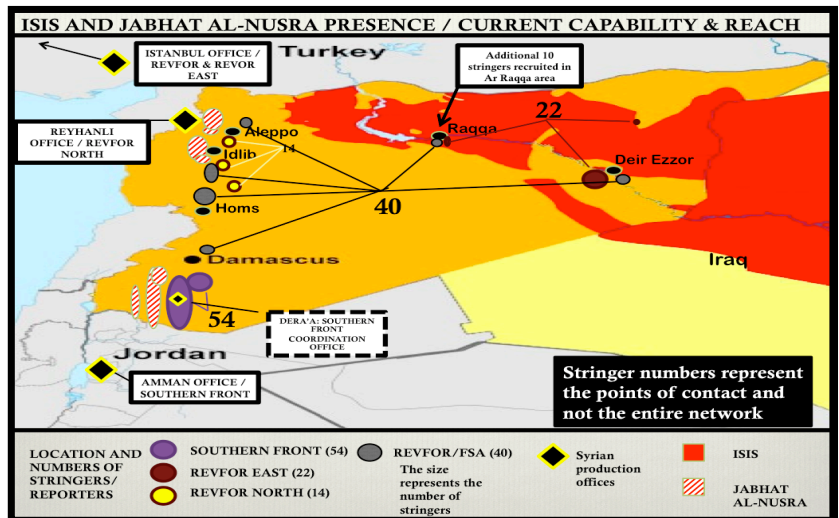


**2.2.13 Do you currently have access to networks inside Syria? Please confirm and provide details.**

1. **General.** Yes. InCoStrat’s core personnel are managing networks throughout Syria on a daily basis, including access to some of the most **impenetrable areas** in the country, namely the Eastern Front (**al-Raqqa and Dayr al-Zawr**) and regime-held **Damascus**. The networks are drawn from different segments of society: military (**FSA commanders and brigades**); media (reporters and stringers: independent as well as others embedded within FSA units); civilian (**tribal groups and personalities from minorities**); and civil society/political. These networks either work directly with us on joint initiatives, or we have established relationships with such groups acting as interlocutors to other stakeholders and potential outreach partners. **All of these networks are currently active and available to support new projects** to provide immediate access and value. **80% of InCoStrat’s core personnel are fluent Arabic speakers**, meaning we **save on costs** for interpreters and have **stronger relationships with individuals** in the networks. This is **added value all round for the donors**.

2. **Supporting Evidence.**

a) **Military.** Our team have strong relationships with **54 brigade commanders** in Syria’s southern front (Dera’a, al-Qunaytra, Damascus countryside, Damascus and al-Qalamoun) currently involving **daily, direct engagement** with the commanders and their officers inside Syria; with defected officers in Irbid and Amman who co-ordinate with local military councils; and indirect engagement with small FSA units inside regime-held Damascus. In the East, we have access to **small units operating against ISIS**. In the North, we have established relationships with FSA brigades in Aleppo, Idlib and parts of northern Lattakia. We also have long-standing relationships with larger groups such as the Hazm Brigades. We have trained and supported the current and previous commanders of the **Supreme Military Council** including accompanying and briefing them on an official visit to the US to brief **President Obama, Secretary Kerry and Congress**.



b) **Media.** With already functioning offices in **Amman, Reyhanli, Istanbul and a coordination office in Dera’a (Syria)** our team work with stringers and reporters across Syria, who behave as points of contacts with their own, wider networks, acting as force multipliers. In the southern front we are presently in contact with over 54 stringers; in the eastern front (**including al-Raqqa, Dayr Al-Zawr and al-Hassaka**) over 22; in the northern front over 14; and work closely with a further 40 who work across the fronts and cover Homs, Hama and Lattakia. There are now **over 120 reporters** working in Syria and an additional **five official spokesmen** who appear several times a week on international and regional TV. Our reporters have had access to a variety of groups, **including Jabhat Al-Nusra**, with whom they conducted interviews.

c) **Civilian/Tribal.** We have relationships with senior figures in the **Council of Syrian Tribes**. This Council is currently comprised of **53 Sunni and Druze tribes**, predominantly from southern Syria, but also the north. We also have relationships with senior Druze figures from al-Suwaida and mediators who work with them. We meet with the Chairman of the tribal council on a weekly basis. These **key leadership engagements** are essential for understanding the nuances in narratives on the ground inside and outside Syria, for exerting influence, but most importantly: we **interact with the local population by establishing our networks at the community level** with senior and respected figures.

d) **Civil Society/Political.** We have relationships with senior members of Syrian activist networks such as the **Syrian Non-Violence Movement**, which is working within Syria on issues such as detainee rights; as well as Syrian activist networks based outside the country such as the **Syrian Emergency Task Force**. We have also worked with an emerging Syrian civil society network seeking to build political capacity through service provision inside Syria. We have strong contacts with the group's leadership, which includes independent business leaders (i.e. not allied to the regime or any opposition grouping) and civil society activists. The network includes local governance groups in Idlib and northern Aleppo. Certain members of InCoStrat hold relationships with **over 60 Alawites**, most of whom are pro-regime. This network exists mainly in **Lattakia and Tartous**, but also in **Damascus**. We also maintain close ties with approximately **30 women’s groups**, which hold a network of over 7000 members (not all female). This network spans across the country, **from Damascus to Deir Ezzor to Lattakia**.