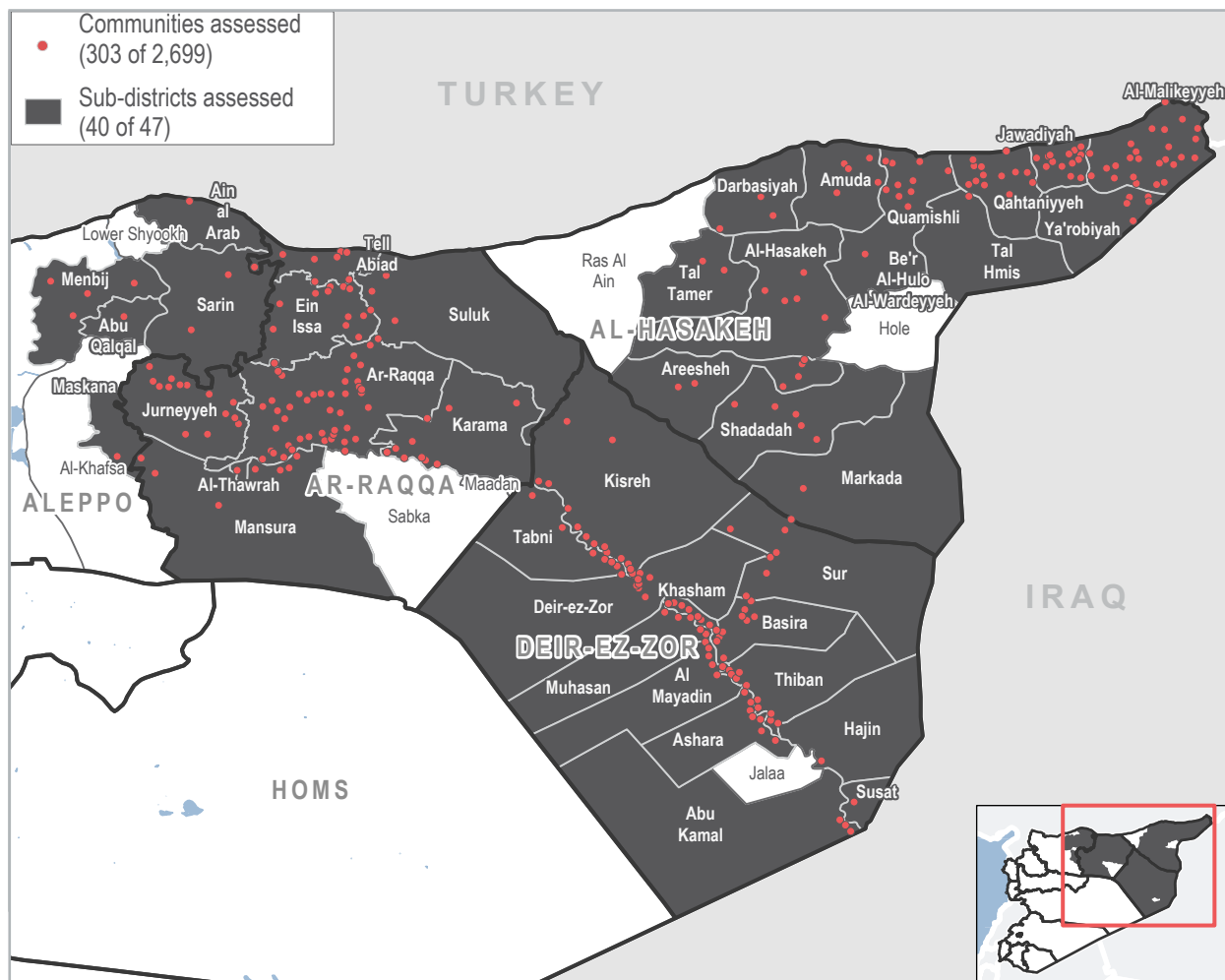


Northeast Syria, August 2018

Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

Coverage



Introduction

HSOS is a monthly assessment that aims to provide comprehensive, multi-sectoral information about the humanitarian situation inside Syria. The assessment is conducted at the community level covering displacement, shelter and non-food items (SNFI), health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), food security and livelihoods (FSL), and education.

The factsheet presents information gathered in 303 communities across Ar-Raqqa (106 communities), Al-Hasakeh (103 communities), Deir-ez-Zor (87 communities), and northeast Aleppo (7 communities) governorates. Data was collected during the month of September 2018, and refers to the situation in the Northeast region in August 2018. Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalised across the region.

For community-level data, datasets are available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#), [the Humanitarian Data Exchange](#), and are also distributed through partners across the humanitarian community.

Top 3 reported priority needs in assessed communities:

- 1** Healthcare
- 2** Education
- 3** Livelihoods

People in need (PIN) Demographics*

2,005,806 total PIN 1,051,906 953,900

Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB):^{1,2}

Average price in August: **61,068** Syrian pound (SYP)
 Average price in July: **59,467** SYP
 Average price during last six months: **59,093** SYP

* Figures based on [HNO 2018](#) population data for the entire NES region including areas not covered by HSOS.

Key events impacting the humanitarian situation in NES

Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor cities fully recaptured from ISIL. ^{a,b}	Forces escalate offensive on ISIL east of the Euphrates River and in southern Al-Hasakeh governorate. ^c	Consumption of contaminated water in Deir-ez-Zor governorate led to 655 reported cases of bloody diarrhoea and 12 deaths. ^d	An estimated 152,360 individuals reportedly spontaneously returned to Ar-Raqqa city since October 2017. ^e	204,950 spontaneous returnees reported in Deir-ez-Zor governorate since November 2017. ^e	Offensive to retake final ISIL-held enclave continues in southern rural Deir-ez-Zor. ^e
October-November 2017	April 2018	March - July 2018	End-August 2018	End-August 2018	August 2018

CONTEXT

An offensive to expel the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) from Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa governorates was launched in the second half of 2017. This resulted in large-scale displacement across the region including a high level of IDP arrivals to Al-Hasakeh governorate. In November 2017, Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa cities were recaptured from ISIL, triggering thousands of spontaneous returns to the governorates. However, IED/UXO contamination levels and infrastructural damage in areas that shifted control are still very high, particularly throughout Deir-ez-Zor governorate and Ar-Raqqa city. IDPs that have spontaneously returned to these areas face a security risk from explosive hazards and also face limited access to services due to damaged infrastructure.^f

KEY HIGHLIGHTS^g

Dissatisfaction with school curriculum in Al-Hasakeh

Key Informants (KIs) in Al-Hasakeh reported challenges with the curriculum. Of the 103 assessed communities, KIs in 20% communities reported that some children were unable to attend educational facilities due to issues with the curriculum; in 12% (12 total) of these communities it was reported that parents did not approve of the curriculum, and in 9% (9 total) it was reported that the curriculum was not available in the appropriate language.^g

Poor water quality in Deir-ez-Zor

Deir-ez-Zor governorate reported the highest proportion of assessed communities with poor water quality. Of the 87 assessed communities in the governorate, 74% reported having a sufficient amount of water to meet household needs. However, 75% of assessed communities reported that the water from their primary source tasted and/or smelled bad, and 22% reported that water from their primary source made people sick. In addition, diarrhoea was one of the most common health concerns reported by KIs in 60% of assessed communities. The water network was the primary source of drinking water reported throughout the governorate. This suggests that while the majority of the assessed communities reported having a sufficient amount of water, the primary source of drinking water might have a negative impact on public health.

Insufficient access to water and food in Ar-Raqqa

KIs in Ar-Raqqa governorate reported issues with access to sufficient water. Water insufficiency is likely due to damage to agricultural and water infrastructure as a result of prolonged conflict that targeted Ar-Raqqa city and rural communities. Prior to the conflict, Ar-Raqqa's close proximity to the Euphrates River made it a major agricultural irrigation hub.^h Recent damage to agricultural and water infrastructure impacted agricultural productivity and water access in Ar-Raqqa, where nearly half of the assessed communities reported that water from their primary source was insufficient to cover household needs.

KIs in Ar-Raqqa reported that all of the 106 communities assessed, 100% bought food in markets but only 54% communities reported production of own food. Of these assessed communities, 100% reported difficulties in accessing sufficient amounts of food, most commonly (92%) due to a lack of resources to buy available food.



Displacement

- In eastern Aleppo governorate, KIs reported an estimated population of 18,415 IDPs residing in Menbij and Ain Al Arab districts, the highest population of IDPs throughout the assessed communities in NES.
- KIs reported an estimated 4,951 refugees spontaneously returned to NES from Lebanon, Iraq, and Turkey in August. Nearly half of these returnees were to Ar-Raqqa sub-district. The most commonly reported reasons for return were to reunite with family and a perceived cessation of hostilities in their community of origin.
- In August, KIs reported approximately 7,895 IDPs spontaneously returned to the assessed communities in NES, primarily to Abu Kamal district (Deir-ez-Zor). KIs reported family reunification as the primary reason for return.



Food Security & Livelihoods

- KIs across NES reported that residents were able to purchase food in markets. In Deir-ez-Zor and Al-Hasakeh governorates, KIs reported that a majority of residents also obtained food through their own production.
- The majority of assessed communities throughout NES were able to access bread through own production, bakeries, shops and/or distributions. However, in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, 63% of the assessed communities were unable to access bread every day due to a lack of electricity and/or fuel impacting the ability to produce bread.



Education

- Education was a top priority need reported in eastern Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh. KIs in Deir-ez-Zor did not report education as a top priority need. However, in 26 of the 87 assessed communities in Deir-ez-Zor, KIs reported early marriage and child labour as reasons why some children were unable to attend educational facilities. This suggests that while education may not be a top priority need at the present time, children experienced issues that impacted their ability to access to education in Deir-ez-Zor.



WASH

- KIs in the majority of assessed communities reported that the network was the most common source of water. In addition, KIs in eastern Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, and Ar-Raqqa governorates all reported that water was fine to drink in the majority of assessed communities. However, in Deir-ez-Zor governorate the majority of KIs reported that water from primary source tastes/smells bad and/or makes people sick.



Health

- In Al-Hasakeh and eastern Aleppo governorates, KIs reported that the majority (73% and 67% respectively) of the assessed communities had no health facilities available in the area. In Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor governorates, the high cost of transportation to health facilities was the most commonly reported barrier to obtaining care. This suggests that throughout NES, residents faced access issues in obtaining healthcare.



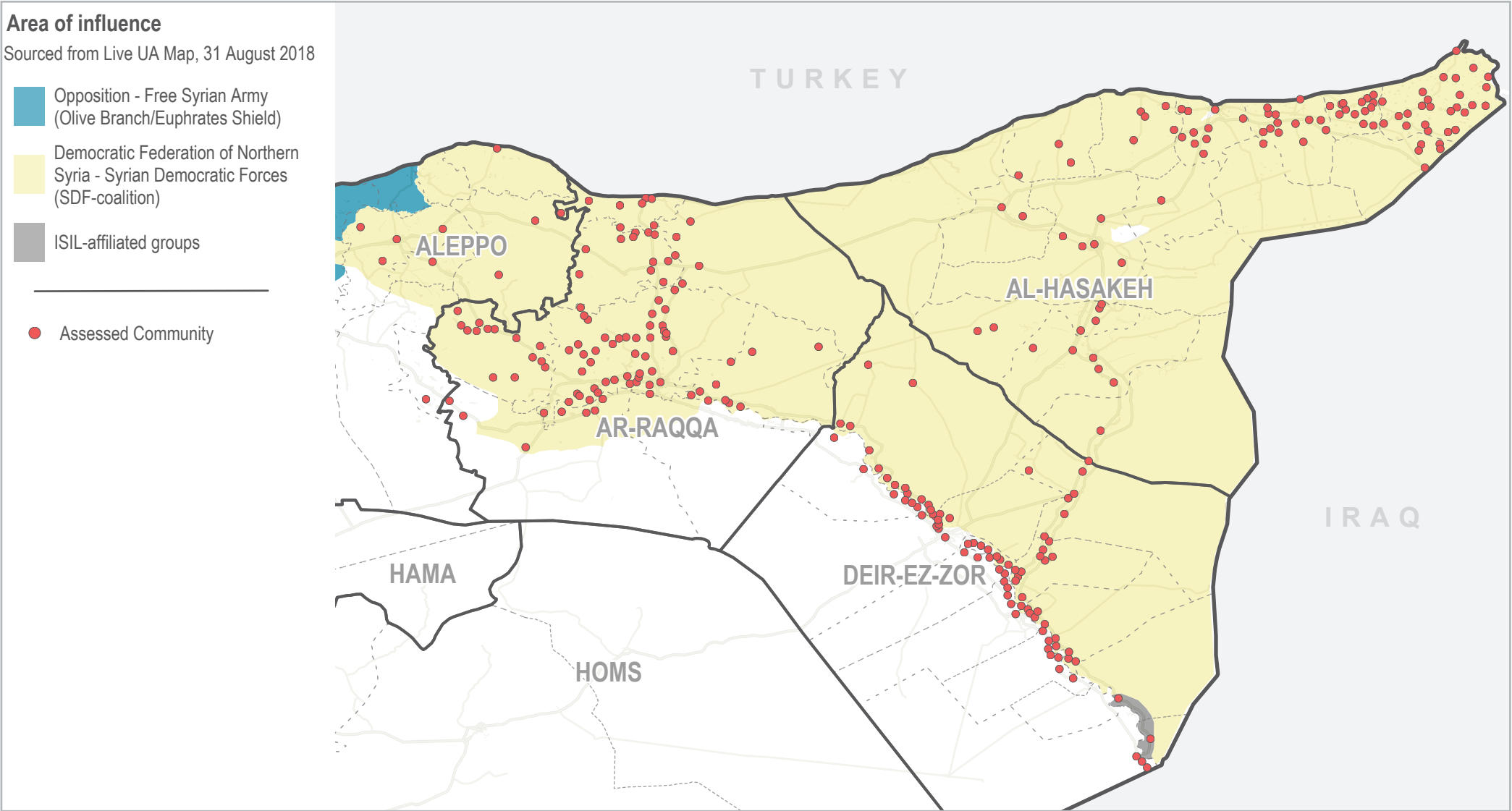
Shelter and NFI

- KIs reported the network as the main source of electricity in the majority of assessed communities in Ar-Raqqa and eastern Aleppo governorates, while in Al-Hasakeh, approximately half used generators and the rest used the network. In Deir-ez-zor governorate, KIs reported that 97% of the assessed communities used generators as the primary source of electricity. Water treatment facilities require the electric grid to properly filter and process water. Therefore, the reliance on generators in the absence of generally functioning electrical networks is likely a contributing factor to the poor quality of water reported throughout the governorate
- Over 80% of assessed communities in eastern Aleppo, Ar-Raqqa, and Deir-ez-Zor reported that between 1-25% of buildings were uninhabitable due to damage from the conflict.
- KIs in eastern Aleppo and Ar-Raqqa governorates reported more IDPs residing in tents and unfinished apartments and/or houses than other assessed governorates (6 out of 7 assessed communities in eastern Aleppo and 30% of the 106 assessed communities in Ar-Raqqa).

*The eastern part of Aleppo where humanitarian response and coordination is conducted from the northeast rather than the northwest.

Northeast Syria, August 2018

Regional areas of influence:



Northeast Syria, August 2018

DISPLACEMENT

6,382 - 7,948

Estimated number of IDP arrivals in assessed communities in August.

10,740 - 15,000

Estimated number of spontaneous returns in assessed communities in August.⁴

Communities with the largest estimated number of IDP arrivals:

Abu Hamam (Deir-ez-Zor)	2,500 - 3,000
Jdid Ekeidat (Deir-ez-Zor)	400 - 500
Abu Khashab (Deir-ez-Zor)	400 - 450

Top 3 reported subdistricts of origin for IDP arrivals:^{5,6}

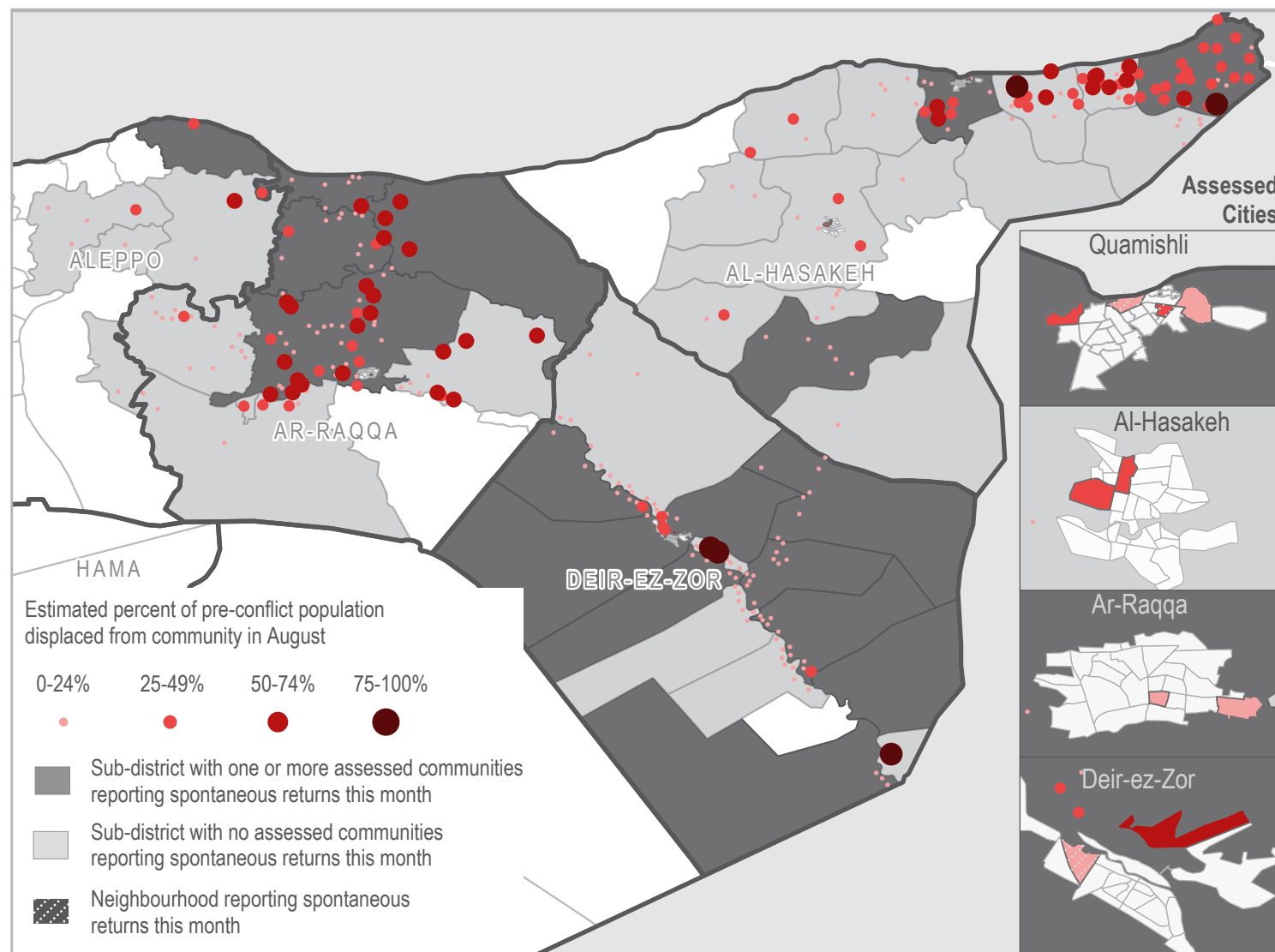
Hajin (Deir ez-Zor governorate)
Susat (Deir ez-Zor governorate)
Qahtaniyeh (Al-Hasakeh governorate)

294 communities reported no PCP departures.⁷

Top 3 reasons for PCP departures in the remaining 9 assessed communities:^{5,6,8}

Loss of income	44%
Reduced access to basic services	33%
Protection concerns	22%

Estimated proportion of pre-conflict population (PCP) displaced from community:



Northeast Syria, August 2018



FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

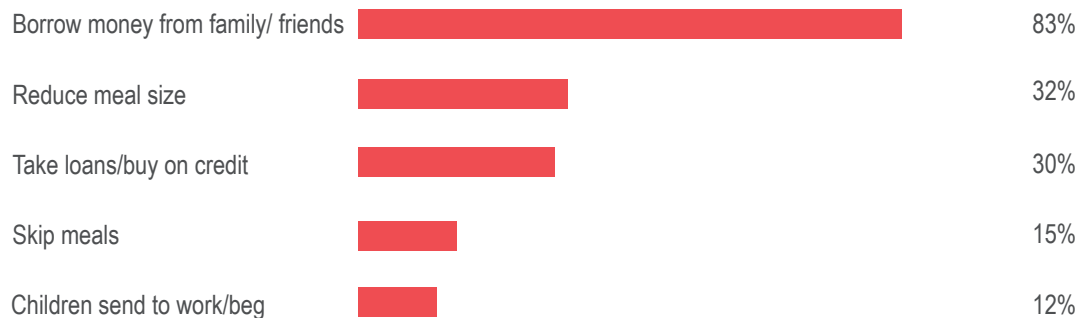
24/303 Communities reported having received food distributions in the last month.

38/303 Communities reported that residents were unable to access shops and markets.

0 Communities reported that residents used extreme food-based coping strategies to deal with insufficient income.⁹

50,000 - 100,000 SYP Most commonly reported household monthly income range.¹

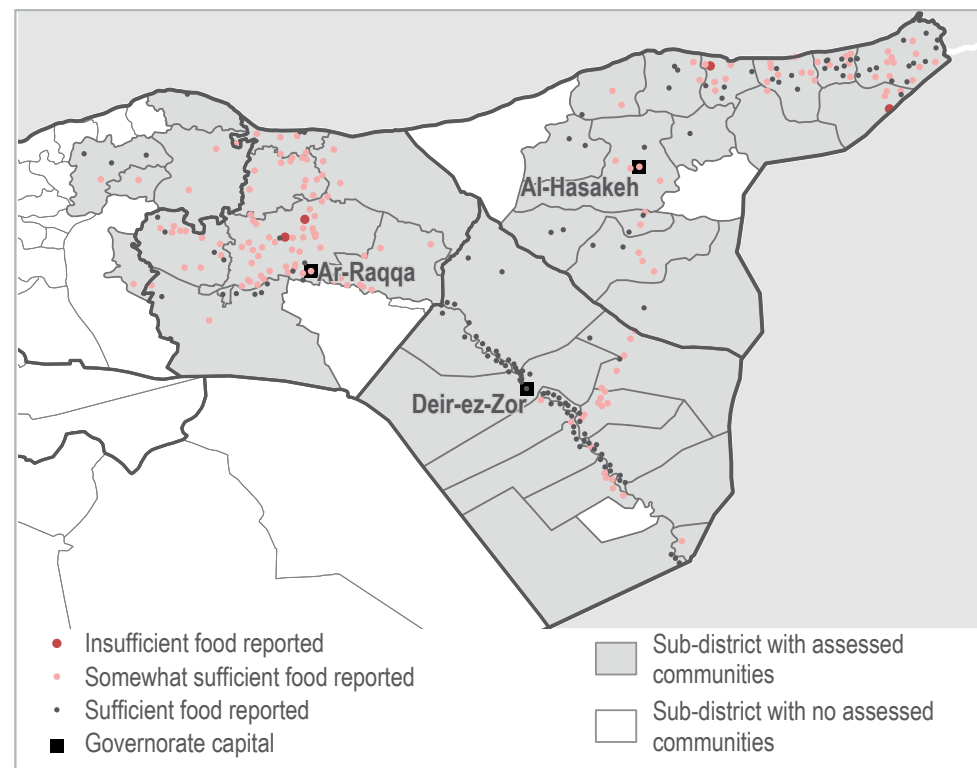
60 communities reported that residents had enough income to cover household needs. The most commonly reported coping strategies to deal with a lack of income in the remaining **242 assessed communities** were:^{5,6,8}



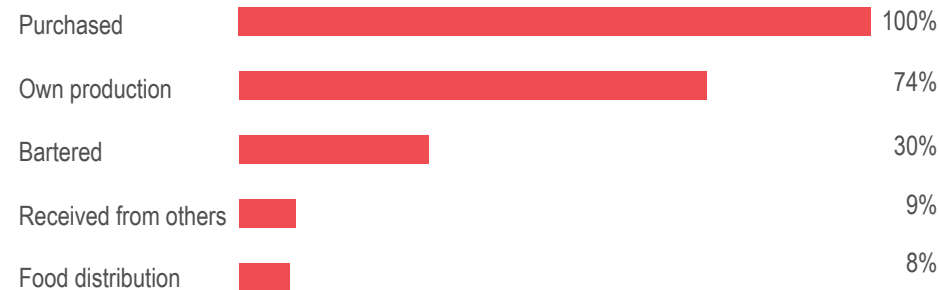
Most commonly reported main sources of income:^{5,6}



Communities that reported having a sufficient quantity of food:¹⁰



Most commonly reported ways of obtaining food:^{5,6}



Northeast Syria, August 2018



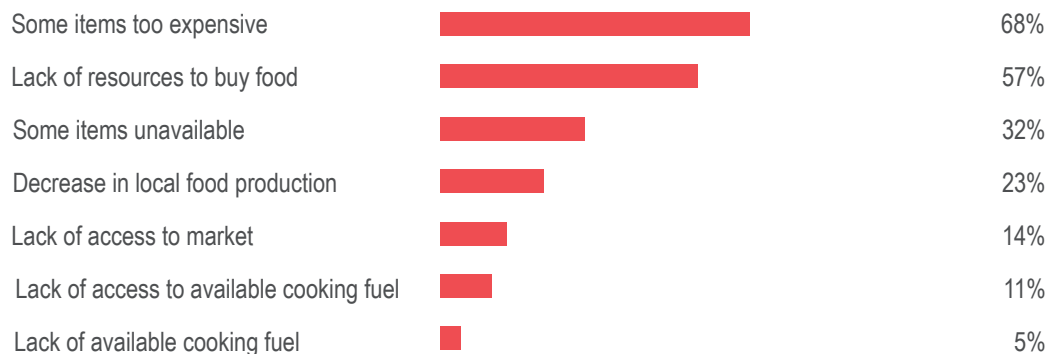
FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

Core food item prices reported (in SYP):^{1,11}

Food item:	Regional average price in August:	One month change:	Six month change:
Bread (8 pieces)	120	-4%	+20%
Rice (1 kilogram)	475	+6%	-3%
Lentils (1 kilogram)	300	0%	-14%
Sugar (1 kilogram)	275	0%	-8%
Cooking oil (1 litre)*	550	-10%	-8%

*includes the combined vegetable oil and ghee prices

37 communities reported that residents experienced no challenges in accessing food. The most common difficulties experienced in the remaining 265 assessed communities were:^{5,6,8}



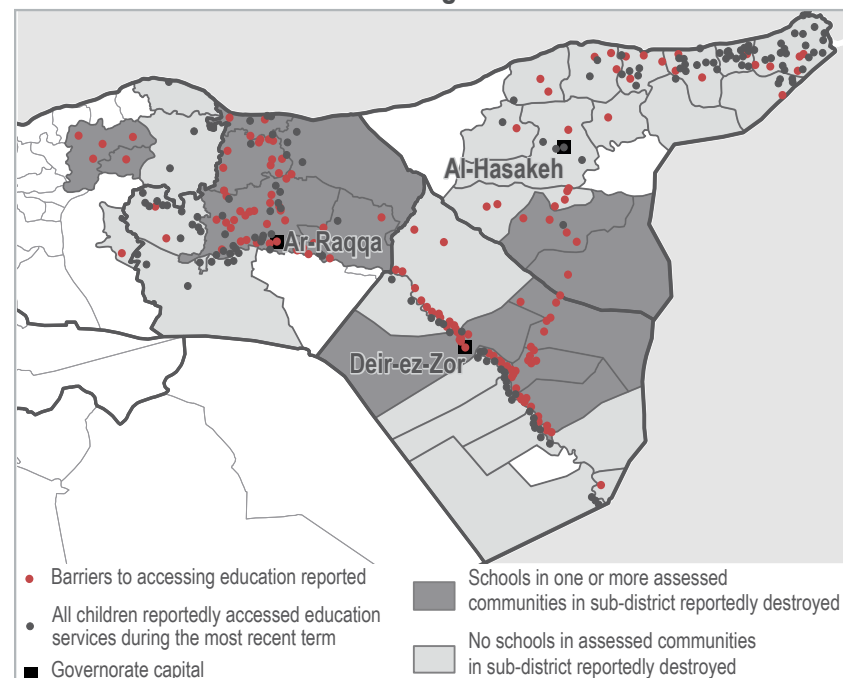
EDUCATION

293/303 communities reported having functioning primary education facilities, while 159 communities reported having functioning secondary education facilities.¹²

161 communities reported that all children were able to access education. The most commonly reported barriers to education in the remaining 142 assessed communities were:^{5,6,8}



Prevalence of barriers to accessing education services:



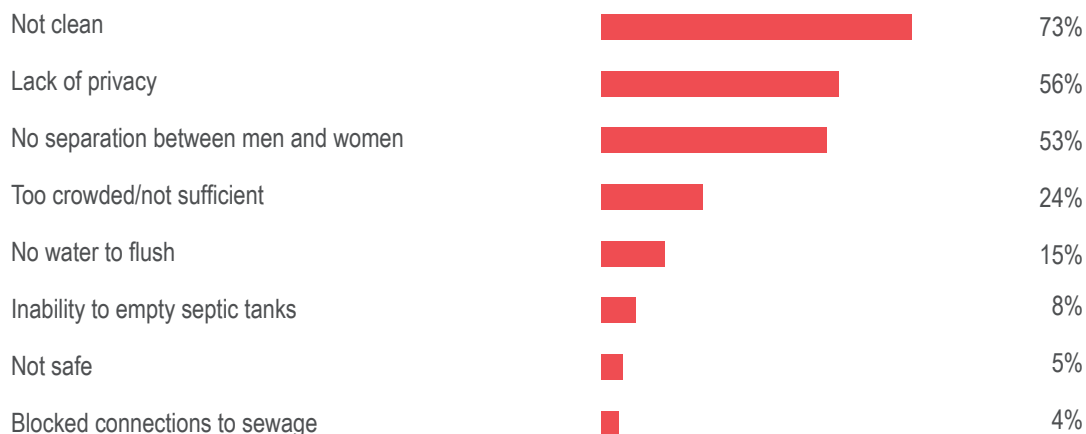
Northeast Syria, August 2018



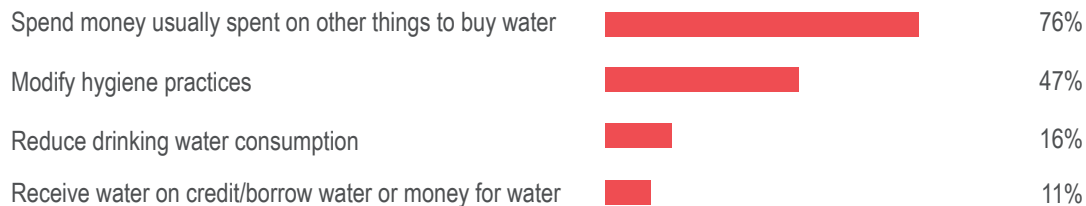
89/303 Communities reported that water from their primary source tasted and/or smelled bad.

42/303 Communities reported that drinking water from their primary source made people sick.

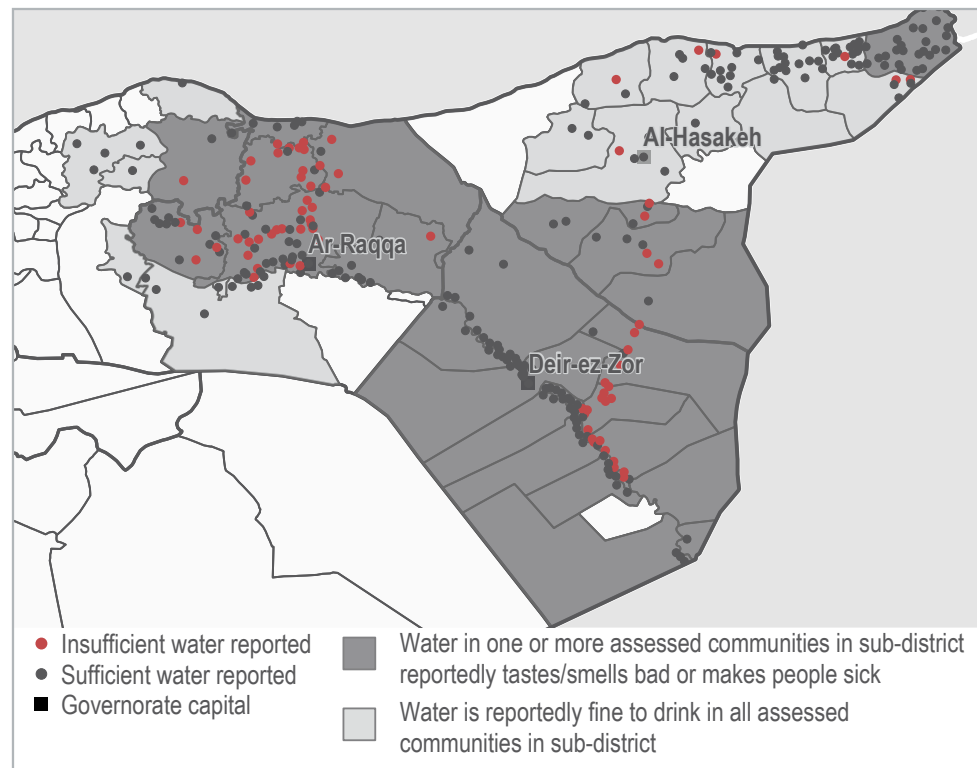
207 communities reported that residents had no problems with latrines. The most commonly reported problems with latrines in the remaining **98 assessed communities** were:^{5,6,8}



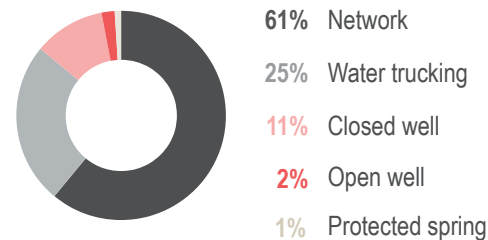
224 communities reported that they had sufficient amounts of water to meet household needs. The most common coping strategies to deal with a lack of water in the remaining **76 assessed communities** were:^{5,6,8}



Communities that reported sufficient amounts of water to meet household needs:¹⁰



Primary drinking water source reported:⁶



Primary method of garbage disposal reported:^{5,6}



Northeast Syria, August 2018

HEALTH

109/303 Communities reported that no assessed medical items were available in their community.¹³

144/303 Communities reported that the majority of women did not give birth in a formal health facility.

5/303 Communities reported that some individuals had been diagnosed with SAM (Severe Acute Malnutrition).¹⁴

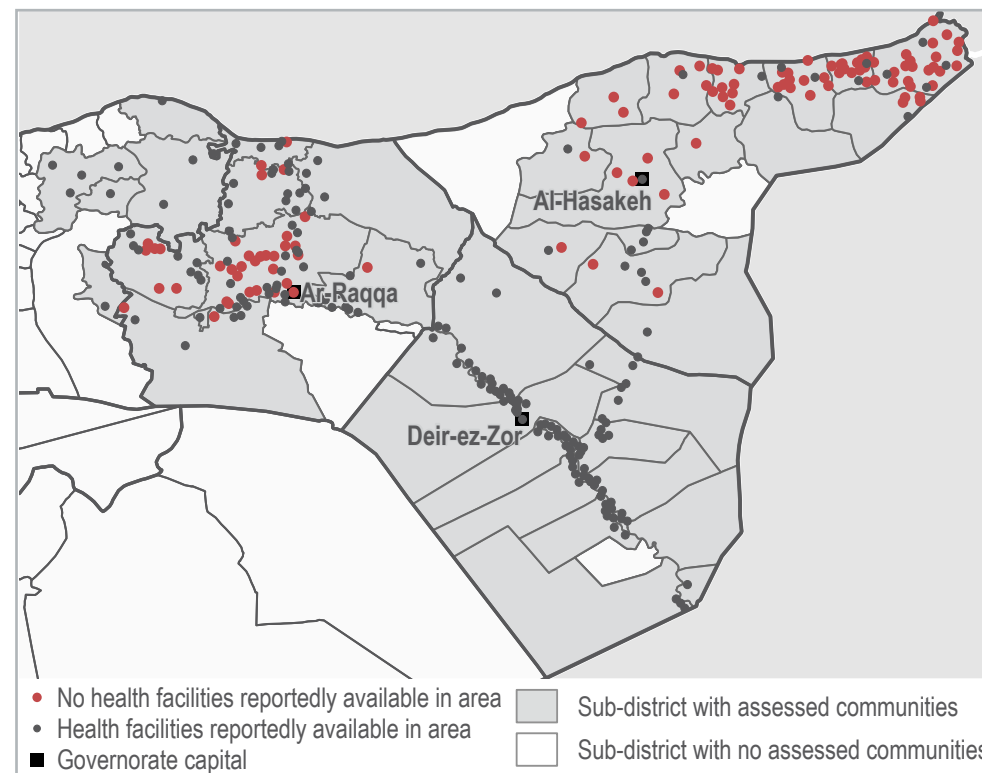
28 communities reported that residents experienced no barriers to accessing healthcare services. The most commonly reported barriers in the remaining 274 assessed communities were:^{5,6,8}



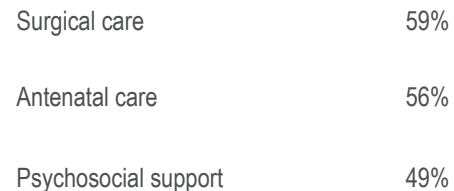
218 communities reported that residents were not using coping strategies to deal with a lack of medical services and items. The coping strategies used in the remaining 68 communities were:^{5,6,8}



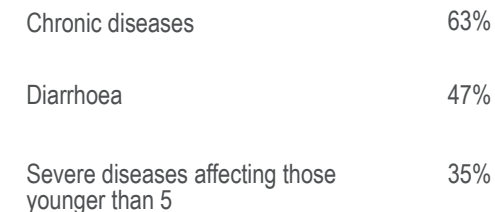
Presence of health facilities in assessed communities:



Top 3 most needed healthcare services reported:^{5,6}



Top 3 most common health problems reported:^{5,6}



Northeast Syria, August 2018

SHELTER AND NFI

4,065 SYP Regional average monthly reported rent price in SYP across assessed communities.¹

5,689 SYP Northern Syria average monthly reported rent price in SYP across assessed communities.^{1,15}

Most commonly reported shelter type for PCP households:⁶



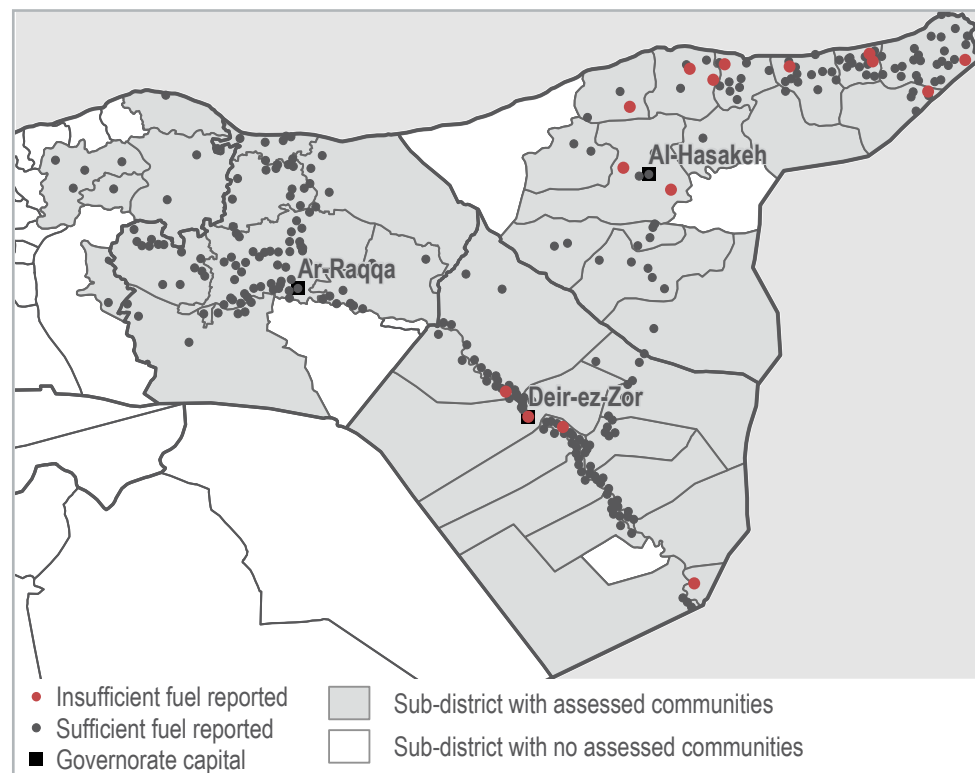
Most commonly reported shelter type for IDP households:⁶



Reported fuel prices (in SYP):^{1,2}

Fuel type (1L):	Regional average price in August:	One month change:	Six month change:
GoS petrol	83	-18%	+10%
GoS diesel	55	0%	+38%
Manually refined petrol	200	-11%	+14%
Manually refined diesel	100	+33%	+33%
Cooking fuel	150	+20%	+35%

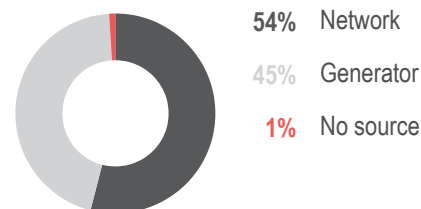
Communities that reported sufficient amounts of fuel to meet household needs:¹⁰



286 communities reported no lack of fuel. Most common strategies to cope with lack of fuel in the remaining 16 assessed communities:^{5,6,8}

Burning productive assets	56%
Burning furniture in use	50%
Cutting trees to burn	31%
Burning waste	19%
Burning plastic	19%

Primary source of electricity reported:⁶



METHODOLOGY

HSOS data collection is conducted through an enumerator network in accessible locations throughout Idleb, Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, and Al-Hasakeh governorates. REACH enumerators are based inside Syria and interview Key Informants (KIs) directly in the community about which they are reporting. Where access and security constraints renders direct data collection unfeasible, KI interviews are conducted remotely through participants identified in camps and settlements in neighbouring countries by REACH field teams. Participants contact multiple KIs in their community in Syria to collect information about their community. KIs are asked to report at the community level.

KIs generally included local council members, Syrian NGO workers, medical professionals, teachers, shop owners and farmers, among others, and were chosen based on their community-level or sector specific knowledge. In cases where KIs disagree on a certain piece of information, enumerators triangulate the data with secondary sources or select the response provided by the KI with the more relevant sector-specific background. For each question asked, confidence levels are assigned based on the KIs area of expertise and knowledge of the sector-specific situation. The confidence levels associated with each question are presented in the [final dataset](#). The full confidence matrix used to assign confidence levels is available upon request.

Findings are triangulated through secondary sources, including news monitoring and humanitarian reports. Where necessary, follow-up is conducted with enumerators and participants. Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalised across the region.

About REACH

REACH is a joint initiative of two international non-governmental organisations - ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives - and the UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT). REACH aims to strengthen evidence-based decision making by aid actors through efficient data collection, management and analysis before, during and after an emergency. By doing so, REACH contributes to ensuring that communities affected by emergencies receive the support they need. All REACH activities are conducted in support to, and within the framework of, inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information, please visit our website: www.reach-initiative.org. You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org and follow us on Twitter: [@REACH_info](https://twitter.com/REACH_info).

ENDNOTES

MAIN TEXT

- ¹ 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 August 2018)
- ² 18 items comprise the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), which represents the minimum culturally adjusted items required to support a 6-person household for a month. SMEB items: Bread, bulgur, chicken, eggs, fresh vegetables, ghee/vegetable oil, red lentils, rice, salt, sugar, tomato paste, bathing soap, laundry/dish soap, sanitary pads, toothpaste, cooking fuel, water trucking, smartphone data, float (other costs).
- ³ All information and figures reported in HSOS factsheets refer to the situation in assessed communities and cannot be generalised to other non-assessed communities of the region.
- ⁴ Returns are not necessarily voluntary, safe, or sustainable.
- ⁵ Assessed using select multiple questions
- ⁶ By percentage of communities reporting
- ⁷ Pre-Conflict Population (PCP), individuals who have not been displaced since the beginning of the conflict.
- ⁸ Not all surveys have answers for every question, in these scenarios the KI or participant will input no answer. When the dataset has no answer for a particular question the reported number of assessed communities will not add up to total number of communities assessed and percentages will be calculated based on submitted responses.
- ⁹ Extreme food-based strategies: eating food waste; eating non-edible plants and spending days without eating.
- ¹⁰ Based on KI perception of sufficiency.
- ¹¹ Bread, rice, lentils, sugar, and cooking oil are considered core food items used in food baskets across Syria. For further information on all SMEB items please see the [Syria Market Monitoring report](#).
- ¹² Reported numbers indicate the number of communities with functioning primary and secondary education facilities during the data collection period. It is important to note that simply having a functioning facility is not indicative of students being able to attend said facility. In addition, in some cases KIs reported that children attend schools in a neighbouring community.
- ¹³ Assessed HSOS medical items; anti-anxiety medication, contraception, clean bandages, blood transfusion bags, diabetes medicine, anaesthetics, blood pressure medicine, antibiotics, burn treatment.
- ¹⁴ This information was derived from medical professionals (KIs)
- ¹⁵ Includes HSOS data for Idleb, Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh governorates.

KEY EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

- ^a Sen. (18 October 2017). After the Battle for Raqqa, Now Comes the Hard Part. News Deeply. Retrieved from <https://www.newsdeeply.com/syria>.
- ^b UNHCR. (21 January 2018). Syria Crisis: Northeast Syria Situation Report No. 20 (1 December – 31 December 2017). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.
- ^c Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. (4 April 2018). The International Coalition and SDF prepare for a massive military operation against ISIS amid alertness in the east of the Euphrates River and south of Al-Hasakah. Retrieved from <https://www.syriahr.com>.
- ^d UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (15.07.2018). Syria Crisis: Northeast Syria Situation Report No. 26 (15 June 2018 - 15 July 2018). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.
- ^e UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (31.08.2018). Syria Crisis: Northeast Syria Situation Report No. 27 (15 July 2018 - 31 August 2018), Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.
- ^f Mine Action. (2018). Syrian Arab Republic - UN Mine Action Gateway, 2018 Summary Graphs. Retrieved from <https://www.mineaction.org>.
- ^g 'Children' includes all persons below the age of 18.
- ^h Varela-Ortega, C. & Sagardoy, J. A. (2003). Irrigation Water Policies in Syria: Current Developments and Future Options. In: Fiorillo, C., & Vercueil, J. (2003). Syrian agriculture at the crossroads. Rome: Policy Assistance Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Retrieved from <https://www.iaao.org>.