Ar-Raqqa Governorate, Syria May 2022



Background

In October 2019, military operations in the area around the Turkish border led to a change in control of an area of approximately 4,000 km², encompassing Ras al-Ain, Suluk and Tell Abiad. As a result, approximately 70,000 persons were displaced, and two camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) were closed.¹ Towards the end of 2020, clashes and shelling resumed, causing further displacement.

Meanwhile, economic conditions have deteriorated across Syria, and the prices of basic goods are increasing. This is partly due to the instability and decline of the Syrian Pound (SYP) against the US Dollar (USD), as well as the escalation of conflict in northwest Syria in early 2020.³

Since late 2020 and continuing in 2022, Northeast Syria has been experiencing drought conditions due to the reduced flow in the Euphrates River and a long-term reduction in groundwater levels. The drought has not only affected access to water but also electricity, agricultural livelihoods, food security, and health.⁴

Assessment Overview

Methodology

REACH's informal settlement profiling in Northeast Syria (NES) consists of key informant (KI) interviews with community members who have knowledge of the settlements. A minimum of two KIs were sought for each of the sites, focusing on each KI's sector-specific knowledge. All selected informal settlements and collective centres were verified by the NES Sites and Settlements Working Group (SSWG).⁵ For an updated list of active sites, see the SSWG sites list.6

Data collection took place between 19 and 31 May 2022. In total, 85 settlements were assessed in Ar Raqqa governorate. The assessment was carried out at the settlement level. Due to the KI methodology used, findings are not statistically representative and should therefore only be considered indicative of the situation in assessed settlements and not all informal IDP settlements across the four governorates. Presented percentages refer to the assessed settlements in which KIs report, unless mentioned otherwise. All percentages of households indicated are based on KI estimates. Answers separated by semicolon (;) indicate that the KIs from one site provided different answers.

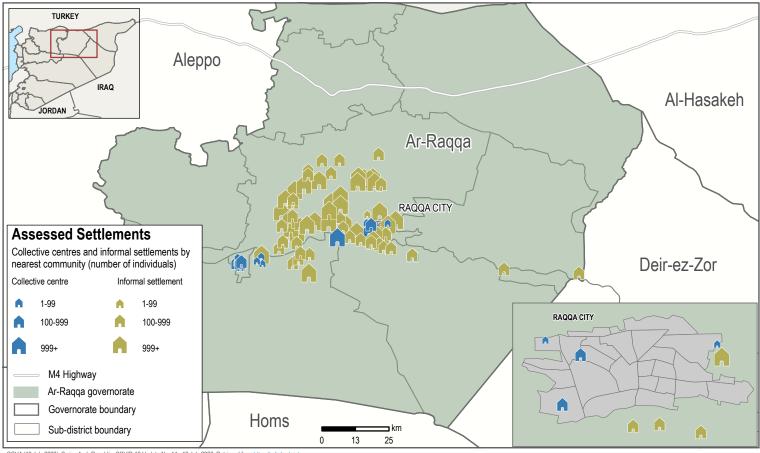
Corresponding assessments were carried out in the other three NES governorates in May 2022. These profiles can be found on the REACH Resource Centre together with the previous assessments.

Coverage:		Settlement Typology:	
Assessed settlements:	67	📠 Settlements in school building:	14
Population in assessed settlements:	87,136	Settlements with other buildings in use:	7
Collective centres:	18	Tented	69

Most commonly reported first, second, third, and overall priority needs for residents⁷

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL
1	Food	Employment	Shelter Support	Food
2	Employment	Food	Medical Care	Employment
3	Shelter Support	Medical care	Summer Items	Shelter Support

Locations of Assessed Settlements



. unOCHA (10 July 2020). Syrian Arab Republic: COVID-19 Update No. 14 - 10 July 2020. Retrieved from https://reliefweb.int.
2. UNOCHA (23 December 2020). Syrian Arab Republic: COVID-19 Humanitarian Update No. 22 - 23 December 2020. Retrieved from https://reliefweb.int.
3. REACH (November 2020). Northeast Syria Market Monitoring Exercise November 2020. Retrieved from https://www.reachresource.entre.info.
4. REACH Briefing Note: Humanitarian Impact of Water Shortages in Northeast Syria: Retrieved from https://www.reachresource.entre.info.

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7. Kis were all asked to rank the top 3 priority needs of the settlements. The figure shown ranks how many times a given need was reported by a KI as first, second or third need. The overall indicates how many times a need was mentioned not considering the rank



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44%

|--|

Demographics:* ↑ 42% Males Females 58% ▲ Older (60+) 11% (9,143 individuals) 44% 60+ 56% Average: Adults (18-59) 45% (34,608 individuals) 45% 18-59 55% Largest Se

43%

Settlement Size:*

Average: Largest Settlement: Smallest Settlement: 1,025 individuals 12,250 individuals 25 individuals

*based on KI estimates

i→ **MOVEMENT**

Children (0-17)

Top three areas of origin by percentage of households across assessed settlements:

(39,774 individuals)

	Country	Governorate	Sub-district	
	Syria	Hama	Oqeirbat	24%
	Syria	Homs	Tadmor	11%
	Syria	Deir-ez-Zor	Tabni	9%
Maxam	anto von orto	d in the Owerke nu	ior to the concernent	

Movements reported in the 2 weeks prior to the assessment:

13 New arrivals Departures 4396

The main pull factors reported for people to arrive to this settlement was **Access to** electricity and **Access to income and employment opportunities**.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)				
Latrines		Availbe latrines:9,10		
		Household	Communal	Makeshift
		46	28	56

In 4% of assessed settlements, KIs reported that no latrines were available in the settlement. Top three latrine alternatives were: Open defecation outside the site (e.g. nearby fields or bushes) (61%), Digging private pits (11%) and Designated space outside the shelter (6%).

Communal latrine characteristics, by % of assessed settlements:11



The main issue reported with latrines was that **There are no lights**, reported by KIs in **71%** of assessed settlements, and that **There are not enough latrines** ,reported in **64%** of settlements.⁹

Showers

Bathing facilities:9,10	Available:	Mostly used:
Bathing inside shelter:	98%	100%
Communal:	4%	0%
Household:	0%	0%

The main issue reported with showers was **There are no showers**, reported by KIs in **46%** of assessed settlements, and **There are no private showers**, reported in **45%** of settlements.⁹

Reported proportion of residents with access to soap within the assessed settlements:



The main issues reported with soap was **Soap is too expensive**, reported by KIs in **99%** of assessed settlements, and **Some groups don't have access to the market**, reported in **2%** of settlements.⁹

Movement intentions by percentage of households across assessed settlements:



0-17

Leave within 3 months	0%
Leave within 3-6 months	0%
Stay for at least 1 year	89%

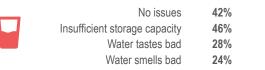
KIs reported that the main factors influencing the intention to leave were **Reduced** access to income and employment opportunities (22% of assessed settlements) and **Reduced** access to humanitarian assistance (16%).

Water



Public tap/standpipe and Tanker truck - private vendor were the primary sources of water in the assessed settlements at the time of data collection.

Drinking water issues, by % of assessed settlements:9



Proportion of residents reported to have enough water to cover their needs:





Proportion of residents reported to have used negative strategies to cope with a lack of water in the two weeks prior to data collection:

- Yes 92% No 8%
- Most commonly reported strategies:9
- Rely on drinking water stored previously (61%)
- Modify hygiene practices (bathe less, etc) (28%)
- Collect water outside of camp in nearby urban area (25%)

In 82% of assessed settlements, KIs reported that at least one resident in the settlement suffered from diarrhoea in the two weeks prior to data collection.

Waste disposal



Primary waste disposal system: Burning garbage (65% of assessed settlements) and Disposing at another location (44%)⁹

Primary waste disposal problem: Complete lack of garbage removal (53% of assessed settlements)⁹

9. Questions where KIs had multiple answer options (total may be >100%).

 Communal latrines and showers are shared by more than one household. Household latrines and showers are used only by one household. This may be an informal designation that is not officially enforced.
 The question applied to a subset of settlements where a given issue was reported.





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ਝੇ HEALTH



In 84% of assessed settlements, KIs reported that residents in their settlement can access at least one health facility. In 99% of the remaining settlements, residents had access to a pharmacy/dispensary.

In **98%** of settlements, KIs reported health issues among residents. The most commonly reported issues were **Chronic diseases** (85%), **Other skin diseases/infections** (66%), **Pregnancy-related complications (high blood pressure, infections, blood**

Most commonly reported health priority needs by % of assessed settlements:9



Medicines and other commodities 78% Treatment for chronic disease 76% Maternal health services 52%

The most common place for women in the settlement to **give birth** was reportedly **In a health facility** (98% of settlements). In 0% of settlements, KIs reported maternal health services as a priority health need.

The most common medicine needs were **Treatments for hypertension/heart disease**, **Antibiotics** and **Diabetes medicines**.

Most commonly reported barriers to health services by % of assessed settlements: 9

Cannot afford to pay for health services Lack of medicines and/or equipment High cost of transportation 99% 74% 72%

Image: Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

Shelter adequacy

KIs estimated that a Lack of lighting (75% of assessed settlements), Lack of insulation from heat (74%) and Lack of privacy inside shelter (no partitions, no doors) (72%) were the main shelter adequacy issues in their settlement.⁹

Top three most commonly reported shelter item needs by % of assessed settlements: $^{\rm 9}$



New tents84%Additional tents69%Plastic sheeting60%

Degree to which KIs assess that people in their settlement have enough living space:



Everyone4%More than half24%About half35%Les than half18%Only a few19%None1%

FOOD SECURITY

Most commonly reported sources of food by % of assessed settlements:9

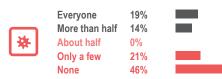


From local markets outside the camp/site 100% From family and friends in the area 28% From markets in the camp/site 18%

KIs reported that **Ghee/vegetable oil (31% of assessed settlements)**, **Sugar (31%)** and **Rice (27%)** were the main food items needed by residents that are currently not sufficiently available through assistance or markets.⁹

COVID-19

Reported proportion of residents who consider COVID-19 an important issue:



Measures reportedly implemented by residents to protect themselves from COVID-19:9

Wash hands	s more regularly	47%	
	• •		
Stay at home as m	uch as possible	19%	
Avoid touchi	ng other people	11%	

Measures reportedly implemented by local authorities to protect from COVID-19:9

Prevention messages	2%	J
Asking people to stay at home	1%	I
Close non-essential services and	0%	

businesses

In **18%** of settlements, all residents had access to soap and in **0%** of settlements all residents had **access to a handwashing facility** according to KIs. The main issues reported with handwashing facilities were that **There are no handwashing facilities** and that **Soap too expensive**.⁹

Electricity

Battery was reported among the primary electricity sources in **72%** of settlements, and **Solar panels** in **44%** of settlements.⁹ KIs reported that residents in the settlement had an average of **6** hours of electricity access per day.

NFI needs

Top three reported anticipated NFI needs by % of assessed settlements, for the three months following data collection:⁹



Water containers Mattresses/sleeping mats

51%	
/1/0	
16%	
86%	

In 25% of settlements, KIs reported that aid distribution had taken place in their settlement in the month prior to data collection, with 52% of assessed settlements having received NFI items.

Fan

The main topics residents need information about according to KIs were How to find job opportunities (92%), How to access assistance (84%) and Sponsorship programs (38%).⁹

Reportedly, **food distributions** took place in **14%** of the assessed settlements and **drinking water** in **29%** of assessed settlements.

Top three reported food-related coping strategies used by residents in the 2 weeks prior to data collection, by % of assessed settlements:⁹



Buying cheaper, lower quality food 9 Purchasing food on credit/borrowing 6 Reducing meal size 6

96%	
66%	
66%	



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📸 LIVELIHOODS

Household income and expenses

KIs estimated that all households in 92% of settlements had access to income sources. However in 0% of assessed settlements, KIs reported that most residents in the settlement have a stable income.

Top three reported primary income sources in the 30 days prior to data collection, by % of assessed settlements:9,11



Casual unskilled labour 82% Unskilled agricultural labour 82% Smallholder agriculture/livestock 31%

Cash/voucher distributions were reported by KIs in 0% of assessed settlements over the last 30 days prior to data collection.

PROTECTION

Freedom of movement



In 100% of assessed settlements, KIs reported that all residents were able to leave the assessed settlement for a medical emergency without disclosing the medical reason at the time of data collection. In 100% of assessed settlements, KIs reported that all residents could leave for nonemergency reasons.

Proportion of assessed settlements with KIs reporting on whether residents experienced barriers when leaving the assessed settlement in the two weeks prior to data collection:



Most commonly reported barriers to movement in assessed settlements:9

 Transportation options available but too expensive (61%)

Insufficient transportation (46%)

Older persons and persons with disabilities

At the time of data collection, in 0% of assessed settlements, KIs reported interventions targeting elderly populations and in 0% KIs reported interventions for persons with disabilities in their settlements.

Safety and Security issues

In 45% of assessed settlements, KIs reported safety and security issues in the camp over the 30 days prior to data collection.

- Most commonly reported security issues in assessed settlements:9 • Serious threat from scorpions, snakes or similar (53%)
- Theft (34%)

Documentation



In 4% of assessed settlements, KIs reported that noone in their settlement has their national identification, passport, family booklet and/ or individual/family civil record.

In 87% of assessed settlements, KIs reported that births are not registered in their settlement.

KIs reported that Yes - Boys (in 65% of assessed settlements) and Yes - Girls (59%) face particular challenges in accessing documentation.9

EDUCATION

Education Facilities



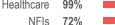
In 92% of assessed settlements. KIs reported that children in their settlement have access to education. In 85% of settlements primary schools were reported to be available and in 12% secondary schools were reported to be available.

In these settlements, education was available for the following age groups:^{9,11}

3-5 year olds in	0%	of these settlements.
6-11 year olds in	100%	of these settlements.
12-14 year olds in	27%	of these settlements.
15-17 year olds in	1%	of these settlements.

Top three reported expense types by % of assessed settlements:9

Food	100%
Haalthaara	000/



Coping strategies

Top three reported livelihoods-related coping strategies over the last 30 days prior to data collection, by % of assessed settlements:9

> Borrowing money Support from friends / relatives Reducing spending on NFIs

> > 7%

100%	
42%	
33%	

Child protection

Proportion of assessed settlements with KIs reporting the presence of child protection issues over the 30 days prior to data collection:



Most commonly reported child protection concerns in assessed settlements:9

- Child labour (94%)
- Early marriage (below 18 years old) (25%)

In assessed settlements with child labour reported, most commonly reported types of child labour by gender were:9,11

Boys (100%)

Agriculture (72%) Livestock rearing (52%) Selling goods (42%)

Girls (99%)

Agriculture (74%) Domestic labour (71%) Livestock rearing (28%)

In 70% of assessed settlements, KIs reported that they were aware of child labour occuring among children under the age of 11, most commonly reporting Domestic labour (50% of these assessed settlements) and Agriculture (32%).9,11

In 5% of assessed settlements, KIs reported that their settlement had an accessible child-friendly space.

Gender-based violence

In 100% of assessed settlements, KIs reported that their settlement had an accessible designated space for women and girls.

Proportion of settlements with Kls reporting the presence of gender-based concerns within the settlement in the two weeks prior to data collection:



Most commonly reported gender-based concerns were:9

29% 71%

• Early marriage (girls below 18 years old) (27%) · Denial of resources, opportunities, or services (15%)

Social cohesion

In 81% of assessed settlements, KIs reported that the social relationship between different community groups in their area was neutral, in 18% of cases it was positive.

Barriers to education

In 100% of settlements. KIs reported barriers to education. The most commonly reported barriers were:9

- Schools closed/educational services suspended due to summer holiday (91%)
- Education is not considered important (20%)
- The child has to work (19%)

