control of the sampling locations. However, 68% of those living in Regime controlled locations believe he should be able to participate.

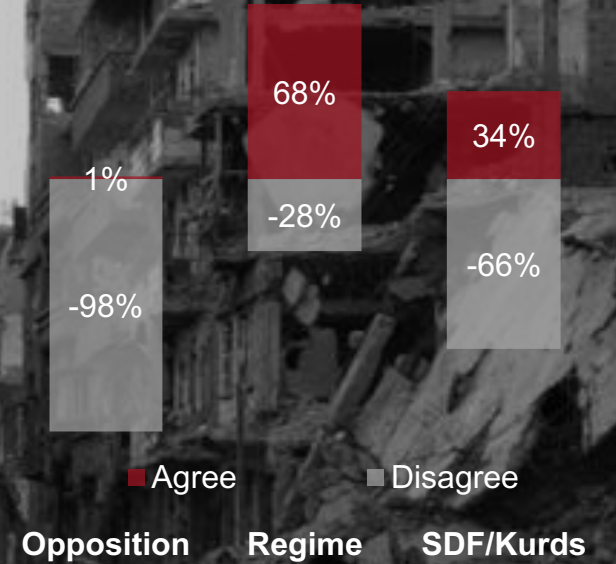
For those outside of his Regime’s territorial control, ouster of Assad and his banishment from future elections is key to achieving a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

There is agreement among two-thirds of Syrians across all governorates that “those who guilty of war crimes” will face justice. However, its not clear who they believe are the ones guilty of war crimes.

Agreement that President of Syria should be chosen in Free and Fair elections



Agreement that Assad should be permitted to Stand in Elections



Likelihood that those guilty of war crimes will face justice



Base Size N=1,001



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**(LONDON)
JOHNNY HEALD
JHEALD@ORB-INTERNATIONAL.COM
+44 207 611 5270**

**(WASHINGTON)
CARA CARTER
CCARTER@ORB-INTERNATIONAL.COM
+1 202 355 5993**