Multi-sectoral needs analysis in Areas of Return

September 2023 | Northwest Syria

KEY MESSAGES

- **Food was reported as a priority need** in the assessed locations **by more than half of the KIs**. It was also reported as the **most common need for IDPs** in every assessed sub-districts.

- **Shelters remain in poor condition** in most assessed locations. KIs interviewed in **August 2023** reported that **almost one in four shelters was seriously damaged in the Jandairis and Salqin sub-districts**.[4]

- **Economic conditions are particularly complicated for IDPs in the Salqin sub-district**, where all KIs interviewed in August 2023 reported that income did not cover cost of living.

- **Access to electricity is particularly low** in the assessed locations, where most KIs reported **high price** of electricity as the main barrier.

71%

of KIs reported **tents as a common shelter type for IDPs** in the assessed locations

80%

of KIs reported that i**ncome did not cover costs of living for IDPs** since March 2023

Coverage map

This analysis focuses on 72 communities in 3 assessed sub-districts

CONTEXT & RATIONALE

On 6 February 2023, two major earthquakes hit southern Türkiye, close to the Syrian border, with respective magnitudes of 7.7 and 7.6, causing more than 50,000 deaths. Their impacts were also felt in Northwest Syria (NWS), causing the displacement of more than 70,000 individuals, and exacerbating needs for humanitarian support.[1]

More than 6 months after the earthquakes, the movements of populations displaced by the earthquakes back to their previous area of living remain quite limited, and the needs in these locations are largely under-documented. This assessment thus provides humanitarian actors with an overview of the needs and living conditions in Jandairis, Afrin and Salqin sub-districts, which constitute main areas of post-earthquake departures.[2]

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

The assessment aims to improve knowledge on the current situation and needs in areas of post-earthquake departures and on potential challenges preventing returns of both residents and IDPs to the areas where they were living before the earthquake, with a view to help identifying sectors to prioritize.

METHODOLOGY:
This assessment builds on data collected during five rounds[3] of the Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS) project. It presents results for 72 communities in the Jandairis, Afrin and Salqin sub-districts, as well as the average in NWS as a baseline. As described in the "Methodology Overview" section, data was collected on a monthly basis by REACH and partners using a Key Informant (KI) methodology at community level.

PRIORITY NEEDS

59%
of KIs reported Food as a priority need in the assessed communities [1]

Evolution of the main priority needs of both IDPs and Residents reported in the assessed locations since March 2023
(by % of assessed communities)

Food — 52%
Livelihoods — 48%
Health — 47%
Shelter — 29%

March April June July August
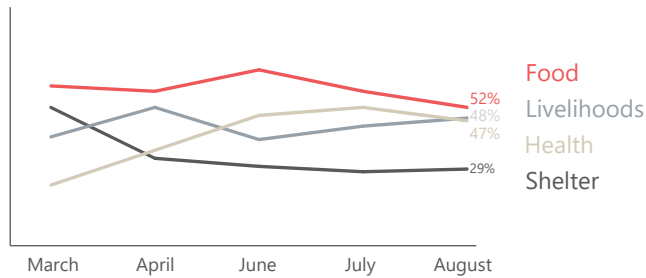
Top priority needs in each of the assessed sub-districts
(for all assessed communities)

	IDPs	Residents
Afrin	🍲 Food	🍲 Food
Jandairis	🍲 Food	💲 Health
Salqin	🍲 Food	🚰 WASH

Key Findings
- **Food** was reported as the **top priority need for IDPs** in **all the assessed sub-districts.**
- **Livelihood** was reported as a **priority need for both IDPs and Residents** by **45%** of KIs in **assessed locations**, against 60% across Northwest Syria (NWS).
- **Shelter** was reported as a **priority need** for **IDPs and Residents** by **29%** of KIs interviewed in **August 2023**, against 55% in March.

Most commonly reported priority needs
(by % of assessed communities)[2]

🏃→ IDPs

		NWS average
Food	**63%**	*58%*
Shelter	**45%**	*46%*
Livelihood	**44%**	*59%*

🚶↓ Residents

		NWS average
Food	**55%**	*52%*
Livelihood	**46%**	*62%*
WASH	**43%**	*50%*

Key Findings
- KIs reported that **50% of communities** that had access to humanitarian assistance received **Food and Nutrition support**, against 58% across NWS
- In the **Afrin** sub-district, **15% of KIs interviewed in August 2023** reported that households had **access to humanitarian assistance**, against 59% across NWS.

Access to humanitarian assistance for IDPs and residents in assessed locations since March 2023

(by % of assessed communities)

100%

NWS Average — 59%
Jandairis — 45%
Salqin
Afrin — 15%

March April June July August
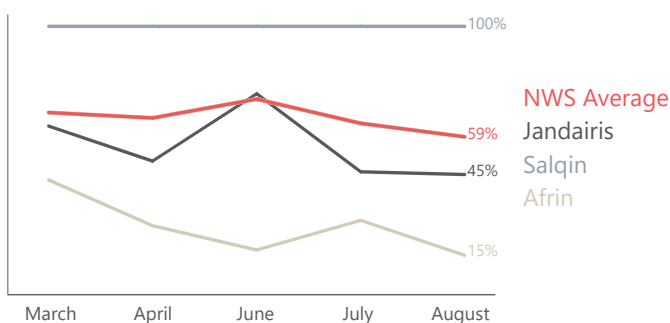
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

68%
of KIs in communities where humanitarian assistance was accessible reported that assistance provided was not enough to cover all people in need

Types of humanitarian assistance provided
(by % of assessed communities where households had access to humanitarian assistance)

		NWS average
Food and Nutrition	**50%**	*58%*
Cash assistance (vouchers or cash in hand)	**39%**	*33%*
Health	**34%**	*41%*

Most commonly reported challenges in accessing humanitarian assistance for IDPs and Residents
(by % of assessed communities where households had access to humanitarian assistance)

🏃→ IDPs		🚶↓ Residents
65%	Assistance provided was not enough to cover all people in need	70%
53%	Quantity of assistance provided was not enough	57%
30%	Some people did not comply with the eligibility criteria	33%

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

76%
of KIs reported that income does not cover costs of living for IDPs and residents in the assessed locations

Average daily wage for unskilled labour for both IDPs and residents in the assessed locations since March 2023

(In Turkish Lira)

83 TL — NWS Average
74 TL — Jandairis
69 TL — Salqin
60 TL — Afrin

March   April   June   July   August
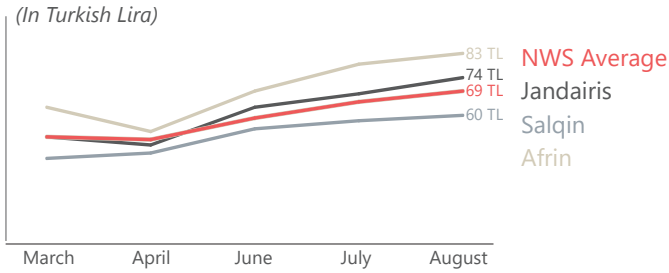
Priority livelihood needs in assessed locations
(by % of assessed communities)

🏃→ IDPs		Residents 🧍↓	
65%	Access to livelihood programmes	59%	
52%	Tools and equipment for production	61%	
37%	Access to credit	41%	
37%	Regularity in receiving income from work	30%	

Most commonly reported barriers to accessing livelihoods in the assessed locations
(by % of assessed communities)

🏃→ IDPs   *NWS average*

Income does not cover cost of living	**80%**	*82%*
General lack of employment opportunities	**69%**	*71%*
Lack of employment opportunities that match people's skills	**41%**	*44%*

🧍↓ Residents

Income does not cover cost of living	**72%**	*77%*
General lack of employment opportunities	**66%**	*70%*
Lack of employment opportunities that match people's skills	**38%**	*45%*

🏠 Most common shelter types
(by % of assessed communities)

🏃→ IDPs		Residents 🧍↓	
85%	Solid finished houses	87%	
71%	Tents	3%	
38%	Unfinished or abandoned residential buildings	28%	

⊗🏠 Evolution of the proportion of shelters with serious damage
(by % of shelters destroyed or with major/severe damages in all assessed locations)

26% — NWS Average / Jandairis
22% — Salqin
11% — Afrin
10%

March   April   June   July   August
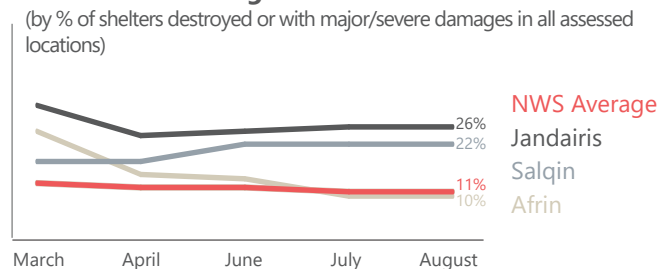
LIVING CONDITIONS

26%
of shelters in the Jandairis sub-district remained seriously damaged in August 2023

💧 Reported sanitation issues in the assessed locations
(by % of assessed communities)   *NWS average*

Unsafe soak pit	**56%**	*62%*
Sewage network does not reach all households	**33%**	*32%*
Sewage network need repair and cleaning	**28%**	*30%*

🍲 Most common sources of food for households other than markets
(by % of assessed communities)   *NWS average*

Own production and farming	**50%**	*59%*
Relying on food stored previously	**36%**	*29%*
Food gifts from friends and family	**17%**	*13%*
Assistance from local councils, NGOs and other groups	**15%**	*18%*

ACCESS TO SERVICES

36%
of households in assessed communities had in average less than 6 hours of electricity per day
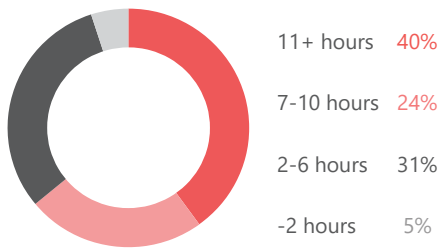
Key Findings
- KIs reported that **48%** of households had in average **less than 6 hours** of electricity per day in **Afrin**, against 16% across NWS.
- **High prices** were considered as the main **barrier to accessing electricity**, with **64%** KIs reporting high prices of **solar panels**, **54%** for **batteries** and **24%** for **fuel**.
- **68%** of KIs interviewed in **August 2023** reported that households were able to **access food markets** in assessed locations, against 81% in March.

Infrastructures

Most common infrastructure needs
(by % of assessed communities)

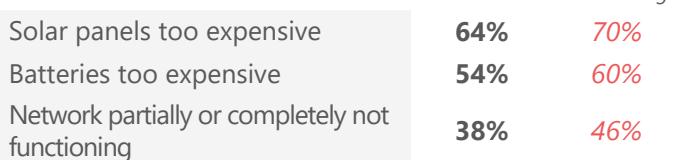|	IDPs		Residents
	72%	Repair to roads	68%
	49%	Repair or expand main electrical networks in communities	46%
	34%	Additional lighting in communities	34%

Access to Electricity

Average daily number of hours with access to electricity
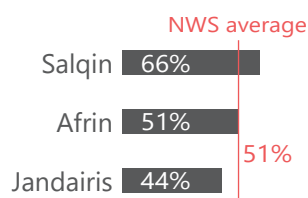
(for households in all assessed communities)

11+ hours	40%
7-10 hours	24%
2-6 hours	31%
-2 hours	5%

Barriers to accessing electricity
(by % of communities)

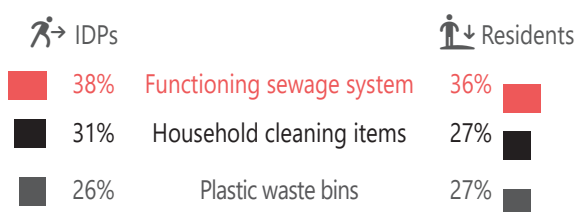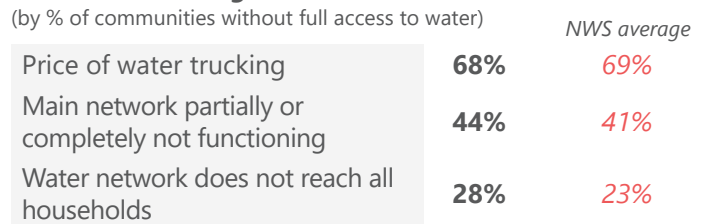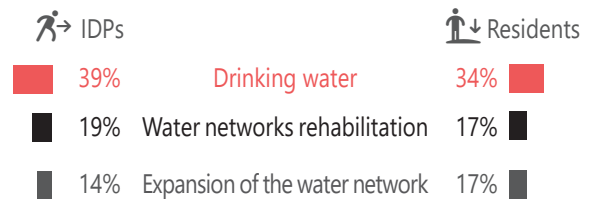|		NWS average
Solar panels too expensive	64%	70%
Batteries too expensive	54%	60%
Network partially or completely not functioning	38%	46%

Access to Sanitation and Hygiene

Proportion of communities connected to a sewage system

(by % of assessed communities)

NWS average

Salqin	66%
Afrin	51%
Jandairis	44%

51%

Most common sanitation needs
(by % of assessed communities)

	IDPs		Residents
	38%	Functioning sewage system	36%
	31%	Household cleaning items	27%
	26%	Plastic waste bins	27%

Access to Water

50%
of KIs reported that all households had sufficient access to water in assessed locations, against 48% across NWS

Barriers to accessing sufficient water
(by % of communities without full access to water)

		NWS average
Price of water trucking	68%	69%
Main network partially or completely not functioning	44%	41%
Water network does not reach all households	28%	23%

Most common needs related to access to water
(by % of assessed communities)

	IDPs		Residents
	39%	Drinking water	34%
	19%	Water networks rehabilitation	17%
	14%	Expansion of the water network	17%

Access to Markets

Proportion of communities were households had access to food markets
(by % of assessed communities)

NWS average

Salqin	100%
Jandairis	71%
Afrin	59%

79%
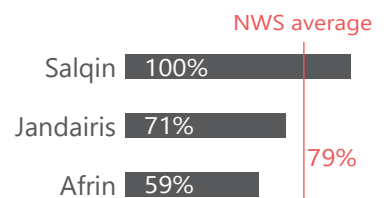
People lack financial means to open shop/market

Was the most commonly reported **reason for why markets were not functioning**

(reported by KIs in 76% of assessed communities where markets were not functioning)

Barriers to physically access food markets
(by % of assessed communities)

		NWS average
Transportation costs	62%	66%
Lack of transportation to markets (public or private)	56%	61%
Lack of access for persons with restricted mobility	39%	30%

NGO FORUM Northwest Syria

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

Access to Education[1]

35% of KIs reported that **more than 75% of both IDP and Resident children had access to education services** in assessed locations, against 42% across NWS
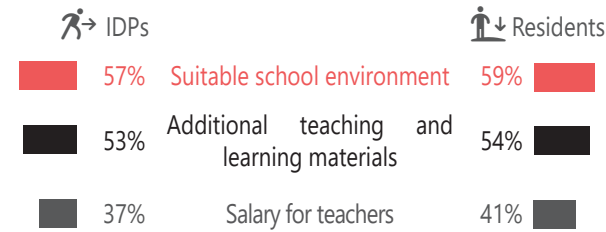
Barriers preventing **access to education**
(by % of assessed communities where not all school-aged children could access education, for both IDP and resident children)

		NWS average
Families cannot afford to prioritize school and children must work	**69%**	*68%*
High cost of transportation to school	**68%**	*64%*
Lack of transportation to school	**47%**	*53%*

Most common **education needs**
(by % of assessed communities where school-aged children could access education, for both IDP and Resident children)

IDPs		Residents
57%	Suitable school environment	59%
53%	Additional teaching and learning materials	54%
37%	Salary for teachers	41%

Access to Health Services

54% of KIs reported that households were able to **access health services** in the assessed locations, against 49% across NWS

Barriers to **healthcare access**
(by % of assessed communities)

		NWS average
High cost of transportation to health facilities	**64%**	*68%*
Lack of transportation to health facilities	**53%**	*58%*
Health facilities not easily accessible for people who have difficulties moving/seeing/hearing	**31%**	*24%*

SECURITY, SAFETY AND PROTECTION

28% of KIs reported that shelters for Residents were unsafe

Key Findings
- In August 2023, **90% of KIs in Salqin** and **83% in Afrin** reported **high temperatures inside IDP shelters** as a common inadequacy rendering them unsafe.
- **48% of KIs interviewed in August 2023 reported fear of hazards** as a main protection risk for both residents and IDPs, against 61% of KIs in March.

Most common inadequacies making **IDP and Resident shelters unsafe**
(by % of assessed communities)

		NWS average
Lack of lighting around shelters	**62%**	*58%*
Shelters have minor damages	**38%**	*37%*
High temperatures in shelters	**35%**	*34%*

Main **protection risks** faced by IDPs and Residents
(by % of assessed communities)

IDPs		Residents
50%	Fear of hazards	49%
49%	Child labour	45%
41%	Lack or loss of civil documentation	36%

Evolution of reported **safety and security concerns at markets** in assessed locations
(by % of KIs that reported safety and security concerns at markets as a barrier to physically access food markets)

NWS Average
Jandairis
Salqin
Afrin

21%
5%
0%
0%

March   April   June   July   August
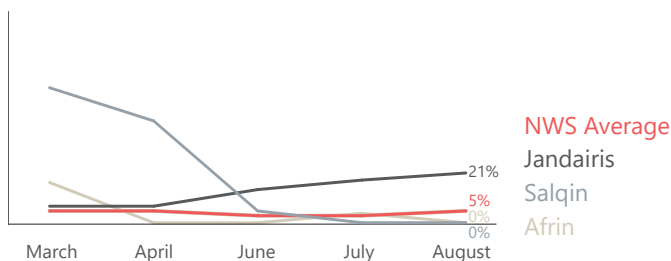
METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

This research project uses data collected as part of several rounds of the Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS) project. The data was collected on a monthly basis by REACH and partners using a Key Informant (KI) methodology. Each round, enumerators interviewed three to six key informants in every assessed location and submitted one form per community, using a survey tool coded in Kobo (Open Data (ODK) compliant platform).

The HSOS initiative aims to provide multi-sectoral information on the needs and humanitarian conditions in NWS. It covers a wide range of sectors and indicators, notably linked to Demographics, Shelter, Electricity & Non-food Items (NFIs), Food Security, Livelihoods, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Health, Education, Protection, Accountability and Humanitarian Assistance, Priority Needs.

This analysis presents results related to the main multisectoral needs and challenges for both resident and IDP populations in areas that noticed highest levels of post-February 2023 earthquakes, where returns remain low. Namely, this analysis focuses on the Jandairis, Salqin and Afrin sub-districts, which were selected based on the main findings from REACH NWS - Post-Earthquake Returns Analysis, which analyzed trends of returns in NWS following the earthquakes.

To ensure comparability across different rounds of data collection, this research project disregards data from rounds that do not cover Northern Aleppo (May 2023), and focuses on communities that were assessed in 5 rounds of HSOS data (March, April, June, July, August 2023). Once cleaned, the data was aggregated and analyzed at the appropriate geographic coverage (i.e. 72 communities across the Jandairis, Salqin and Afrin sub-districts) to focus on the situation and needs in areas of return across the different sectors covered by HSOS. Unless specified otherwise, findings of this analysis are presented as average values across the 5 rounds of data collection in the 3 assessed sub-districts. When relevant, this factsheet also presents results disaggregated by month (results disaggregated by month correspond to the month of data collection, which focuses on the situation during the previous month) or sub-district, and compares findings with average results across Northwest Syria.

As a result of slight changes in coverage between different rounds, notably due to changing access restrictions, this study does not include all communities in the assessed sub-districts, but covers more than half of them[1].

Another potential limitation of this analysis is related to the fact that it does not directly focus on returns. Since the data collected for this research project provides a snapshot of the living conditions and needs within the assessed locations, it does not directly investigate the motivations or intentions of displaced individuals to return to the area where they lived before the earthquake. This could be addressed through specific assessments at household level to identify conditions of return.

Finally, this analysis assesses the living conditions and needs in the main areas of post-earthquake departures, and aims at identifying specific challenges and barriers preventing returns. However, in the absence of clear data on the profiles of populations displaced by the earthquake (whether they were residents or already displaced) and their motives, it is unclear whether displaced populations are willing to return to their areas of living before being displaced as a result of the earthquake.

ENDNOTES

PAGE 1
[1] OCHA (April 28, 2023): North-West Syria Situation Report
[2] Post-earthquake displacements refer to internal displacements that occurred in the immediate aftermaths of the earthquakes in February 2023.
[3] This factsheet presents findings for communities covered in March, April, June, July and August HSOS rounds.
[4] Shelters with "serious" damage presented in this factsheet correspond to the "major damage", "severe damage" and "completely destroyed" categories reported by KIs.

PAGE 2
[1] KIs were asked to select a first, second and third main priority need for both IDPs and residents in their communities. The rankings show the needs most frequently chosen as either first, second or third main priority need.
[2] By default, findings of this analysis are presented as average values across the 5 rounds of data collection in the 3 assessed sub-districts.

PAGE 5
[1] Due to summer holidays, this factsheet only presents findings related to access to education for the months of March, April and June.

PAGE 6
[1] This analysis covers more than half of the communities in the assessed sub-districts (47% of communities in Afrin, 55% in Jandairis, 58% in Salqin).