





Figure 1: Dominant actors' area of control and influence in Syria as of 31 December 2021. NSOAG stands for Non-state Organized Armed Groups. Also, please see footnote 1.

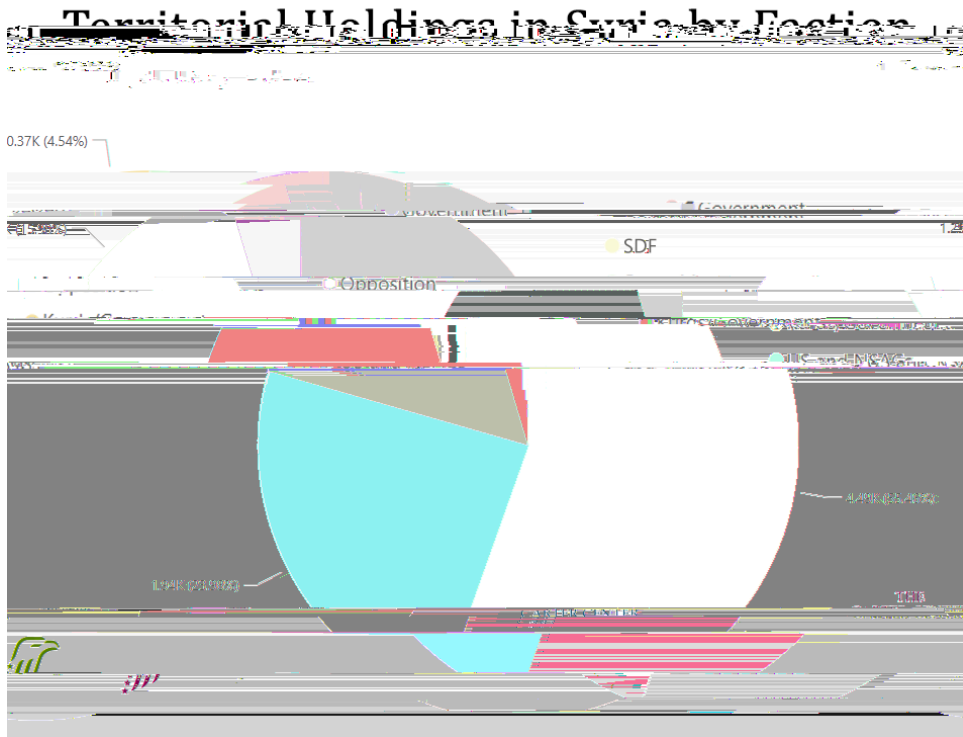


Figure 2: Breakdown of territorial holdings by party as of 1 January 2022.

During the last quarter of 2021, 1,038 conflict events were recorded in northwest Syria, a slight decrease from the previous quarter (1,322). Conflict event counts for the fourth quarter of 2021 (2021 Q4) and third quarter of 2021 (2021 Q3) are collected in the table below:

Aleppo	396	-172 (-30%)
Idlib	408	+38 (+8%)

*Figure 3: Conflict between GoS armed forces and armed opposition groups in northwest Syria from October to December 2021. Largest bubble represents 32 conflict events. Data from The Carter Center and ACLED.*

the aftermath of Russia conducting airstrikes on Turkish-held territory at the end of September.<sup>4</sup> The escalating violence and ongoing negotiations between Russia and Turkey led some analysts to suspect that a land swap was being considered by the two parties. This did not come to pass and violence declined in the final months of 2021.

*Figure 4*

HTS is staring down a likely financial crisis in the coming year.<sup>8</sup> Although implementing the Turkish lira as the de-facto currency in Idlib helped it to circumvent the direst effects of the economic collapse in government-controlled







The settlement agreements of 2018 occurred alongside GoS, Russian, and Iranian efforts to retake Dara'a Governorate. The Russian-mediated settlement agreements between the

severely curtailed the power of former opposition groups. Although the new settlement agreements largely avoided eastern Dara'a Governorate, stronghold of the Russian-backed 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the 5<sup>th</sup> Corps, it seems that the power equation in Dara'a Governorate has shifted. Similar settlement agreements were later implemented in GoS-controlled territory in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate (see below). Despite the new settlement agreements, attacks targeting GoS soldiers or former opposition fighters has not decreased.

*Figure 8: Attacks against former opposition fighters and GoS armed forces in Dara'a Governorate in 2021. Data from The Carter Center and ACLED.*

During the reporting period, unidentified armed groups attacked former opposition fighters and GoS soldiers in southern Syria on at least 82 instances. Although the attacks are by unidentified actors, GoS officials and former opposition representatives blame each other for the attacks. This is a continuing

*Figure 9: Incidents between local As-Sweida militias against GoS armed forces and GoS-backed militias between October-December 2021. Data from The Carter Center and ACLED.*

Unlike the two other regions covered above, conflict intensity rose in northeast Syria during the final quarter of 2021. Recorded conflict events rose from 828 last quarter to 895 in the final quarter of 2021. The increase in conflict activity was partially due to the increased reports of ISIS-related conflict events. A breakdown of these events is collected the table below:

Deir-ez-Zor	282	+49 (+21%)
Ar-Raqqa	261	+10 (+4%)
Al-Hassakah	352	+8 (+2%)
Northeast Overall	895	+67 (+8%)



Figure 10: Incidents involving ISIS between October-December 2021. Largest bubble represents 37 conflict events. Data from The Carter Center and ACLED.

During the last quarter of 2021, ISIS-related conflict events increased across Syria, reverting from the downward trend evident in the previous quarter. As noted in the third quarter report, analysts believe that the previous downward trend was

