In this edition of ACLED’s State of Syria infographic series, Syria Research Manager Muaz A. maps key developments in the Syrian conflict during the last quarter of 2019 and the first quarter of 2020.

Past editions and further analysis of the Syrian conflict can be found here. For an explanation of ACLED’s methodology for mapping territorial control in Syria, click here.
The State of Syria

ACLED’s data-driven and expert-based State of Syria Map assigns control to conflict actors at the sub-district (nahiyah) level of the country. The map denotes each sub-district as contested (colored black), inactive (not currently seen), or controlled by an actor (all other colors). Further, each actor in control of a sub-district is assigned two unique colors to signify whether, while under that group’s control, violence has continued to be actively carried out by rival groups or whether the controlled area is generally “inactive.” This allows viewers to examine in detail the changing scope, focus, and role of various actors in the Syrian conflict.

Q4 (October - December) 2019

Turkish forces launched a new Operation Peace Spring in northeastern Syria and managed, with the support of rebel fighters, to control large areas of Tell Abyad, Saluk sub-districts in Ar-Raqqa, and Ras al Ayn in Al Hasakah. These sub-districts are now under Operation Peace Spring control, after being under OSD control in Q3 of 2019.

Q1 (January - March) 2020

During Q1 of 2020, regime and allied forces, with the support of the Russian air force, made substantial ground advances, moving into Saman, Hassake, Hasakah, Zehra, Sarqoub, Majar al Asnam, Hasab, and Katar Robat under their effective control (from Turkish-Kurdish control). As a result, the M4 highway now falls completely under regime control.

Notable Status Changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-District</th>
<th>Q4 2019</th>
<th>Q1 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ataseb</td>
<td>HTS: Hayat Tahir al Sham</td>
<td>Contested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darat Azza</td>
<td>HTS: Hayat Tahir al Sham</td>
<td>Contested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hadith</td>
<td>Contested</td>
<td>Regime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jebel Susan</td>
<td>Contested</td>
<td>Regime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ma’arrat An Nu’man</td>
<td>Contested</td>
<td>Regime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zarbtha</td>
<td>Contested</td>
<td>Regime</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Control Status

- Regime
- Regime (Inactive)
- HTS: Hayat Tahir al Sham
- Operation Euphrates Shield
- Operation Euphrates Shield (Inactive)
- Operation Olive Branch
- Operation Olive Branch (Inactive)
- Opposition Rebels
- OSD
- OSD (Inactive)
- Military Forces of Israel (2009) (Inactive)
- Contested
- Operation Peace Spring

* This map will be released on a periodic basis, and a methodological piece can be found on the ACLED website.

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