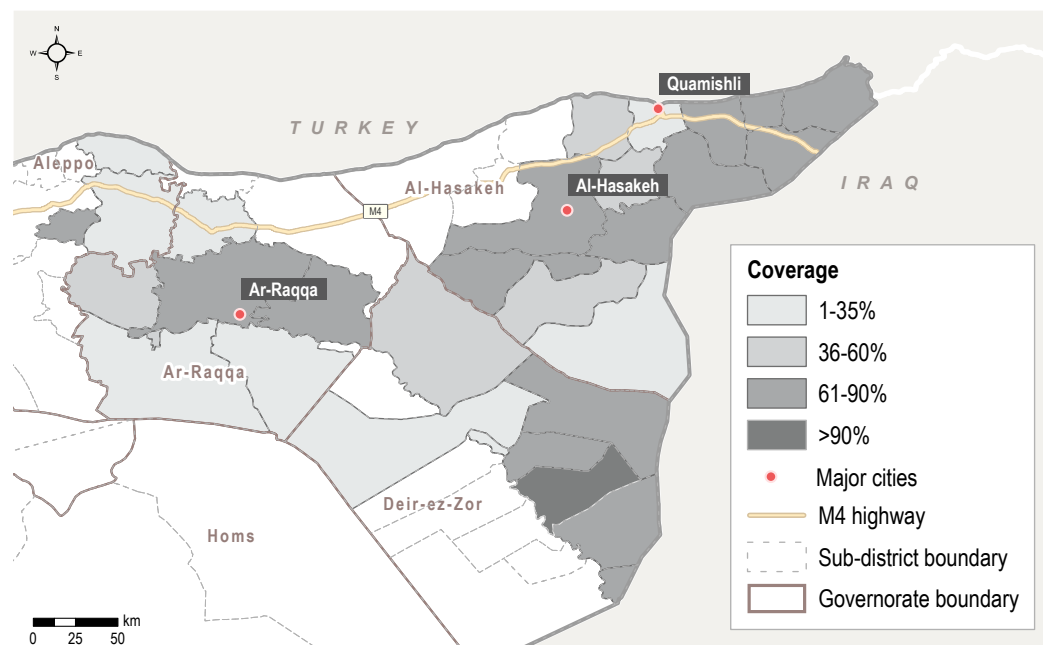


Introduction and Methodology

HSOS is a monthly assessment that provides comprehensive, multi-sectoral information about the humanitarian conditions and priority needs inside Syria. This factsheet presents a thematic review based on the HSOS assessment of the priority needs and humanitarian assistance, economic conditions, living conditions, access to basic services, COVID-19 situation, and security and protection situation in Northeast Syria (NES). **Sector-specific indicator findings by location can be found on the [HSOS dashboard](#).**

The assessment is conducted using a key informant (KI) methodology at the community level. REACH enumerators are based inside Syria and interview three to five KIs per assessed location, either directly or remotely (via phone). KIs are chosen based on their community-level and sector-specific knowledge. This factsheet presents information gathered in **1,110 communities** across Aleppo¹ (120 communities), Ar-Raqqa (201 communities), Al-Hasakeh (709 communities), and Deir-ez-Zor (80 communities). **Data was collected between 1-15 July 2021 from 3,347 KIs** (19% female). Unless specified by an endnote, all indicators refer to the situation in the 30 days prior to data collection (June/July 2021). Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalized across the population and region. Findings that are calculated based on a subset of the community are indicated by the following footnote ♦, with each subset specified in the endnotes.

The complete monthly HSOS dataset is available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#).



Key Highlights

July findings highlight the ongoing impact of Syria's water crisis on water and livelihoods access in Northeast Syria (NES). Drinking water in Hasakeh city was perceived to be making people sick as households had to rely on less safe water sources following disruptions to the Alouk water station. Low yields after large scale crop failure and increasing operational costs affected farmers' ability to meet basic needs.

- **Continued disruptions to Alouk water station impacted safe water access in Hasakeh city.** Alouk water station, which provides drinking water directly to some 460,000 people in Hasakeh city and indirectly to over 1 million people across NES, stopped working between 23 June and 30 July.^a The latest disruption follows months of decreased functionality due to a lack of access for technicians and reduced availability of electricity among other reasons.^b Even after resumption, Alouk water station only functioned at reduced capacity. Between 20-40% of households in Hasakeh city reportedly did not have access to sufficient water. In fact, drinking water was a reported Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) priority need in all neighbourhoods in the city. With no water coming through the main network all days of the week, households in Hasakeh city had to rely on water trucking to meet their water needs. Water trucking in Hasakeh is sourced from groundwater. Yet, KIs reported that households did not use any methods to make water safer to drink. As a result, drinking water was perceived to be making people sick and had a bad taste in all assessed neighbourhoods in Hasakeh city, according to KIs. The Early Warning Alert and Early Response Network (EWARN)^c recorded nearly 1,600 cases of waterborne diseases in Hasakeh city in July. However, the actual number of cases is likely much higher as households struggled to access health facilities.

- **Farmers continued to struggle to make ends meet following devastating crop failure.** Drought and reduced availability of irrigation water resulted in high levels of crop loss for farmers this year. Rainfall deficiency affected farmers in over 60% of communities in the region, while a lack of water for agriculture was reported by KIs in 57% of communities. Wheat yield decreased by 74% compared to last year, severely affecting the income of farmers across NES.^d Agricultural inputs, including seeds and fertilisers, continued to increase in price and were reportedly unavailable to farmers in over half of assessed communities. The loss of income coupled with high operational costs and the inability to pay off acquired debts from the previous agricultural season are making it increasingly difficult for farmers to not only sustain operations but also to make ends meet. Livelihoods continued to be the most commonly reported priority need in NES.

HSOS Dashboard

For a breakdown of sector-specific indicators by location, please see the [HSOS dashboard](#). The interactive HSOS dashboard provides a monthly sectoral overview of key indicators disaggregated at the sub-district and community level.



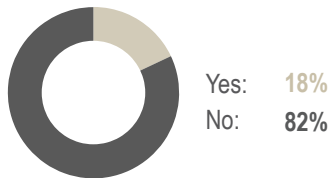
Priority Needs and Humanitarian Assistance



Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for residents (by % of communities) ^{2,3}

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	WASH	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	75%
2	Healthcare	WASH	Healthcare	WASH	62%
3	Livelihoods	Healthcare	Summer items [▲]	Healthcare	54%

% of communities where some of the resident households were able to access humanitarian assistance



% of communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance** for residents ⁴

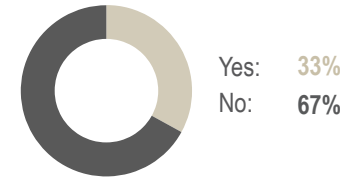
- 1% | Livelihoods
- 2% | WASH
- 1% | Healthcare



Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for IDPs (by % of communities) ^{2,3,d}

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	Food	Livelihoods	Summer items	Livelihoods	76%
2	Livelihoods	Healthcare	Livelihoods	Food	54%
3	WASH	WASH	Healthcare	Summer items	49%

% of communities where some of the IDP households were able to access humanitarian assistance



% of communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance** for IDPs ⁴

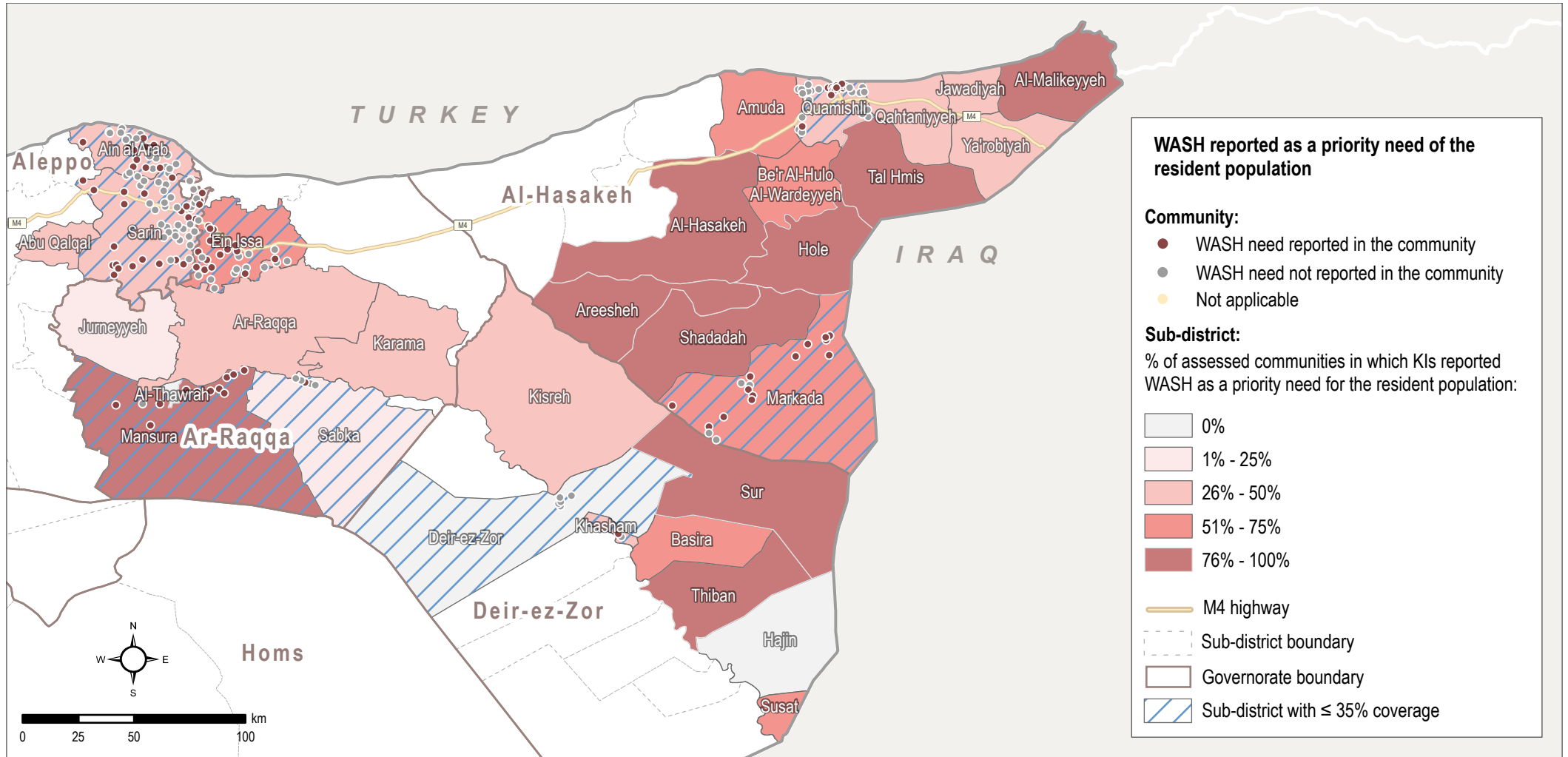
- 1% | Livelihoods
- 28% | Food
- 2% | NFIs[▲]

Most commonly reported barriers that resident households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of communities) ^{4,♦}

Communities reporting access to humanitarian assistance	Communities reporting no access to humanitarian assistance
Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need 74% 1	95% No humanitarian assistance was available
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs 56% 2	3% Not aware if assistance was available
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient 52% 3	2% Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance

Most commonly reported barriers that IDP households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of communities) ^{4,♦}

Communities reporting access to humanitarian assistance	Communities reporting no access to humanitarian assistance
Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need 71% 1	97% No humanitarian assistance was available
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient 54% 2	2% Not aware if assistance was available
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs 52% 3	1% Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance



WASH reported as a Priority Need for residents

Note on the map

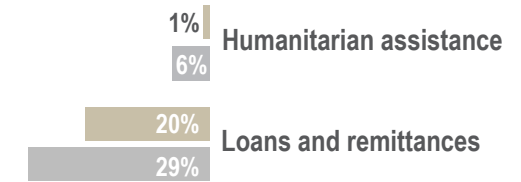
This map shows the proportion of assessed communities by sub-district where KIs reported that WASH was a priority need for residents.



Economic Conditions

Region	Estimated median monthly household expense for water for a household of six ^{5,6}	Estimated median monthly rent price for a two bedroom apartment ^{5,6}	Estimated median daily wage for unskilled labour ^{5,7,8}
Northeast Syria	15,000 SYP	35,000 SYP	5,000 SYP
Aleppo	3,000 SYP	25,000 SYP	5,000 SYP
Al-Hasakeh	25,000 SYP	50,000 SYP	5,000 SYP
Ar-Raqqa	2,000 SYP	30,000 SYP	5,000 SYP
Deir-ez-Zor	30,000 SYP	40,000 SYP	5,000 SYP

% of communities where KIs reported the presence of residents and IDP households relying on non-productive sources of livelihoods to meet their basic needs ⁴



Intersectoral findings on **unaffordability** hindering access to goods and services



KIs in **23%** of communities cited that **rent prices** were unaffordable for the majority of people



KIs in **53%** of communities cited the high cost of **fuel for generators** as a common challenge



KIs in **66%** of communities cited the high cost of **solar panels** as a common challenge



KIs in **46%** of communities cited the high cost of **water trucking** as a common challenge



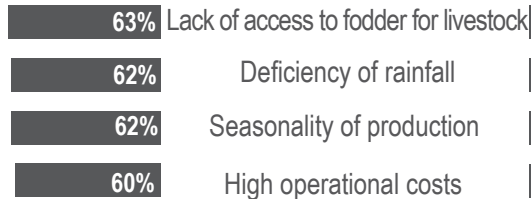
KIs in **84%** of communities cited the high cost of **food** as a common challenge ⁸



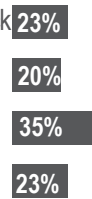
KIs in **88%** of communities cited the high cost of **health services** as a common challenge

Most commonly reported barriers to accessing livelihoods related to agriculture (by % of communities) ⁴

Residents



IDPs



80% and 93%

% of communities where KIs reported daily waged labour as a common source of income for **residents** and IDPs

67 days

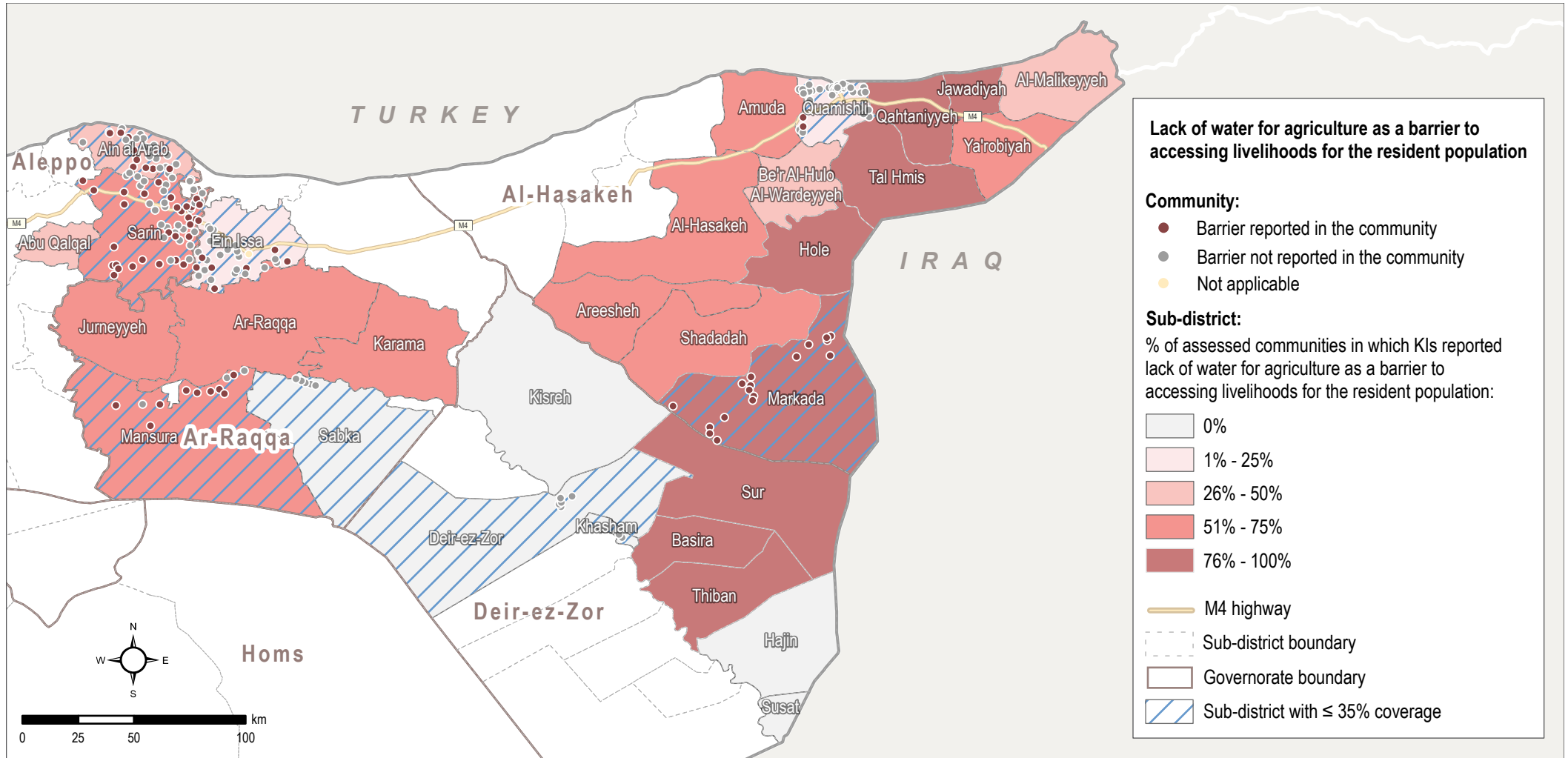
Number of days the average day labourer would need to work to earn the monthly cost of basic SMEB[▲] items ^{5,9}

93% and 67%

% of communities where KIs reported the **insufficient income of households** and lack of employment opportunities that match people's skills as barriers to meeting basic needs ⁸

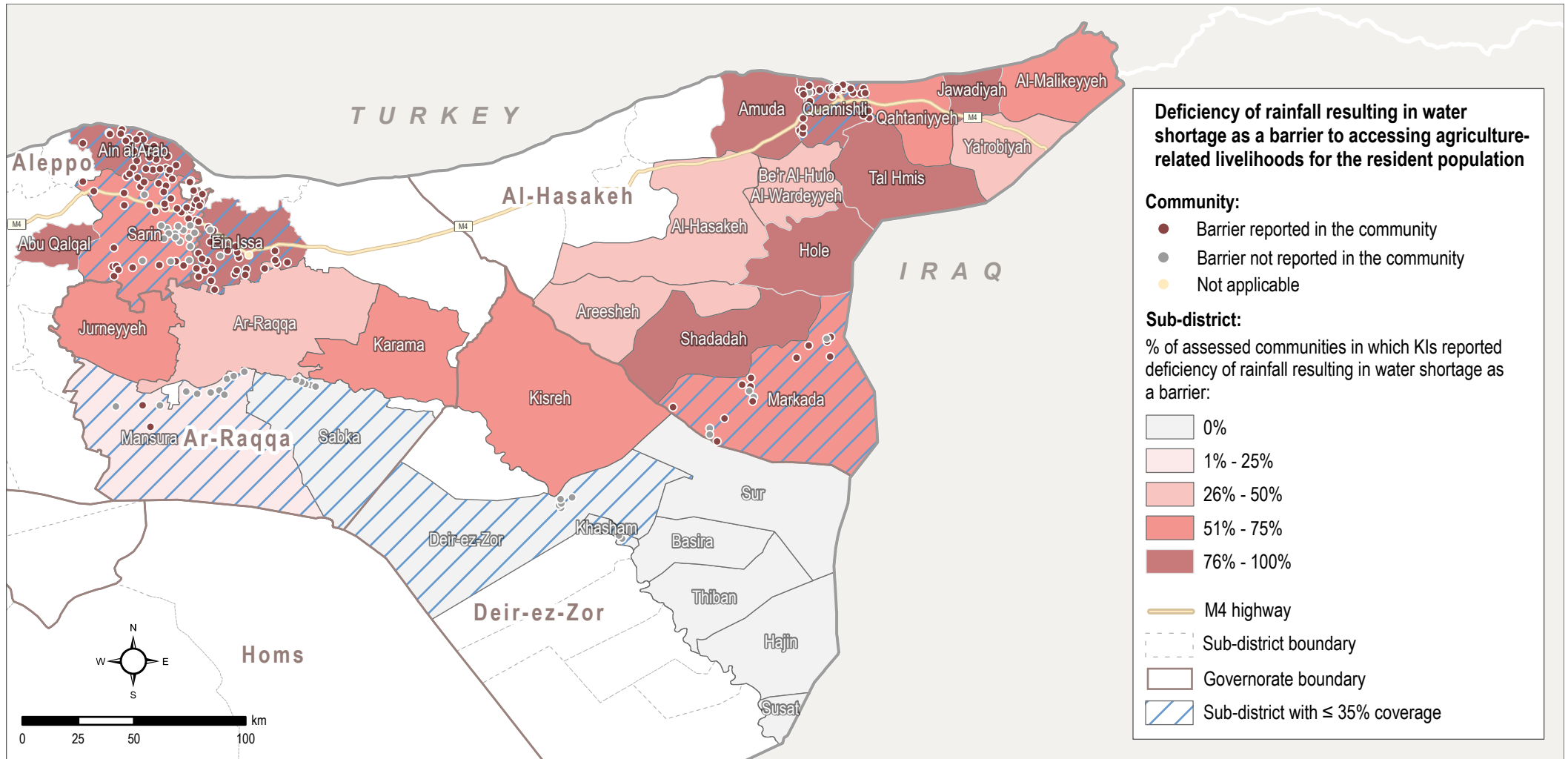
% of communities where common livelihood sources from agriculture were reported ⁴

Livelihood source	Residents	IDPs
Food crop production	41%	25%
Cash crop production	59%	4%
Livestock products	72%	28%
Sale of livestock	64%	26%



Lack of Water for Agriculture as a Barrier to Livelihoods for Residents

Note on the map
 This map displays the proportion of communities in the sub-districts where KIs reported that a lack of water for agriculture prevented residents from accessing livelihoods.



Rainfall Deficiency as a Barrier to Livelihoods from Agriculture

Note on the map
 This map displays the proportion of communities in the sub-districts where KIs reported that a deficiency of rainfall resulting in a shortage of water prevented residents from accessing agriculture-related livelihoods. High percentages were particularly reported in Hasakeh Governorate where communities are more reliant on rain-fed crops for income.



Living Conditions

In **92%** of communities reportedly at least **80%** of the resident population owned their shelter

In **80%** of communities reportedly none of the IDP households owned their shelter

In **3%** of communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in unfinished or abandoned residential buildings

In **12%** of communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in tents



A lack of toilets was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **21%** of communities



A lack of bathing facilities was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **12%** of communities



Problems with the drinking water were reported in **43%** of communities



Water tasting bad was the most commonly reported problem with drinking water (reported by KIs in 26% of communities)



98% of communities where KIs reported that **households experienced barriers to accessing sufficient food** ⁸



In 21% of these communities, KIs reported that the unavailability of certain food items was a challenge to accessing sufficient food ⁸

Most commonly reported coping strategies for a lack of food (by % of communities) ⁴

- 1 Borrowing money to buy food **80%**
- 2 Buying food with money usually used for other things **69%**
- 3 Relying on less preferred / food lower food quality **66%**

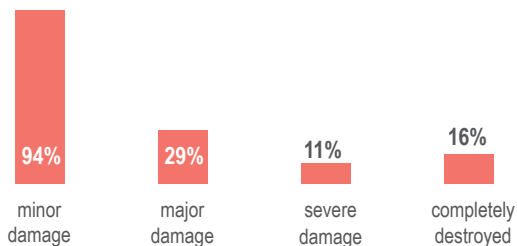


High price of suitable foods formula was the most commonly reported challenge to feeding young children (reported by KIs in 93% of communities) ^{4,11}

Commonly reported sources of food for households other than markets (by % of communities) ⁴

- 1 Borrowing money for food **51%**
- 2 Own production or farming **35%**
- 3 Relying on food stored previously **21%**

Reported presence of occupied shelters with damage across communities where damages were reported (by % of communities) ^{5,10}



Reported sanitation issues affecting public space in the community (by % of communities) ⁴

Rodents and/or pests are frequently visible **28%**

Solid waste in the streets **22%**

Sewage system pollutes public areas **10%**

Stagnant water **10%**

Flooding in the streets **3%**



Shelter and repair materials being too expensive was the most commonly reported challenge for households to repair their shelter (reported by KIs in 93% of communities) ⁴



Access to Basic Services



Access to Electricity

5-6 hrs per day

was the most commonly reported range for hours of electricity accessible to households (reported by KIs in 25% of communities)

Main network

was the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 74% of communities)

64%

% of communities where KIs reported **local authorities rationing electricity** as a barrier for electricity access



Access to Water

72%

% of communities where KIs reported that **not all households** had access to sufficient water



Days per week when water from the network was available (by % of 691 communities connected to a water network)

Private water trucking

was the most commonly reported source of drinking water (reported by KIs in 38% of communities)

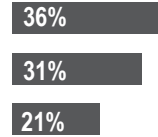


Access to Sanitation

82%

% of communities where KIs reported that **no sewage system was present**

Most commonly reported ways people disposed of solid waste (by % of communities)



Free public waste collection

Waste burnt

Waste disposed of by household to a dumping location

29%

% of communities where KIs reported waste removal services as a WASH priority need ⁸



Access to Markets

36%

% of communities in which households reportedly were **unable to access markets in the assessed location**

People lack financial means to open shop/market

was the most commonly reported **reason for why markets were not functioning** (reported by KIs in 78% of communities where households were unable to access markets in their own location)

80%

% of communities where KIs reported that the **lack of transportation to markets** was a barrier to physically accessing food markets

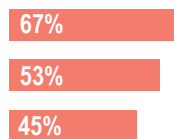


Access to Health Services

72%

% of communities where KIs reported that the **households did not have access to health services in the assessed location**

Most commonly reported health priority needs (by % of communities) ⁸



Treatment for chronic diseases

Medicines and other commodities

Pediatric consultations

Going to the pharmacy instead of a clinic

was the most commonly reported coping strategy for a lack of healthcare (reported by KIs in 90% of communities)



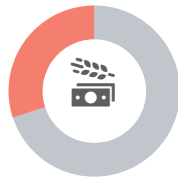
Access to Education Services

Due to summer holidays, no information on education was collected. Information on access to education services will be displayed again in October.



COVID-19

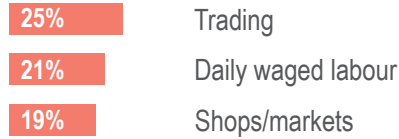
Effects of COVID-19 on livelihoods sectors in the community (by % of communities)



None of the available livelihood sectors were affected 70%

At least one of the available livelihood sectors was partially or totally affected 30%

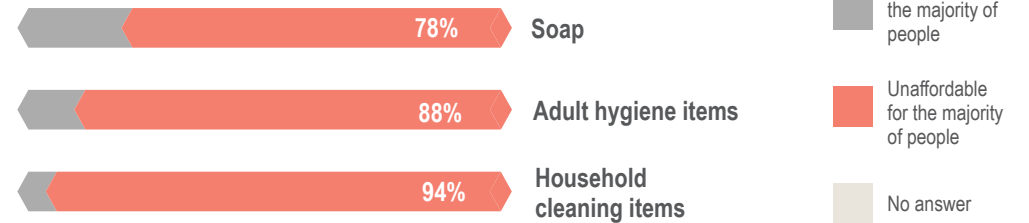
Most commonly reported sectors affected by COVID-19 (by % of communities)



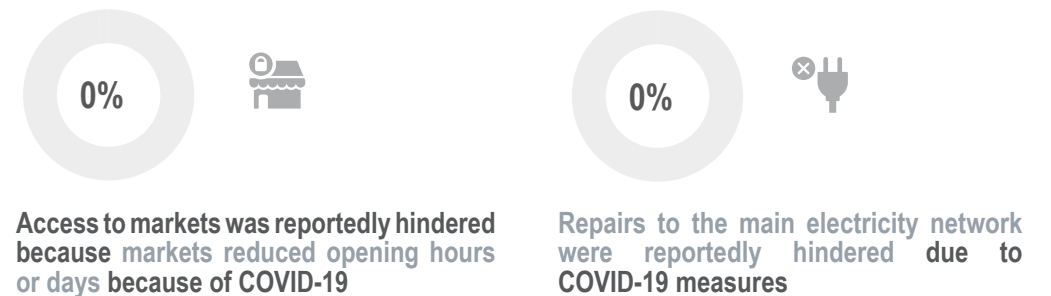
% of communities where COVID-19 risk indicators were reported



Reported hygiene item availability and affordability (by % of communities) ¹²



% of communities where COVID-19 related barriers to access services were reported





Security and Protection

Intersectoral findings on security

-  **General safety and security concerns restricting movement to markets** was a reported barrier to market access in **33** communities
- General safety and security concerns at markets** was a reported barrier to market access in **34** communities
- Movement restrictions** was reported as a protection risk in **0** communities ⁸
- Tribal disputes** were reported as a protection risk in **20** communities ⁸
- Threat from shelling** was reported as a protection risk in **0** communities ⁸
- Fear from imminent conflict** was reported as a protection risk in **46** communities ⁸
- The inability to lock homes securely** was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **31%** of communities ⁸
- Lack of privacy inside the shelter** was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **57%** of communities ⁸
- Lack of lighting around the shelter** was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **79%** of communities ⁸
- The security situation** was reported as a barrier to shelter repairs in **1%** of communities
-  **Safety and security concerns travelling to health facilities** was reported as a barrier to healthcare in **23** communities

Most commonly reported protection priority needs

(by % of communities) ^{3,8}

- 79%** Special assistance for vulnerable groups
- 41%** Specialised child protection services
- 31%** Psychosocial support



% of communities where the lack of civil documentation for residents and IDPs was reported

- 17%** Lack or loss of civil documentation as a protection risk
- 20%** Some people did not have the necessary personal documents to receive humanitarian assistance*
- 2%**
- 1%**

% of communities where extreme coping strategies used by residents and IDPs to meet basic needs were reported ⁴

Residents

- 17%** Early marriage
- 4%** Forced marriage
- 5%** High risk work
- 0%** Sending family members to beg
- 51%** Sending children (15 or below) to work

IDPs

- 19%**
- 5%**
- 3%**
- 0%**
- 62%**

Age, Gender, and Diversity

- KIs in **34%** of communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for women** as a barrier to meeting basic needs ⁸
- KIs in **19%** of communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for persons with a disability** as a barrier to meeting basic needs ⁸
- KIs in **14%** of communities reported a **lack of privacy for women and girls at health facilities** as a barrier to healthcare access
- KIs in **25%** of communities reported a **lack of market access for people with restricted mobility**
- KIs in **5%** of communities reported that **women and girls feel unsafe when traveling to markets**

- Children below the age of 12** were reported as a group affected by child labour in **10%** of communities ⁸
- Hazardous child labour** was reported as a protection risk in **34** communities ⁸

Endnotes

1. Aleppo governorate includes Menbij and Ain Al Arab districts. The rest of Aleppo governorate is included under Northwest Syria.
2. KIs were asked to select a first, second, and third highest priority needs in their communities. The ranking shows the sectors most frequently chosen as either first, second or third highest priority. The overall priority need refers to the frequency a sector was selected across all three categories (first, second or third highest priority).
3. KIs could select three answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.
4. KIs could select multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.
5. KIs were asked about the situation currently, instead of the last 30 days.
6. KIs had the option to select the price in United States Dollars (USD), Turkish Lira (TRY), or Syrian Pounds (SYP). When the price was not reported in SYP, the NES **REACH Market Monitoring** exchange rate was used to calculate the amount in SYP. According to the REACH Market Monitoring July 2021, 1 USD = 3,210 SYP; 1TRY= 365 SYP.
7. According to the NES **REACH Market Monitoring** July 2021, 1 USD = 3,210 SYP.
8. Findings for residents and IDPs were merged. The merge was calculated as follows: (option was selected for either residents or IDPs) / (communities reporting challenges/barriers/coping strategies for either residents or IDPs).
9. According to the NES **REACH Market Monitoring** July 2021, the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) = 336,608 SYP.
10. Minor damage (cracks in walls, leaking roof, need of new doors and window repairs, etc.); Major damage (buildings with extensive damage to window frames and doors, but no structural damage to columns, slabs, or loadbearing walls); Severe damage (buildings with significant structural damage to column slabs, or loadbearing walls, cracking, steel elements and deformations visible in concrete; the building would require extensive repairs); Completely destroyed (buildings with structural damage so significant that rehabilitation is not possible).
11. KIs were asked about the situation in the last two months, instead of the last 30 days.
12. Adult hygiene items include: shampoo, toothbrush, and toothpaste. Household cleaning items include: washing powder, liquid, and dish detergent.

◆ By number of communities where KIs reported the relevant indicator (accesss/barriers/inadequacies/damages/coping strategies/risks etc.) for the relevant population group(s)

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Subset</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Subset</i>
<i>N.o of communities reporting on:</i>		<i>N.o of communities reporting on:</i>	
Residents	1,110	Barriers to assistance access (IDPs)	315
IDPs	472	Barriers to accessing sufficient food (merge)	1,089
Challenges to assistance access (resident)	200	Days when water is available from network	691
Barriers to assistance access (resident)	905	Barriers to markets functioning	398
Challenges to assistance access (IDPs)	149		

- a. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (June 2021). SYRIA: ALOUK WATER STATION. Flash Update: Disruption to Alouk Water Station. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>
- b. UNICEF (July 2021). Whole of Syria Humanitarian Situation Report . Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int/>
- c. Early Warning Early Reaction Network (EWARN). (July 2021). Retrieved from <https://www.acu-sy.org/>
- d. Northeast Syria FSL Working Group

About REACH

REACH facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT). For more information please visit our website: www.reach-initiative.org. You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org.