

Idleb Governorate, February 2018

Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

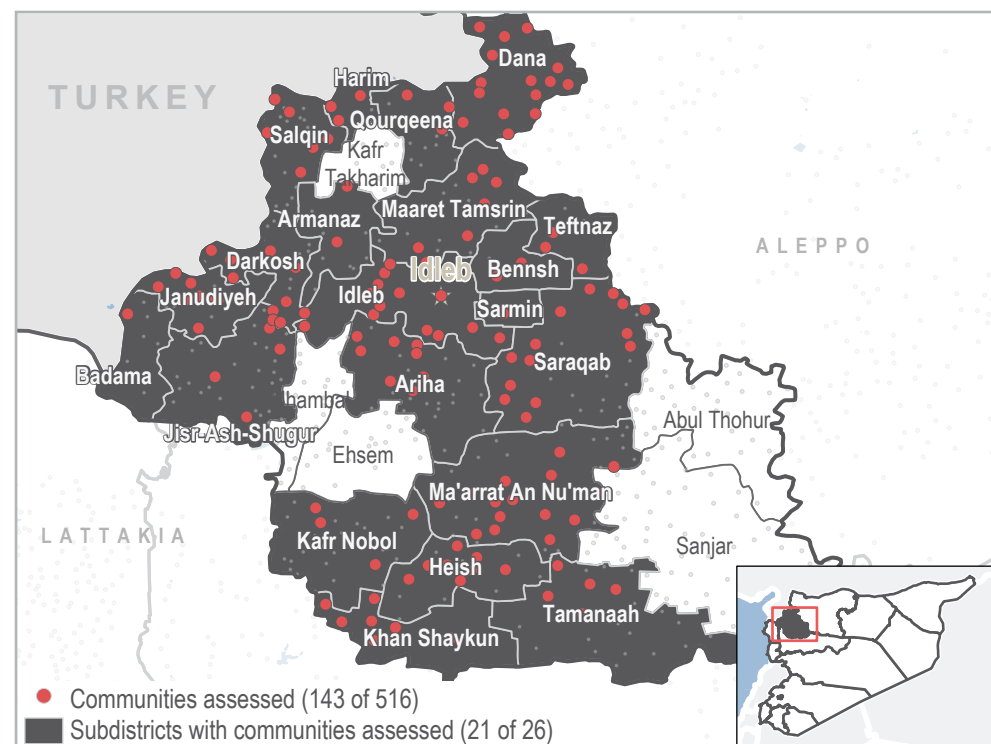
OVERALL FINDINGS¹

Idleb Governorate, situated in northwest Syria, hosts one of the largest IDP populations in the country. Of the 134 assessed communities, **17**, located primarily in Al Ma'ra district, reported that pre-conflict populations left their communities in February due to an escalation in conflict. In February, **132** communities reported hosting IDPs – between **526,290 - 570,525** in total. New IDP arrivals were reported in **28** of the assessed communities. Spontaneous IDP returns were reported in **three** communities (Afs, Khan Elsobol and Salamin) in Saraqab sub-district². Key Informants (KIs) in all **three** communities cited a perceived cessation of hostilities as a reason why IDPs returned. No spontaneous refugee returnees were reported in February. All communities in which members of the pre-conflict population remained reported that original populations most commonly lived in independent apartments and houses, and **over half** of them reported that independent houses or apartments were the most common type of shelter lived in by IDPs. Of the remaining communities, **48** stated that IDPs most commonly lived in shared apartments or houses while **two** of the assessed communities, Thaheriya and Dqali, stated that IDPs most commonly lived in tents.

The majority of assessed communities reported that generators and batteries were their main source of electricity in February. Additionally, **13** communities, all of which are located in Al Ma'ra district, reported that their main source of electricity was the network. In Ariha and Jisr-Ash-Shugur districts, **five** of the assessed communities reported solar power as their main source. **Nearly half** of the assessed communities stated that they experienced no lack of fuel. The main coping strategies to deal with insufficient fuel in the remaining **65** communities were burning plastic, burning furniture in use and burning clothing. Of the assessed communities, **91** reported no difficulties in accessing healthcare services, while **37** reported that there were no healthcare facilities available in the area. In **all but one** of the assessed communities, women reportedly gave birth in a medical facility, either at a hospital or primary care facility in their community or a neighboring community. Water trucking was the most common source of drinking water reported across assessed communities in February, and **all** communities reported that water was fine to drink. Of these communities, **100** reported having a sufficient amount of water to meet household needs. Where insufficient amounts of water were reported, commonly used coping strategies included modifying hygiene practices and spending money on water usually budgeted for other items.

Residents in the majority of assessed communities were reportedly able to purchase food at shops and markets, and **89** of these communities reported that they faced no challenges in accessing sufficient amounts of food in February. Where challenges to accessing food were reported, the most commonly cited barriers were a lack of resources to purchase food as well as a lack of access to markets. Additionally, **109** of the assessed communities reported that unstable employment was a common source of income for residents in their community, and **132** communities reported that the average monthly household income was less than 100,000 SYP. KIs in the majority of communities reported that primary and secondary schools were functioning and providing lessons in February.

Coverage



Top 3 reported priority needs

1. Healthcare
2. Food security
3. Water security

Demographics*

2,086,051 people in need

1,024,251 1,061,800

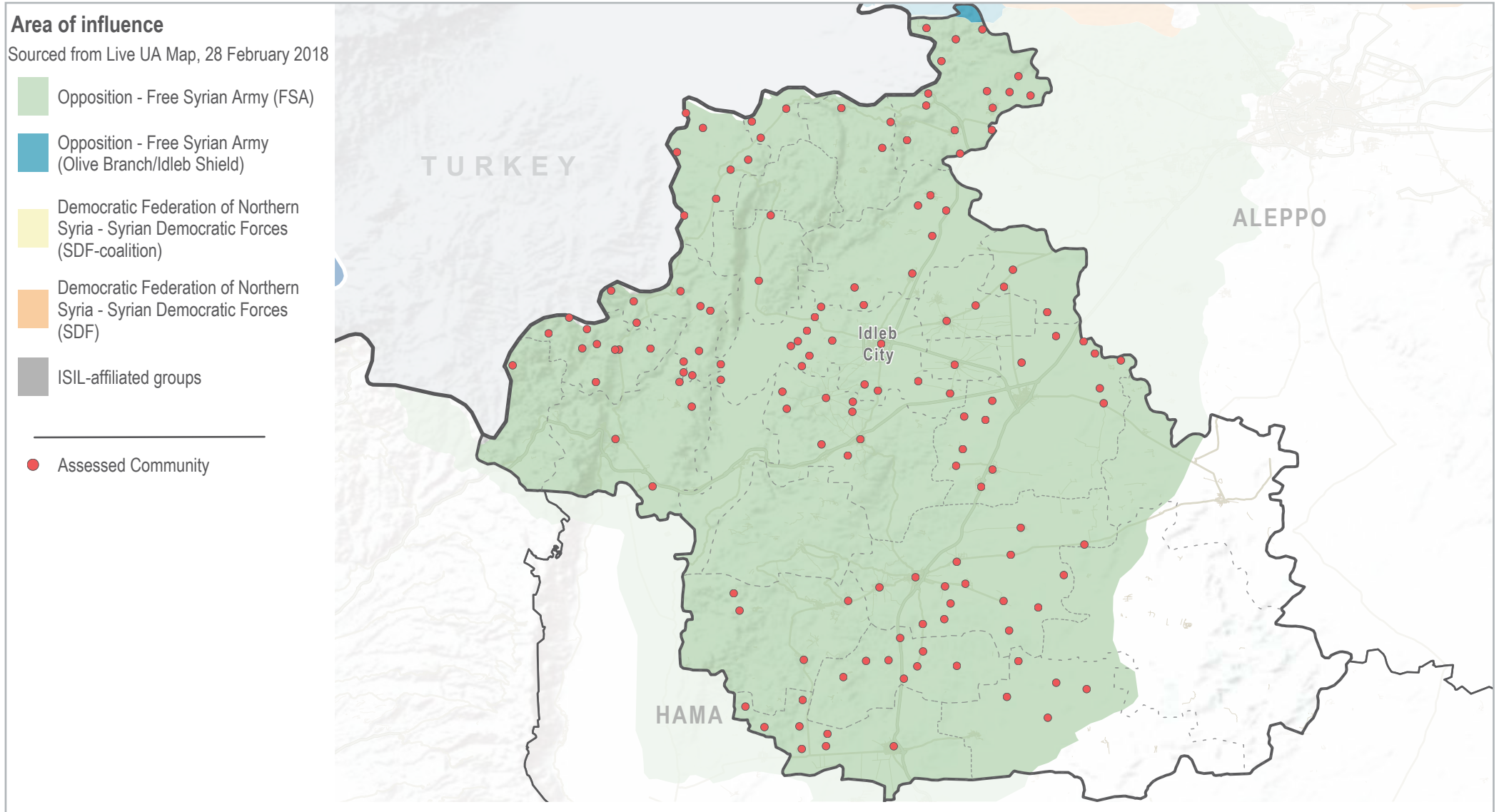
* Figures based on HNO 2018 population data for the entire governorate.

KEY EVENTS

Forces advance into southern Idleb, escalating conflict in the governorate ³ .	An estimated 100,000 displaced by offensive in southern Idleb ⁴ .	Areas in southern Idleb become inaccessible to humanitarian actors due to ongoing hostilities ⁵ .	Regime forces take control of Abu Al-Thohur airbase ⁶ .	Owdai hospital in Saraqab City damaged by airstrikes ⁷ .	The group known as the Islamic State of Syria and the Levant (ISIL) is ousted from Idleb ⁸ .
Mid December 2017	Early-mid January 2018	Early-mid January 2018	20 January 2018	29 January 2018	13 February 2018

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Governorate areas of influence:



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DISPLACEMENT

8,308 - 9,781 Estimated number of IDP arrivals in assessed communities in February.

6,000 - 7,500 Estimated number of spontaneous returns in assessed communities in February².

Communities with the largest estimated number of IDP arrivals:

Qminas	1,900 - 1,925
Ein Shib	1,100 - 1,200
Arshani	1,100 - 1,200

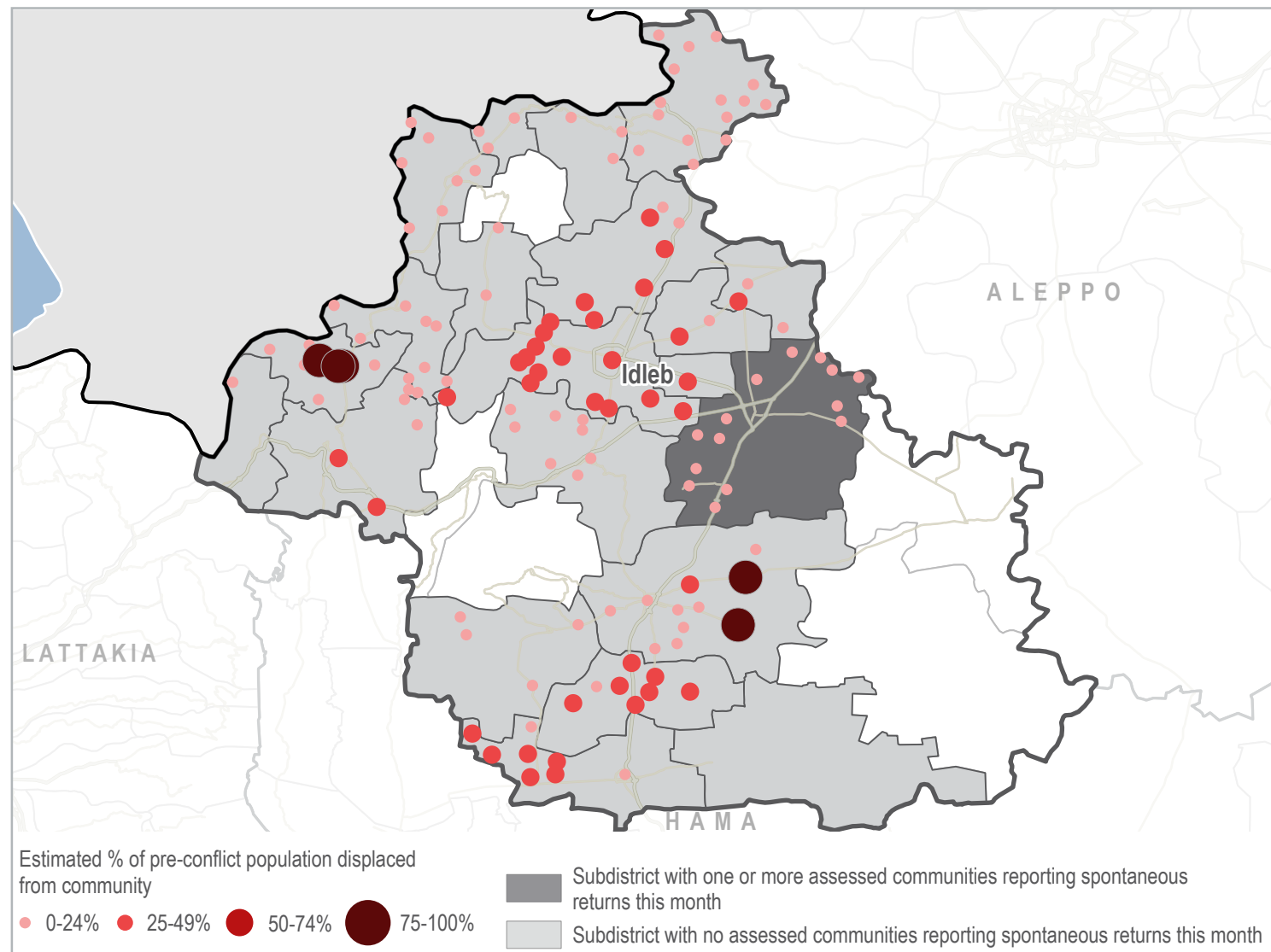
Top 3 subdistricts of origin of most IDPs arrivals^{3,4}:

Abul Thohur (Idleb)	25%
Sanjar (Idleb)	25%
Saraqab (Idleb)	18%

125 communities reported no PCP departures. Top 3 reasons for PCP displacement in the remaining **18** assessed communities^{3,4}:

Escalation of conflict	94%
Loss of assets	17%
Loss of income	6%

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



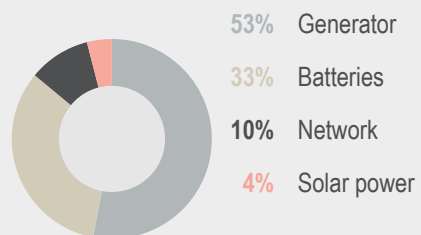
³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

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SHELTER AND NFI

Primary source of electricity reported:⁴



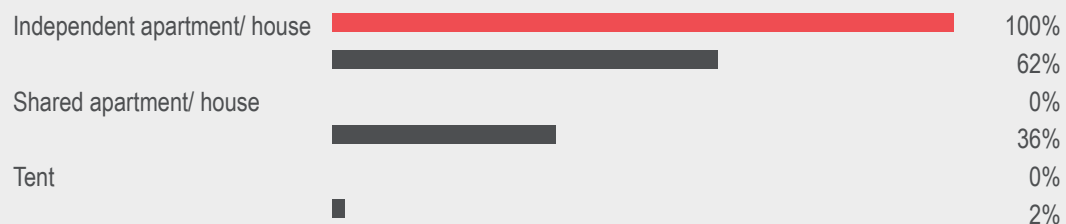
69 communities reported no lack of fuel. Most common strategies to cope with a lack of fuel in the remaining 65 assessed communities^{3,4}:



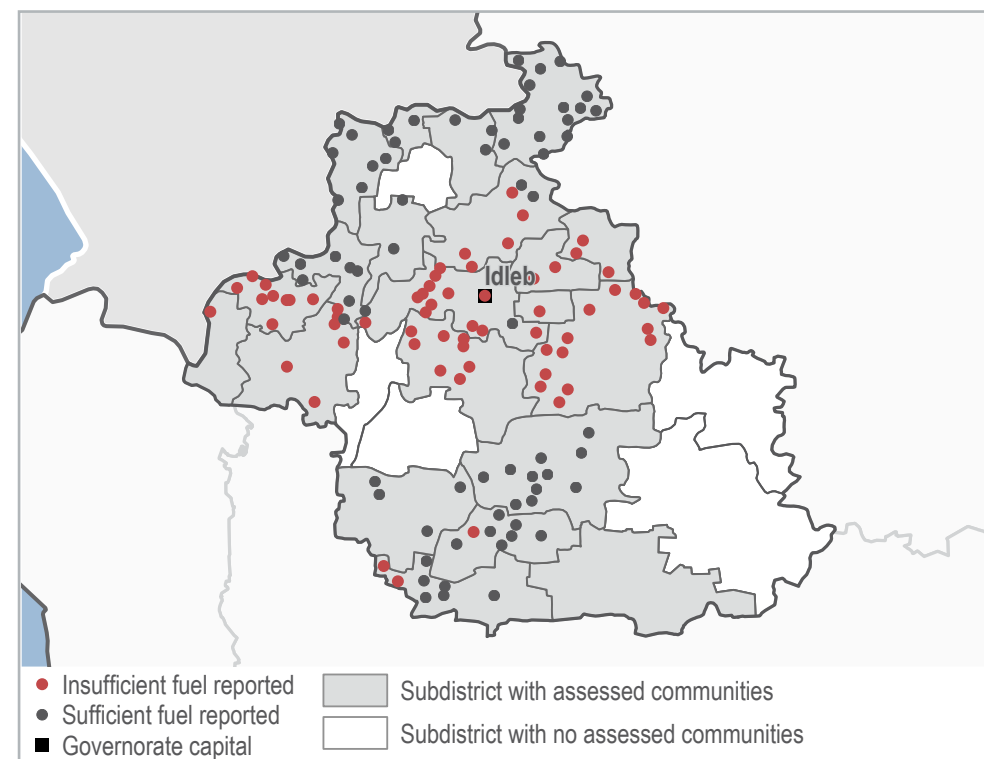
5,625 SYP Governorate average reported rent price in Syrian Pounds (SYP) across assessed communities.⁵

6,319 SYP Syrian average reported rent price in SYP across assessed communities.⁵

Most commonly reported shelter type for PCP (in red) and IDP (in grey) households⁴:



Fuel sufficiency:



Reported fuel prices (in SYP)⁵:

Fuel type:	Governorate average price in February:	Governorate average price in January:	Syrian average price in February:
Coal (1 kilogram)	188	176	345
Diesel (1 litre)	447	315	321
Butane (1 canister)	10,756	7,245	6,997
Firewood (1 tonne)	64,186	64,790	64,533

³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

⁵ 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 March 2018)

HEALTH

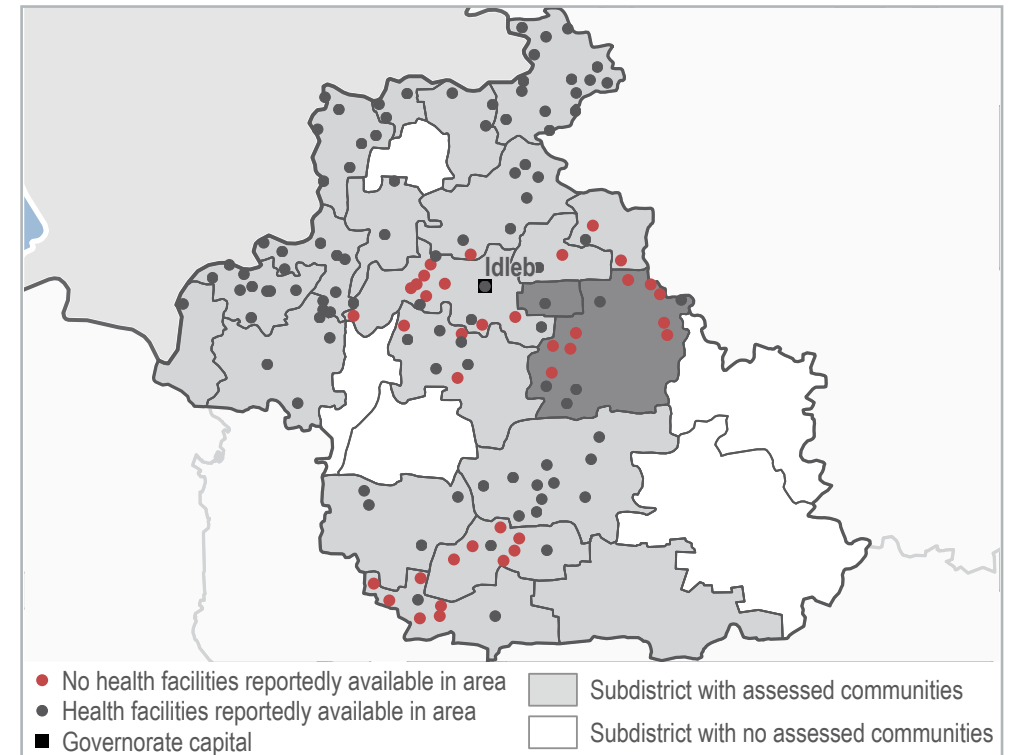
- 7 Communities reported that no assessed medical items were available in their community.
- 1 Community reported that the majority of women did not have access to formal health facilities to give birth.

91 communities reported that residents experienced no barriers to accessing healthcare services. The barriers in the remaining 43 assessed communities were^{3,4}:

No health facilities available in the area	<div style="width: 86%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	86%
High cost of transportation to facilities	<div style="width: 42%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	42%
Lack of transportation to facilities	<div style="width: 35%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	35%
Security concerns when traveling to facilities	<div style="width: 7%; height: 10px; background-color: red;"></div>	7%

134 communities reported that residents were not using coping strategies to deal with a lack of medical supplies^{3,4}.

Presence of health facilities in assessed communities:



Top 3 most needed healthcare services reported^{3,4}:

Antenatal care	47%
Medicine	36%
Assistive devices	34%

Top 3 most common health problems reported^{3,4}:

Severe diseases affecting those younger than 5	62%
Acute respiratory infections	50%
Pregnancy related diseases	44%

³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.



- 0 Communities reported that water from their primary source tasted and/or smelled bad.
- 0 Communities reported that drinking water from their primary source made people sick.

112 communities reported that residents had no problems with latrines. The most prevalent problems with latrines in the remaining 22 assessed communities were^{3,4}:

Inability to empty septic tanks 100%

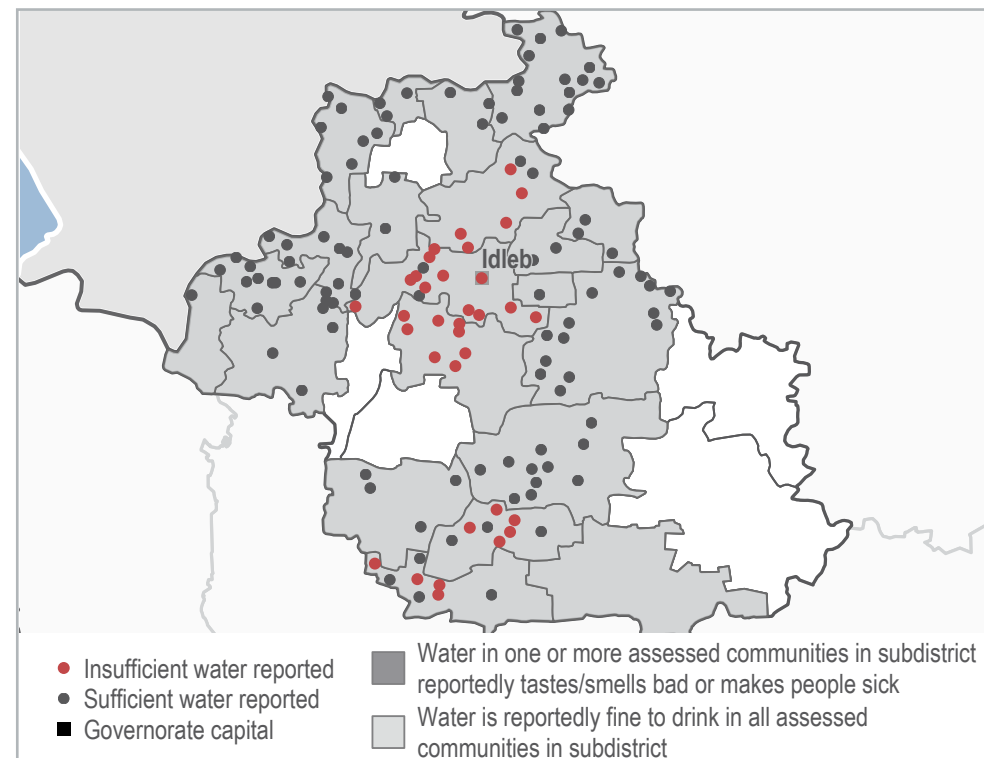
100 communities reported that they had sufficient amounts of water to meet household needs. The most common coping strategies to deal with a lack of water in the remaining 34 assessed communities were^{3,4}:

Modify hygiene practices 76%

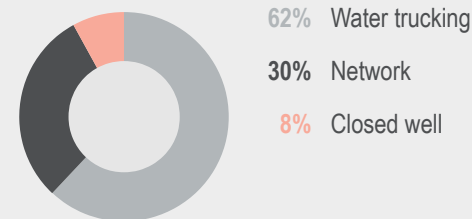
Spend money usually spent on other things to buy water 50%

Receive water on credit/ borrow water or money for water 12%

Water sufficiency for household needs:



Primary drinking water source reported⁴:



Top 3 reported methods of garbage disposal^{3,4}:

Private paid collection	35%
Public free collection	34%
Disposed at designated site	18%

³ Multiple choices allowed.

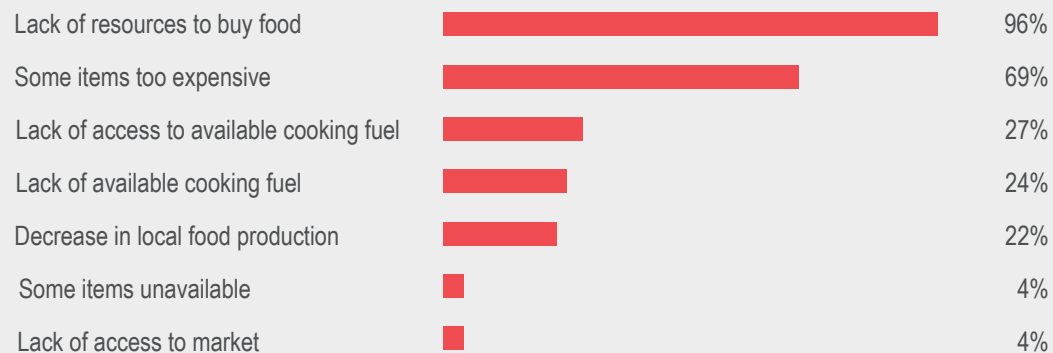
⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

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FOOD SECURITY

- 5** Communities reported not having received a food distribution in the last 12 months.
- 0** Communities reported that residents were unable to purchase food at shops and markets.

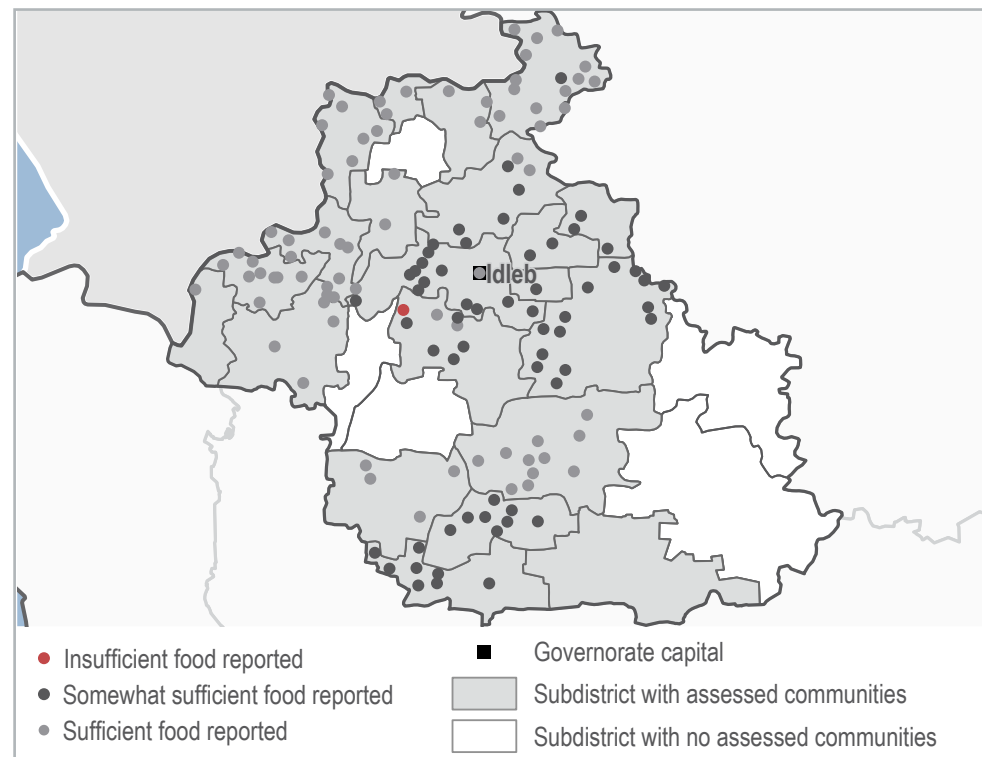
89 communities reported that residents experienced no challenges in accessing food. The most common difficulties experienced in the remaining **45** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



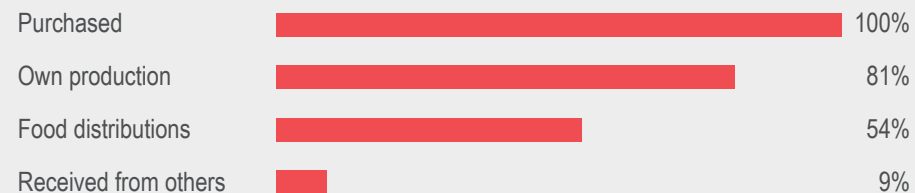
Core food item prices reported (in SYP)⁵:

Food item:	Governorate average price in February:	Governorate average price in January:	Syrian average price in February:
Bread public bakery (1 loaf)	144	140	117
Rice (1 kilogram)	392	395	466
Lentils (1 kilogram)	373	370	351
Sugar (1 kilogram)	325	346	315
Cooking oil (1 litre)	552	565	584

Food sufficiency:



Most common ways of obtaining food reported^{3,4}:



³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

⁵ 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 March 2018)

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LIVELIHOODS

Less than 50,000 SYP Most commonly reported household income range⁵.

26,414 SYP Governorate average food basket price^{5,6}.

0 Communities reported that residents used extreme food-based coping strategies to deal with insufficient income⁷.

16 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 **118** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



Most commonly reported main sources of income^{3,4}:



³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

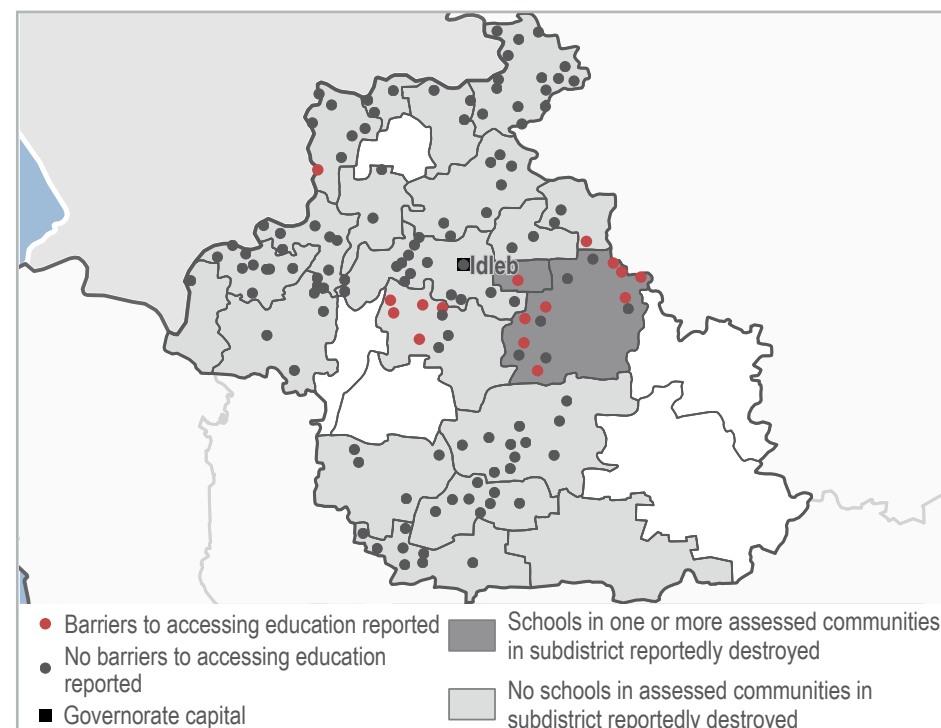
⁵ 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 March 2018)

⁶ Calculation of the average price of a food basket is based on the World Food Programme's standard basket of dry goods. The food basket includes 37 kg of bread, 19 kg of rice, 19 kg of lentils, 5 kg of sugar, and 7 kg of vegetable oil, and provides 1,930 kcal a day for a family of five for a month.

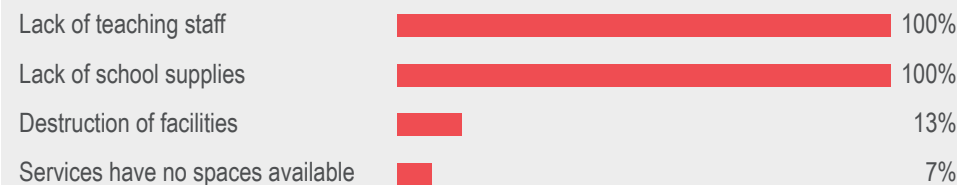
⁷ Extreme food-based strategies: Eating food waste; eating non-edible plants and spending days without eating.

EDUCATION

Barriers to accessing education services:



119 communities reported that most children were able to access education. The most commonly reported barriers to education in the remaining **15** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



METHODOLOGY

The HSOS project, formerly known as the AoO (Area of Origin) project, is a monthly assessment that aims to provide comprehensive, multi-sectoral information about the humanitarian situation inside Syria. This factsheet presents information gathered in 143 communities in March 2018, referring to the situation in Idleb Governorate in February 2018. It presents key indicators, rather than the entire range of indicators gathered in the HSOS questionnaire. For community-level data on assessed subdistricts in Al Hasakeh, Dar'a, Idleb, Rural Damascus and Quneitra, please refer to the monthly subdistrict factsheets, available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#). The complete HSOS dataset is disseminated monthly via the REACH Syria mailing list.

Wherever possible, information was collected through an enumerator network. REACH enumerators are based inside Syria and interview Key Informants (KIs) directly in the community they report about. Where access and security constraints rendered direct data collection unfeasible, KI interviews were conducted indirectly through participants identified in camps and settlements in neighbouring countries by REACH field teams. Participants contact KIs in their community in Syria to collect information about their community. KIs were asked to report at the community level.

A minimum of three KIs were interviewed per community to enhance data accuracy. 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 disagreed on a certain piece of information, enumerators triangulated the data with secondary sources or selected the response provided by the KI with the more relevant sector-specific background. For each question asked, confidence levels were 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 were triangulated through secondary sources, including news monitoring and humanitarian reports. Where necessary, follow-up was conducted with enumerators and participants. Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalised across the governorate.

ENDNOTES

¹ 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 governorate.

² Returns are not necessarily voluntary, safe, or sustainable.

³ Edelman, Ibrahim and Al-Masalma (20 December 2017). Government forces advance inside rebel-held Idlib province. Syria Direct. Retrieved from <http://syriadirect.org>.

⁴ BBC (10 January 2018). Syria war: Assault on rebel stronghold of Idlib 'displaces 100,000'. Retrieved from <http://www.bbc.com>.

⁵ UNHCR (18 January 2018). Syria: Flash update on recent events - 18 January 2018. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

⁶ Assistance Coordination Unit (15 February 2018). Displacement waves from rural Idleb, Aleppo and Hama - Situation Report, Issue: 02 - February 2018. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

⁷ MSF (29 January 2018). Syria: MSF-supported hospital in Idlib closed after damage from airstrikes. Retrieved from <http://www.msf.org>.

⁸ The Straits Times (13 February 2018). Syria's Idlib ISIS-free after 'surrender': Spokesman, monitor. Retrieved from <http://www.straitstimes.com>.

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.