#### Introduction

HSOS<sup>1</sup> Urban Household The Assessment is a quarterly review of the humanitarian situation inside cities in Northeast Syria (NES). The assessment collects multi-sectoral information from host community households and internally displaced households in urban locations. This factsheet presents findings on the access to services, living conditions, economic conditions, and priority needs across accessible areas in Ar-Ragga city.

response that targets out of camp and host communities in NES located in urban areas<sup>2</sup>, the assessment addresses the need for comprehensive and regular information on the humanitarian conditions in cities where the impact of an increasingly complex crisis has hit hundreds of thousands.

Sustained economic deterioration and climate shocks resulting in unstable markets and worsening food and water access compound the pre-existing

vulnerabilities of urban populations who face persistent insecurity, damaged infrastructure, and complex population dynamics.

To support sustainable interventions, a durable solutions lens was integrated during the design of the HSOS Urban Household Assessment, and indicators from the Syria Analytical Framework<sup>3</sup> were included in the questionnaire. Given the low number of internally displaced persons (IDPs)<sup>4</sup> in Ar-Ragga city, this assessment provides representative data on all households residing in Ar-Ragga city, without making a distinction between IDPs and host community<sup>5</sup> households.

The HSOS Urban Household Assessment is conducted in cooperation with the NES Forum.

The complete multi-sectoral descriptive analysis can be accessed on the **REACH** 

With a significant proportion of the

#### **Methodology**

The HSOS Urban Household Assessment is conducted using a household methodology at city level. Face-toface data collection was carried out by REACH enumerators between 11 and 16 May 2022 from 104 households in Ar-Ragga city. The recall period to which indicators refer is specified throughout the factsheet, either in the title, or with the following symbols: (refers to the current situation at the time of data collection), and • (refers to 3 months prior to data collection).

Findings can be generalised to the

error. The representative sample of the population was calculated according to the population estimates collected by 2022. Stratified simple random household selection was conducted through random spatial sampling using geographic information systems and considered population estimates neighbourhood to distribute bv the random samples according to population density.

**Syrian population** at city level, with a The random spatial sampling was 95% confidence level and 10% margin of conducted across residential areas of the city, as classified by OpenStreetMap. Areas unsafe for data collection were not covered (see coverage map on page the Humanitarian Needs Assessment 3).<sup>6</sup> Due to data collection protocols, Programme (HNAP) in February the sample excludes households whose members are all below 18. Due to logistical limitations, the sample is biased towards households where at least one adult member is at home during the time of data collection, and towards cooperative, readily available households.

#### **FINDINGS ARE NOT REPRESENTATIVE**

For some indicators, a reduced sample of households answered the question as a result of a skip logic in the guestionnaire. In some of these cases, the reduced sample of households resulted in findings that are not representative with a 95% confidence level and 10% margin of error, indicated with the symbol above.

THE INDICATOR ALIGNS WITH THE SYRIA ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK FROM THE DURA-**BLE SOLUTIONS PLATFORM** 





Barriers to accessing electricity affected almost all (99%)

**households.** Although three-quarters of households relied on

the main network for their power access, electricity from the

main network was rationed by local authorities forcing a guarter

of households to rely on the community generator instead. Yet,

high prices of electricity from the community generator limited

electricity access (barrier reported by 43% of households), while

alternatives such as solar panels were too expensive for households

(barrier reported by 39% of households). Electricity was available to

households 9.7 hours per day on average. For 13% of households,

electricity was available for 6 or less hours per day.

•••

**The economic vulnerability of households was high.** A quarter of households (26%) rated their ability to meet basic needs as poor or very poor, and half of households (51%) reported that their ability to meet basic needs worsened in the 3 months prior to data collection. Moreover, for nearly 90% of households their income was lower than the estimated monthly expenses, which likely explains why borrowing was the main coping strategy to close the income-expenditure gap. As a result, 88% of households in Ar-Raqqa city were in debt, and only 14% were able to repay their debt within 6 months. Selling household assets/goods was also a common strategy amongst households (reported by 19% of households), which can significantly impact their resilience in the face of new and sudden shocks.

**High food prices restricted food access.** Over 90% of households had issues with accessing sufficient food because they did not have enough money, which is likely due to prices rising faster than wages affecting households' purchasing power (barrier reported by 86% of households). Households had to spend on average nearly half of their income on food. Faced with difficult economic conditions, households tend to prioritise the consumption of more affordable/less preferred food types. This may reduce their ability to consume adequate and diverse nutrients. During the reporting period, 1% of households had a poor food consumption score (FCS), and 28% of households had a borderline FCS. To cope with a lack of food, 96% of households who experienced barriers to accessing food relied on less preferred/less expensive food, and 62% of households reduced the number of meals eaten per day, in the 7 days prior to data collection.

The unaffordability of medicines and treatment costs decreased access to healthcare. 90% of households experienced issues with accessing healthcare. It was especially difficult for households to access medicines, as medicines were unaffordable for over 80% of households. Additionally, treatment costs were found to be too expensive by 62% of households. To cope with a lack of health access, over 90% of households with unmet health needs went to a pharmacy instead of a clinic, and 33% substituted prescribed medication for herbal medicine. While COVID-19 cases decreased across northeast Syria in May.<sup>7</sup>

and 33% substituted prescribed medication for herbal medicine. While COVID-19 cases decreased across northeast Syria in May,<sup>7</sup> 65% of households reported applying preventive measures, including washing hands (reported by 64% of households), limiting movements (27%), and social distance (23%).



**Protection issues related to civil documentation, housing, land and property, and freedom of movement were widespread issues.** A lack of civil documentation was reported by 27% of households. The lack of access to government-issued civil documentation can limit access to humanitarian assistance and basic services. Housing, land and property concerns were reported by 35% of households, with rental problems (landlord/tenant issues) reported as the top concern (86% of households who faced these concerns). Restrictions on freedom of movement were reported by 11% of households. For households where at least one member experienced movement restrictions (11%), fear of forced recruitment and checkpoints were the main barriers to movement freedom (reported by 100% and 45% of households, respectively).



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**Children struggled accessing education services regularly.** 31% of households with children aged 6-11 reported that not all or none of their children in that age-group were regularly attending school in the month prior to data collection. A lack of available age-appropriate facilities and the unaffordability of learning material/ school fees prevented households from sending their children to school. When attending school, children faced several challenges including perceived poor quality of education, a lack of trained teachers, and overcrowded classrooms.





### Coverage

Ar-Raqqa City neighbourhoods covered in the sample



### **Priority Needs**

Most commonly reported first, second, and third and overall priority needs



### **Household Composition**

AVERAGE	AVERAGE	AVERAGE	AVERAGE	AVERAGE #
# OF	# OF	# OF	# OF	OF OLDER
HOUSEHOLD	CHILDREN	CHILDREN	ADULTS	PERSONS
MEMBERS	0-4	5-17	18-59	60+
6.8	1.0	2.5	2.9	0.4

**34%** % of households with newborns (0-1)

83% % of households with school-aged children (5-17) 60% % of households with young children (0-4)

% of households with children (0-17)



92%

A community in Syria different to origin

Cost of living is too high

Access to humanitarian

assistance is not sufficient

Leave Syria to another country

## **Movement intentions**



## **র্থি Returnees**

Date of return (by % of households that returned in each period)

<b>BEFORE 2019</b>	2019	2020	2021+
90%	7%	2%	1%

#### Times of displacement<sup>\*</sup>



2 average number of displacements for returnee households

**100%** % of host community households who are returnees

## ∕r → IDPs

**Date of arrival** (by % of households that arrived in each period)

Most common reasons for

leaving (by % of households who intend

Intended destination (by % of households who intend to leave)

Before 2019	2019	2020	2021+
44%	31%	12.5%	12.5%

#### Times of displacement<sup>\*</sup>

to leave)8



**3.4** average number of displacements for IDP

## Most common Governorates of origin for IDP households

67%

50%

1	Deir-ez-Zor	44%
2	Ar-Raqqa	38%
3	Aleppo	13%

## Most common Sub-districts of origin for IDP households











#### **Protection**



**27%** % of households with members who lack civil documents and need them<sup>▶,■</sup>

Most common civil documents that household members lack and need (as % of household where at least one member lacks and needs a document [27%])				
1	Syrian identity card issued by the Government of Syria	54%		
2	Birth certificate issued by the Government of Syria	<b>39</b> %		
3	Family booklet issued by the Government of Syria	29%		
4	Marriage certificate issued by the Government of Syria	14%		

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62% of households face theft as a security concern•
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# Movement freedom for all household members within the location





Fear of forced recruitment **100%** Checkpoints **45%** 

#### Household's relationship with other community members<sup>▶, ■</sup>



ACH Informing more effective humanitarian action



Refers to the current situation at the time of data collection

• Refers to 3 months prior to data collection

Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

▶ The indicator aligns with the Syria analytical framework from the durable solutions platform



### **Housing Situation**





Most common occupancy arrangements<sup>▶,■</sup>



Most common challenges in finding a place to rent for households (by % of households who are renting and facing challenges)<sup>8, ,</sup>

87%

42%

Difficult to find an affordable accommodation

Landlord requesting large first instalment or deposit



with a written contract with a verbal agreement 97%

**AVERAGE % OF MONTHLY INCOME SPENT ON RENT<sup>9</sup>** 

% of households renting a property faced challenges in finding a place to rent

### **Shelter Conditions**

% of households whose shelter 51% had inadequacies<sup>▶,■</sup>

Shelter inadequacies (by % of house	holds) <sup>8,</sup>
Lack of lighting inside shelter	24%
Unable to lock home securely	18%
Windows/doors not sealed	18%
Leakage from roof/ceiling during rain	17%
Poor sanitation	16%
High temperatures inside shelters	12%
Lack of lighting around shelter	12%
Lack of space/overcrowding	11%
Lack of privacy	9%
Lack of water	9%
Lack of electricity	5%
Lack of insulation from cold	3%
Lack of ventilation	2%
Poor facilities for persons with specific needs	1%





### **Access to Water**



- 100% % of households reported piped water network as the primary source of drinking and non-drinking water<sup>▶</sup>, <sup>●</sup>
- % of households do not have a **97%** secondary source of drinking water<sup>▶,●</sup>

0.6%	AVEI	AGE % OF MONTHLY INCOME SPENT ON WATER <sup>9</sup>
<b>U.U</b> /0		0.6%
AVERAGE EXPENDITURE ON	A	
WATER AS A % OF TOTAL HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE <sup>9</sup>	н	
		0.5%

40% % of households experience issues with drinking water .●

#### Water issues<sup>8,</sup>

1	Water has a bad colour	<b>29</b> %
2	Water tastes bad	20%
3	Water smells bad	14%
4	Water was perceived to be making people sick	7%

Common strategies used by households to avoid running out of water (by % of households applied some strategies to avoid running out of water [57%])<sup>8, •, •</sup>

- Reducing non drinking water consumption 55%
- Relying on drinking water stored previously 51%
- Collecting water from a dangerous place

## **49%** % of households do not use any methods to make drinking water safer<sup>•</sup>

#### Methods to make water safer<sup>•</sup>

1	Storage and sedimentation	44%
2	Boiling	10%
3	Household filters	5%
4	Solar disinfection	4%

#### Common barriers to accessing water for

households (by % of households who could not meet all water needs [26%])<sup>8, •</sup>, <sup>•</sup>

1	Not enough water tanks or water tanks not big enough to store sufficient water	89%
2	Storage containers are too expensive	26%
3	Not enough water from the network	<b>19</b> %
4	Households skipped in schedule of refilling tanks	4%

Most common water needs for which households had to reduce consumption because of not having access to sufficient water<sup>8,•</sup>

Cleaning inside the house	23%	
Doing laundry	17%	5
Cleaning outside the house	13%	Ĩ

ide the house	23%		Bathing	6%	<b>P</b> ij	Handwashing	1%
ry	17%	5	Gardening	3%		Cooking	0%
tside the house	13%	Ĩ	Toilet usage	1%		Drinking	0%

2%



more effective

0

0%

#### **Access to Electricity**





#### **Income sources and employment**

#### Sources of income in the month prior to data collection<sup>®.▶</sup>

Employment (including self- employment)	90%
Borrowing/loans	26%
Humanitarian assistance (cash vouchers)	13%
Gifts from people in Syria (cash)	9%
Retirement/pension/martyr's salary	7%
Remittances	5%

## Most common primary source of income for host households<sup>▶,■</sup>

1	Self-employment/entrepreneurship	26%
2	Informal day-to-day work agreements	24%
3	Formal longer-term <sup>10</sup> employment	18%

AVERAGE NUMBER OF ADULTS PER HOUSEHOLDS WHO ARE:		
EMPLOYED	1.4	
NOT IN EMPLOYMENT	2	
NOT EMPLOYED AND LOOKING FOR A JOB (UNEMPLOYED) <sup>11</sup>	0.5	

Most common employment sectors (by % of households where employment is a source of income [90%])<sup>8, ▶,</sup>■



% of households where self-employment/entrepreneurship is a source of 32% income<sup>•</sup>

15% % of households where informal day-to-day work is the only income source

#### Income and Expenses<sup>▶</sup>

AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME FOR A FAMILY OF 6 MEMBERS <sup>12</sup>	E MONTHLY INCOME AVERAGE MONTHLY EXPENSE AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME FOR A FAMILY OF 6 MEMBERS <sup>12</sup> FOR A FAMILY OF 6 MEMBERS <sup>13</sup> FOR A FAMILY OF 6 MEMBERS <sup>13</sup>	
376,187 SYP	541,929 SYP	-165,742 SYP





#### Income and Expenses<sup>></sup>

Average monthly expense calculated for households that had the expense 📅 and share of households who spent money on the expense category in the 30 days prior to data collection



#### **Ability to Meet Basic Needs**





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#### **Ability to Meet Basic Needs**

11







#### **Food Access and Consumption**

Average number of days food groups were consumed by households in the 7 days prior to data collection

С, С С	FISH/MEAT/ EGGS	2
🍇 🍌	FRUIT	0.5
9.9	PULSES, NUTS, AND SEEDS	2.1
0	TUBERS/ ROOTS	3
Ĵ 🔊	VEGETABLES AND LEAVES	3.6
	MILK, AND DAIRY	3.7
$\mathbb{B}$	BREAD AND CEREALS	5.4
	SWEETS	4.3
	OILS AND FATS	5.9

Most common source of food



**11%** % of households reporting perceiving that at least one member had lost weight due to insufficient food access•





% of households who did not consume any eggs, meat or fish in the 7 days prior to data collection

**60%** 

% of households who did not consume any fruit in the 7 days prior to data collection

12





#### Food Consumption Score (FCS)

Food Consumption Score (by % of households)



## **29%** % of households with children with poor or borderline food consumption

#### **FCS** Interpretation

**Poor Food Consumption (score between 0-21):** This category includes households that are not consuming staples and vegetables every day and never or very seldom consume protein-rich food such as meat and dairy.<sup>15</sup>

**Borderline Food Consumption (score between 21.5-35):** This category includes households that are consuming staples and vegetables every day, accompanied by oils and pulses a few times a week.<sup>15</sup>

Acceptable Food Consumption (score >35): This category includes households that are consuming staples and vegetables every day, frequently accompanied by oils and pulses and occasionally meat, fish and dairy.<sup>15</sup>

#### **Coping strategies**

#### 9.8 Average reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) in Ar-Raqqa city

The rCSI is a relative score to measure the frequency and severity of food-related negative coping mechanisms adopted by households to cover their needs. Based on the Syria 2021 Inter-Sector Severity Model, the thresholds for the Reduced Coping Strategies Index are: (1) None/Minimal (rCSI= 0-2), (2) Stress (rCSI = 3-6), (3) Severe (rCSI = 7-11), (4) Extreme (rCSI = 12-19), (5) Catastrophic (rCSI>19).<sup>16</sup> Thus, results indicate a severe level of coping in Ar-Raqqa city.

## Coping strategies in the 7 days prior to data collection (for households that experienced barriers to accessing sufficient food)

	AVERAGE #DAYS PER WEEK CS WAS APPLIED	% HHs THAT APPLIED CS
Relied on less preferred/less expensive food	3.7	<b>96</b> %
Borrowed food or relied on help from friends	1.2	<b>39%</b>
Reduced the portion size of meals at meal time	1.1	52%
Reduced the number of meals eaten per day	1.7	62%
Restricted the consumption by adults in order for young children to eat	0.5	24%
At least one member of the household spent a whole day without eating	0	0%





Most common inaccessible types of medicines (by

### Access to healthcare



households with unmet health needs [46%]) <sup>8, ●, ▼</sup>				
1	Treatment for chronic diseases	52%		
2	Medicine or other commodities	48%		
3	Paediatric consultations	13%		
4	General and/or specialist surgical services	8%		
5	Care for cancer, haemodialysis or other catastrophic illness	6%		

Most common inaccessible health treatments (by % of

% of households with unmet health needs regarding medicines and other commodities [48%]) <sup>8, ●, ▼</sup>			
1 Medications for hypertension/heart conditions	35%		
2 Antibiotics	17%		
2 Asthma medicines	17%		
2 Diabetes medicines	17%		
2 Painkillers/analgesics	17%		

90%

% of households who experienced issues with accessing healthcare<sup>•</sup>



AVERAGE EXPENDITURE ON **HEALTHCARE AS A % OF TOTAL HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE<sup>9</sup>** 

13%

Most common	barriers	to	accessing	healthcare <sup>8,</sup>

- Cannot afford price of medicines 81% Cannot afford treatment costs 62% Lack of medicines and/or medical equipment at 28% facilities Cannot afford travel costs to reach health 21% facilities
- Health facilities overcrowded and/or long waiting times

Most common coping strategies (by % of households with unmet health needs [46%])<sup>8,•</sup>,

	1	Going to a	pharmacy	instead of	f a clinic	<b>92</b> %
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- Substituting prescribed medication for herbal 33% medicine
- Seeking non-professional care (such as traditional 13% practitioner)
- Taking lower than the recommended dosage of 8% medication
- Foregoing non-essential treatment 6%

59% % of households with at least one member who showed signs of psychological distress  $\bullet$ 

19%



### COVID-19



Willingness to see a doctor or seek a test if a household member had COVID-19 symptoms



#### Main source of information on COVID-19



Washing hands	64%
Limiting movements	27%
Social distance	23%
Vulnerable persons stay at home	13%
Wearing facemask	5%
Increased disinfectant usage	3%

Applied behaviours aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19 (by

% of households where not all adult members are vaccinated against

88%

COVID-19

% of households)<sup>8,</sup>

<b>Reasons why adult household members are not</b> vaccinated against COVID-19 (by% of households where at least one adult member is not vaccinated [96%]) <sup>8, , , ,</sup>				
1	Lack of trust in the vaccine	79%		
2	Lack of information about the	49%		

35%

2 safety of the vaccine
3 Lack of information on where to get the vaccine
4 Unavailability of the vaccine
1%

% of households where no COVID-19 preventive measure is applied

<b>3%</b> AVERAGE EXPENDITURE ON COVID-19 ITEMS AS A % OF TOTAL HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE <sup>9</sup>		% OF MONTHLY INCOME ON COVID-19 ITEMS <sup>9</sup>
COVID-19 ITEMS AS A % OF TOTAL		3%
	AVERA	GE EXPENDITURE ON
HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE <sup>9</sup>	COVID-19	ITEMS AS A % OF TOTAL
	HOUSE	HOLD EXPENDITURE <sup>9</sup>





#### **Access to education**

School attendance for children aged 6-11 (by % of households with school-aged children (6-11))



all regularly attended school $^lacksquare$	<b>70%</b>
not all regularly attended school	11%
none attended school	<b>19%</b>



School attendance for children aged 12-14 (by % of households with school-aged children (12-14))



School attendance for children aged 15-17 (by % of households with school-aged children (15-17))



Barriers to accessing education in the month prior to data collection (by % of households with school-aged children [83%] where at least one of the children does not regularly attend school)<sup>8</sup>.



Challenges faced by school-aged children while attending school (by % of households with school-aged children [83%] where at least one of the children attended school)<sup>8, V, •</sup>



REACH Inform



Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)



#### **Footnotes**

1. The Humanitarian Situation Overview Syria (HSOS) project comprises regular multisectoral assessments reviewing information on humanitarian needs and conditions across accessible areas in northern Syria. The HSOS monthly KI assessments can be found <u>here</u>.

2. Findings from a 4W review in January 2022 indicated that roughly 60% of the out of camp response activities in NES are based in urban locations.

3. The Syria Analytical Framework is a Syria-specific analytical tool developed by the Durable Solutions Platform to guide the incorporation of a durable solutions lens into research and tool design.

4. IDPs are defined as individuals or groups of people who have left their homes or places of habitual residence and have settled in the assessed city after 2011, as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, or violations of human rights.

5. Host populations are defined as individuals or groups of people who currently reside in their community of origin, or community of permanent residence prior to 2011. This includes populations that were never displaced as well as previously displaced populations that have returned to their community of origin (defined as returnees).

6. Areas consistently identified as security concerns, including check points, their surroundings, or military presence, were not covered. Out of the 23 residential neighbourhoods, 3 were not assessed due to security concerns. Consequently, the remaining 20 neighbourhoods were assessed.

7. World Health Organization (WHO). (May 2022). WHO Syria Monthly COVID-19 Bulletin. Retrieved from: <u>reliefweb.int</u>

8. Respondents could select multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.

9. Computed for households who had this particular expense in the 30 days prior to data collection.



10. Longer-term formal employment is defined as employment with a written agreement whose duration is more than 1 month. Short-term formal employment is defined as employment with a written agreement whose duration is less than 1 month.

11. Calculated for households where employment is a source of income.

12. Computed as the mean of (household income/number of household members)\*6.

13. Computed as the mean of (household expense/number of household members)\*6.

14. Computed by comparing (household income/number of household members) to (585,524 SYP/6), where 585,524 is the median value of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) for a family of 6 in Ar-Raqqa city, from the April 2022 Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI). In April 2022, the median SMEB value was 628,991 SYP in the Governorate of Ar-Raqqa and 585,524 SYP in NES.

15. Food and Assistance Technical Assistance (FANTA), Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSET). (December 2015). Comparing Household Food Consumption Indicators to Inform Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification. Retrieved from: <u>https://fews.net</u>

16. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). (February 2022). 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Syrian Arab Republic. Retrieved from: <u>https://www.humanitarianresponse.info</u>

17. Unmet health needs refer to anyone in the household who needed or wanted to access healthcare (including medicines) but could not access it.