

Dar'a Governorate, March 2018

Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

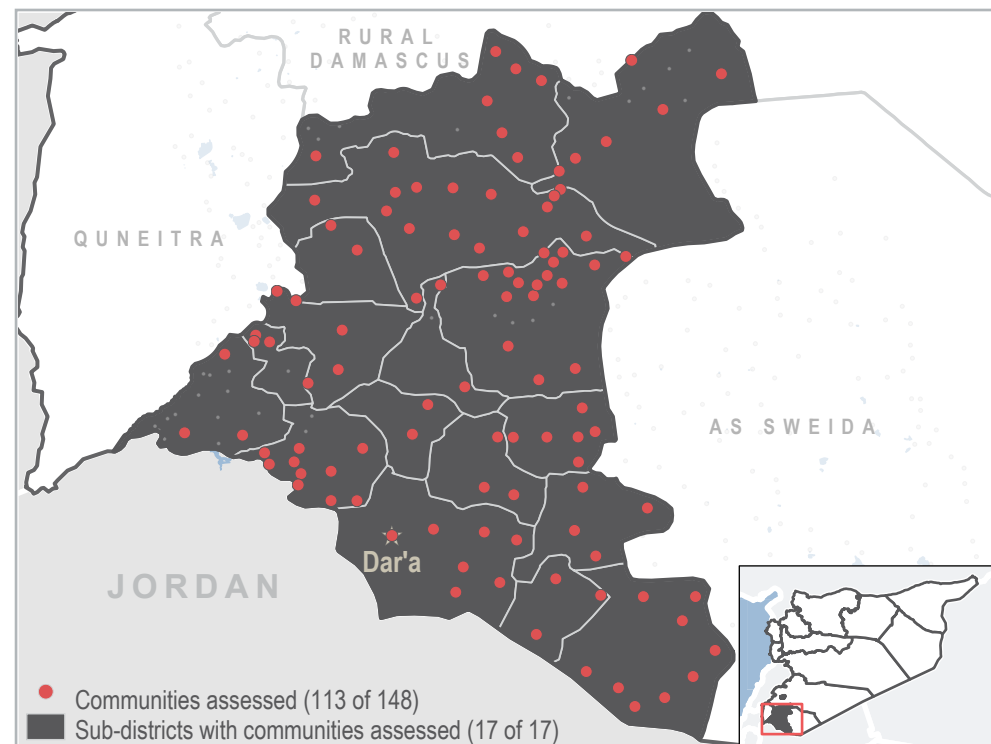
OVERALL FINDINGS¹

Dar'a governorate, located in southern Syria, is positioned between Damascus to the north, As-Sweida to the east, Quneitra to the west, and Jordan to the south. In mid-2017, heavy conflict within the governorate led to an internationally brokered ceasefire agreement between armed opposition groups (AOGs) and the Government of Syria (GoS). However, despite the ceasefire agreement remaining in effect, the governorate continues to experience conflict. In March 2018, **11** of the assessed communities, predominantly located in Izra' district, reported that members of their pre-conflict population left, primarily due to an escalation of conflict. Additionally, **8** communities reported that previous returnees left their community again, with approximately **3,800 returnee departures** reported in Izra, Sura and Ankhal communities. The most commonly cited reasons for returnees to leave included a re-escalation of conflict and a lack of access to employment. Furthermore, **69** of the assessed communities reported hosting returnees that have been displaced multiple times. Additionally, **13** communities reported spontaneous IDP and refugee returns – approximately **1,522** in total². **Eight** communities in Dar'a governorate witnessed spontaneous refugee returns from Jordan to Dar'a district. The most commonly cited reasons for return were family reunification and a perceived cessation of hostilities in the community of origin. The majority of IDP returnees were seen in six communities throughout Izra' and As-Sanamayn districts.

Key informants (KIs) reported that in most of the assessed communities, pre-conflict populations and IDPs reportedly lived in independent apartments or houses (**90%** and **74%** respectively). Additionally, of the communities assessed, **47%** reported that solar power was their primary source of electricity, and **30%** reported access to the network as their primary source. In **52** of the assessed communities, there was a reported lack of fuel and **81%** of these communities reported burning plastic as a coping strategy. Notably, **56%** of the assessed communities also reported acute respiratory infections as one of the most commonly reported health issues faced by community members in March. Additionally, **66** communities reported that residents experienced difficulties in accessing healthcare, with the most commonly reported barriers being the high cost of transportation to facilities and lack of health facilities in the area.

In **89** of the assessed communities, KIs reported that residents experienced difficulties in accessing sufficient amounts of food in March. The most commonly reported barriers were a lack of resources to buy food and the high cost of some food items. For more information on food prices, please see the [March Market Monitoring Situation Overview](#). The majority of assessed communities (**85%**) reported that unstable, daily employment was the most commonly reported source of income followed by business/trade. However, **108** of the communities reported not having enough income to cover household needs. The most commonly reported coping strategies were borrowing money from family and friends (**86%**) and some children being sent to work or beg (**57%**). Furthermore, **22** of the assessed communities reported that children faced additional barriers to education, most commonly due to a lack of teaching staff, a lack of school supplies and/or the destruction of facilities³.

Coverage



Top 3 reported priority needs

1. Food security
2. Healthcare
3. Water security

Demographics*

898,910 people in need

437,769 **461,141**

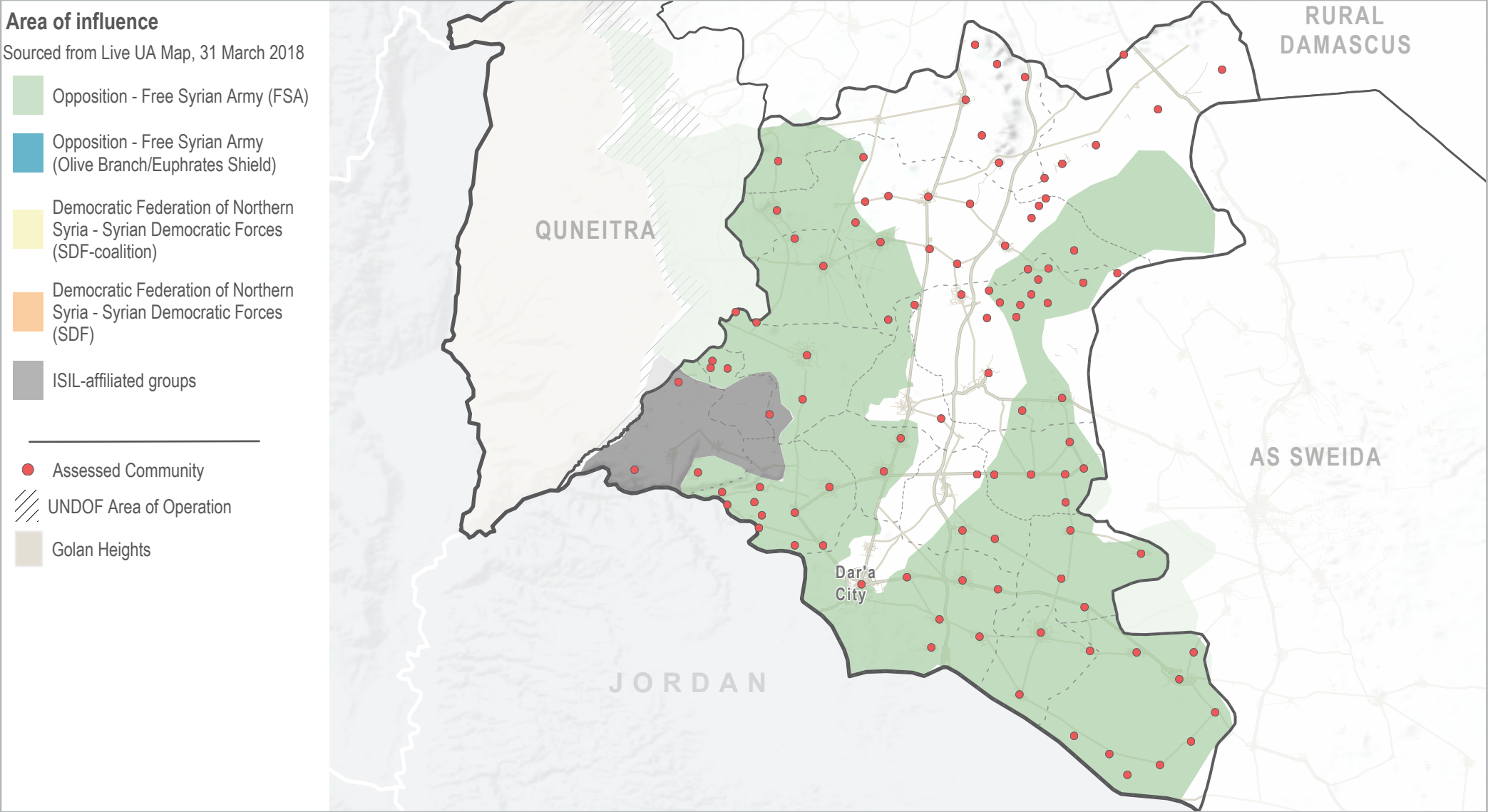
* Figures based on HNO 2018 population data for the entire governorate.

KEY EVENTS

Dar'a city targeted by hundreds of air strikes in one of the heaviest clashes the city has seen ⁴ .	Internationally brokered ceasefire agreement takes effect across south-western Syria ⁵ .	70 families flee from eastern As-Sweida villages to Sahawa and Museifra in Dar'a.	Dar'a city lacking essential infrastructure despite return of thousands ⁶ .	Approximately 3,000 spontaneous IDP returnees to Ankhal in Izra' district.	Thousands of civilians flee southern Dar'a amidst a reported increase in conflict ⁷ .
Early June 2017	9 July 2017	18 July 2017	November 2017	February 2018	12 March 2018

Dar'a Governorate, March 2018

Governorate areas of influence:



DISPLACEMENT

6,689 - 8,162 Estimated number of IDP arrivals in assessed communities in March.

1,192 - 1,522 Estimated number of spontaneous returns in assessed communities in March².

Communities with the largest estimated number of IDP arrivals:

Hrak	2,000 - 2,500
Jizeh	1,300 - 1,500
Eastern Maliha	700 - 1,000

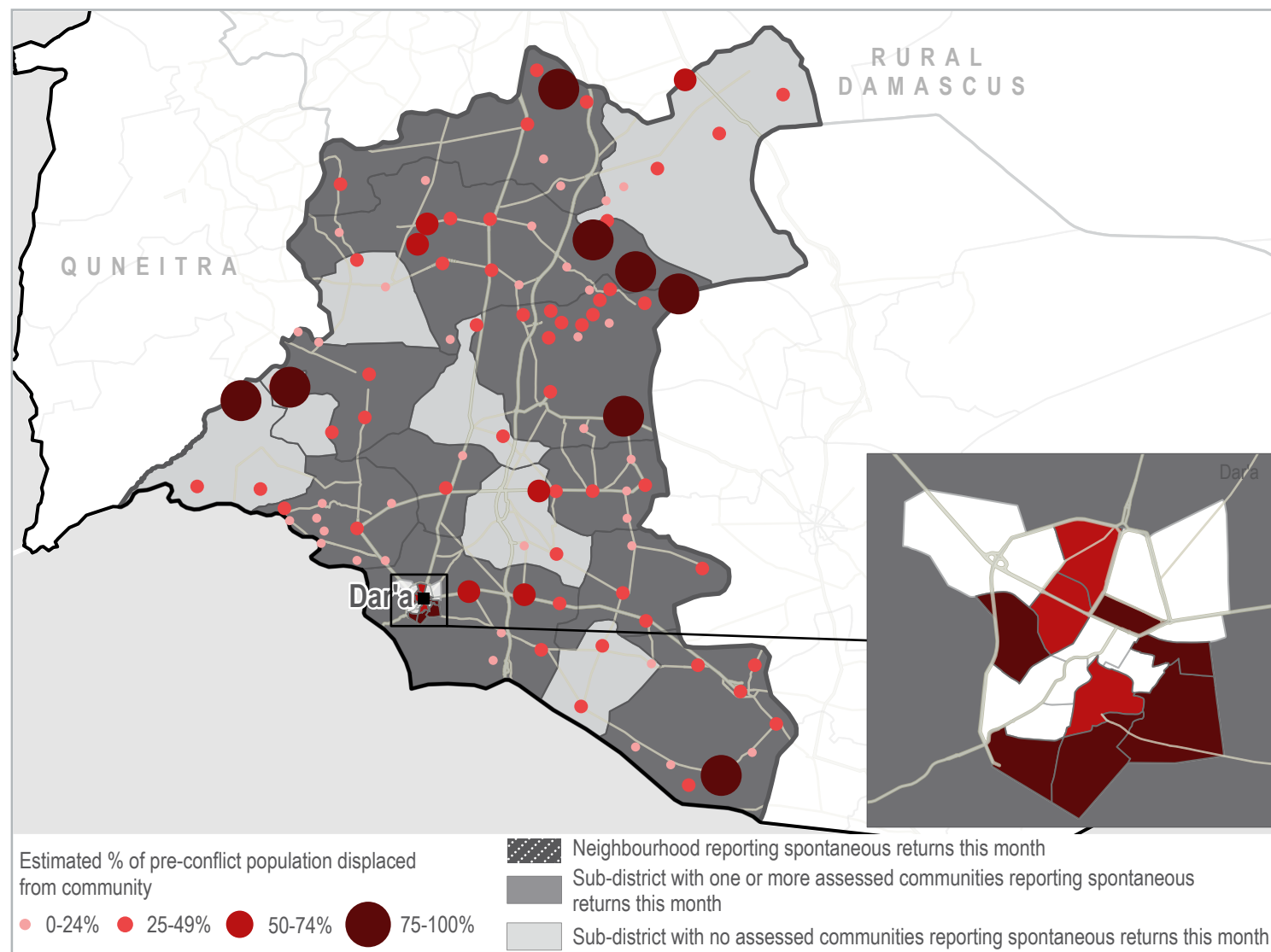
Top 3 sub-districts of origin of most IDPs arrivals^{3,4}:

Izra' (Izra')	37%
Dar'a (Dar'a)	13%
Hrak (Izra')	11%

100 communities reported no PCP departures. Top 3 reasons for PCP displacement in the remaining **13** assessed communities^{3,4}:

Escalation of conflict	69%
Loss of income	23%
Protection concerns	15%

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

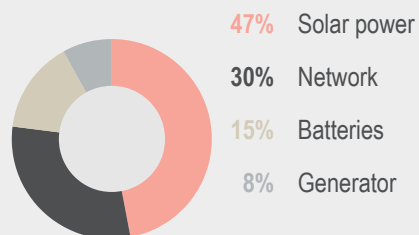


³ Multiple choices allowed.

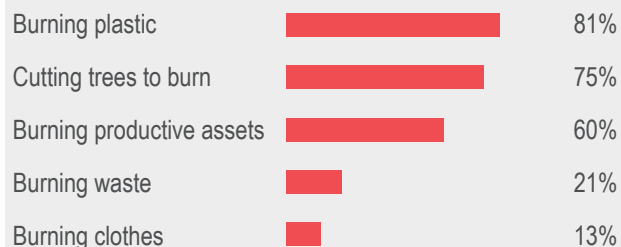
⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

SHELTER AND NFI

Primary source of electricity reported:⁴



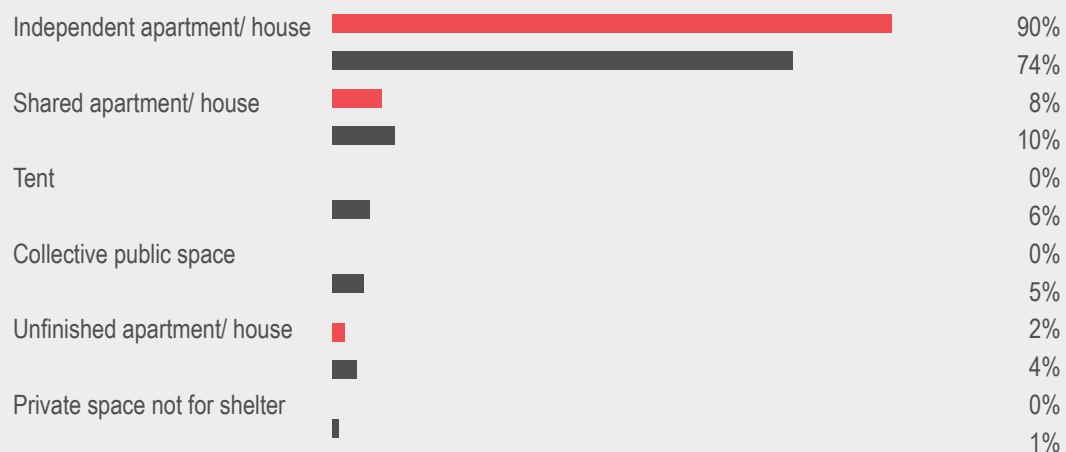
61 communities reported no lack of fuel. Most common strategies to cope with a lack of fuel in the remaining **52** assessed communities^{3,4}:



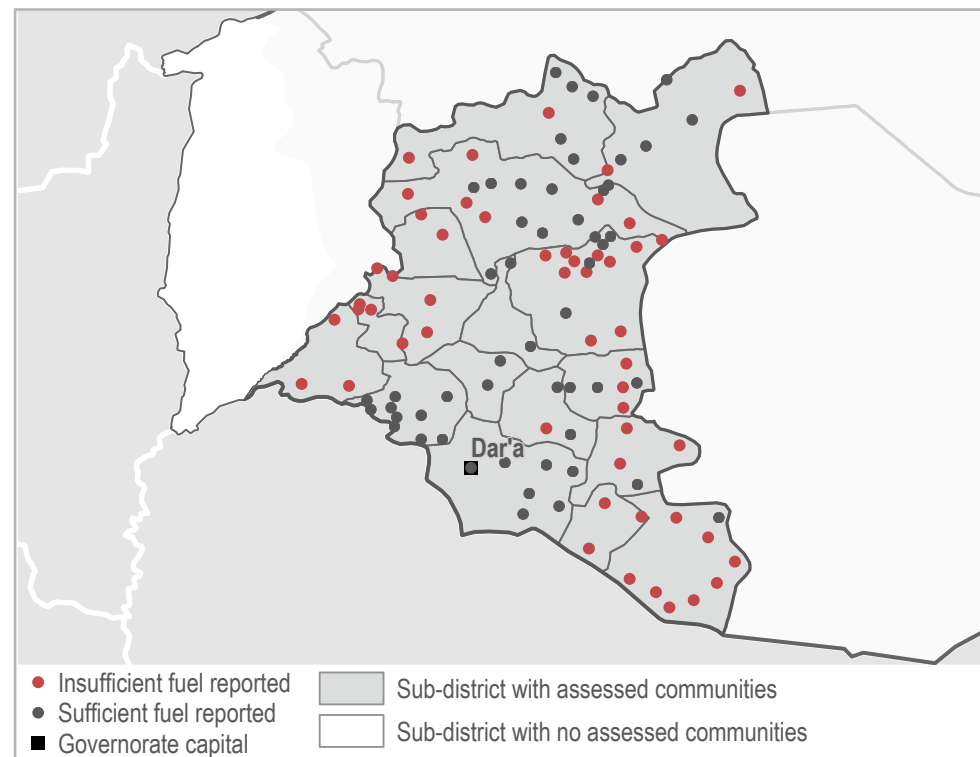
5,793 SYP Governorate average reported rent price in Syrian Pounds (SYP) across assessed communities.⁵

6,730 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 March:	Governorate average price in February:	Syrian average price in March:
Coal (1 kilogram)	423	426	333
Diesel (1 litre)	311	317	346
Butane (1 canister)	5,267	5,643	7,521
Firewood (1 tonne)	67,679	77,515	60,850

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

27 Communities reported that no assessed medical items were available in their community.

18 Communities reported that the majority of women did not have access to formal health facilities to give birth.

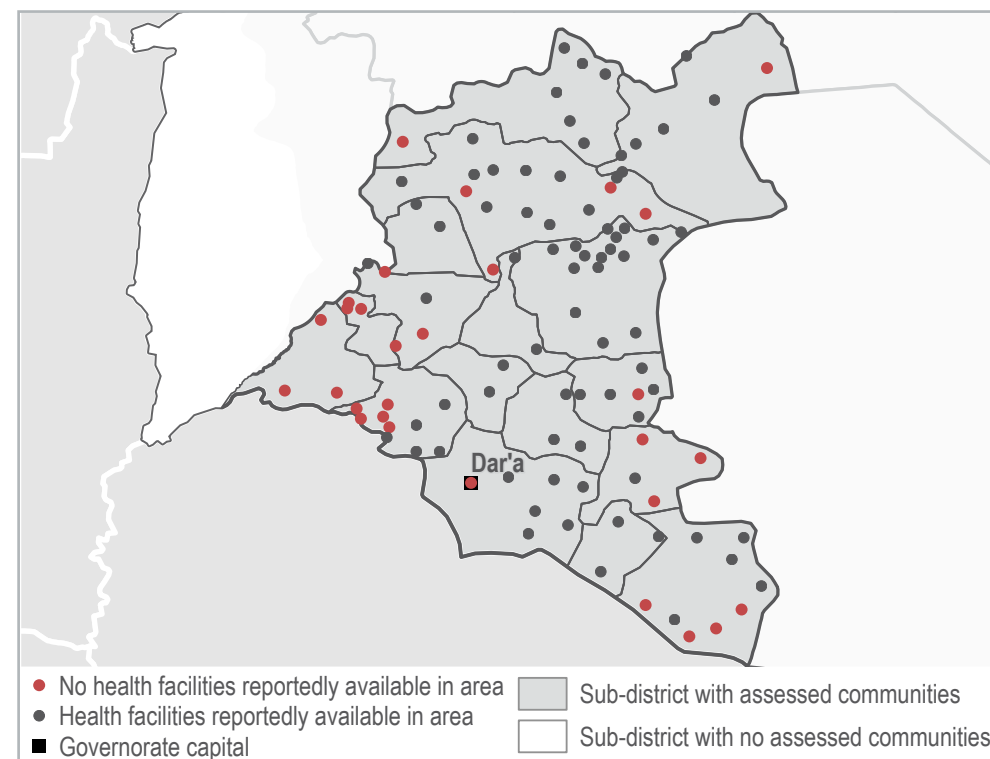
47 communities reported that residents experienced no barriers to accessing healthcare services. The barriers in the remaining **66** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



109 communities reported that residents were not using coping strategies to deal with a lack of medical supplies. The coping strategies used in the remaining **4** communities were^{3,4}:



Presence of health facilities in assessed communities:



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

Chronic disease support	59%
Medicine	52%
Antenatal care	36%

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

Chronic diseases	73%
Severe diseases affecting those younger than 5	61%
Acute respiratory infections	56%

³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

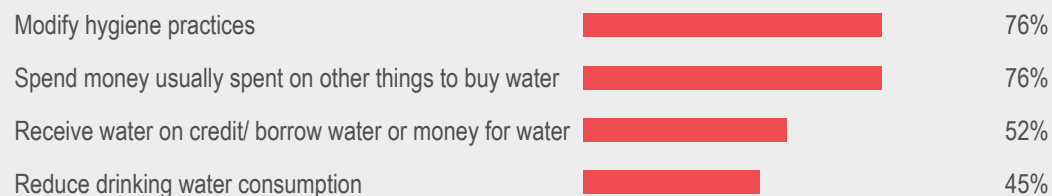


- 0 Communities reported that water from their primary source tasted and/or smelled bad.
- 2 Communities reported that drinking water from their primary source made people sick.

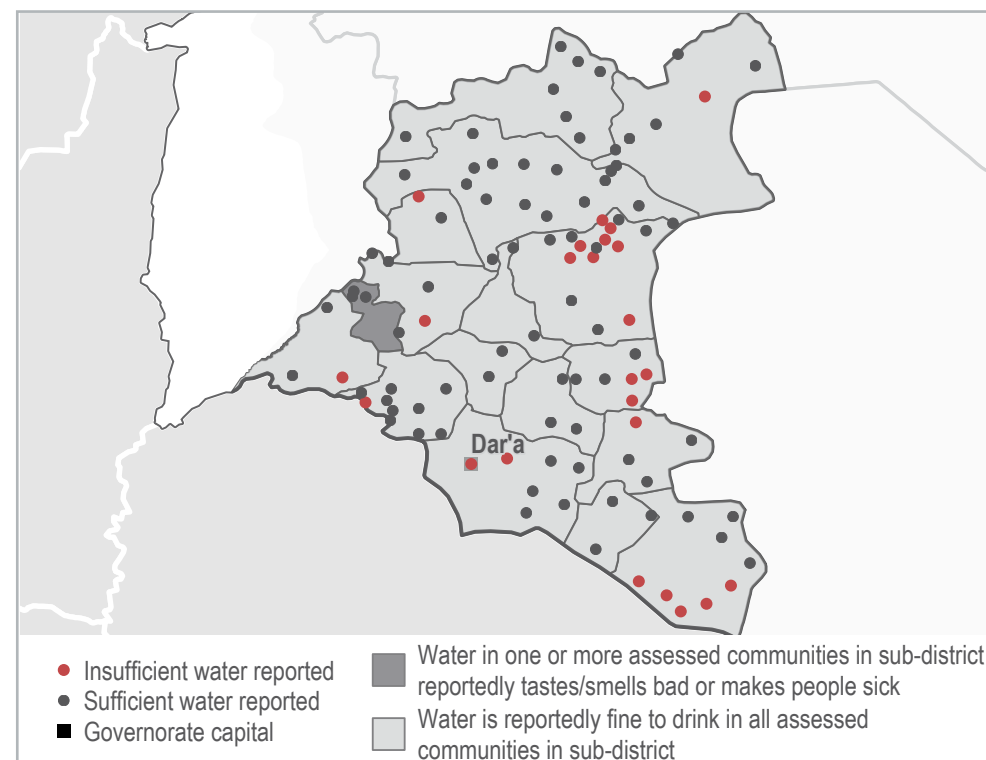
85 communities reported that residents had no problems with latrines. The most prevalent problems with latrines in the remaining 28 assessed communities were^{3,4}:



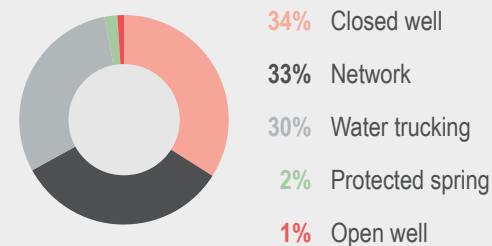
84 communities reported that they had sufficient amounts of water to meet household needs. The most common coping strategies to deal with a lack of water in the remaining 29 assessed communities were^{3,4}:



Water sufficiency for household needs:



Primary drinking water source reported⁴:



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

Public free collection	53%
Buried or burned	32%
Private paid collection	10%

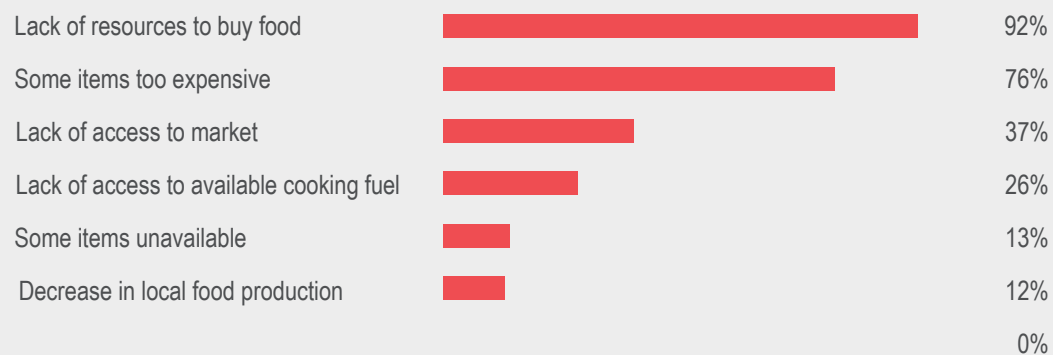
³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

FOOD SECURITY

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

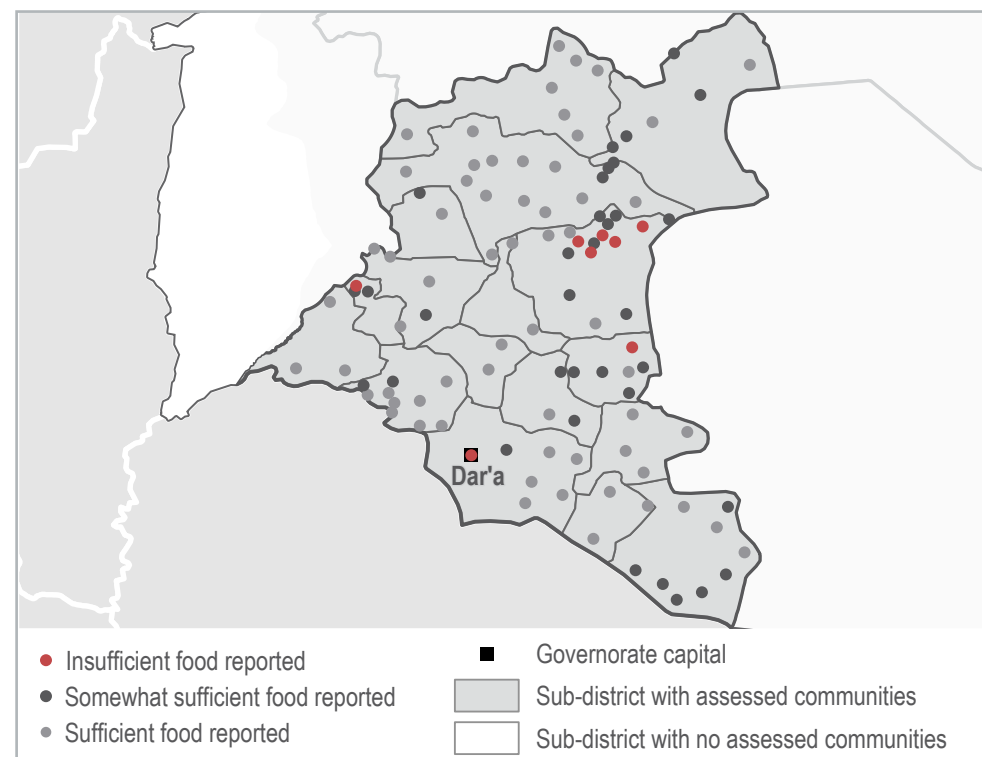
24 communities reported that residents experienced no challenges in accessing food. The most common difficulties experienced in the remaining **89** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



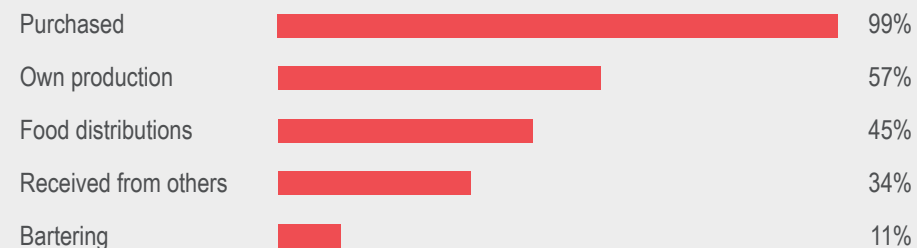
Core food item prices reported (in SYP)⁵:

Food item:	Governorate average price in March:	Governorate average price in February:	Syrian average price in March:
Bread public bakery (1 loaf)	87	86	117
Rice (1 kilogram)	574	581	472
Lentils (1 kilogram)	321	335	367
Sugar (1 kilogram)	273	277	350
Cooking oil (1 litre)	693	698	590

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)

LIVELIHOODS

50,000 - 100,000 SYP Most commonly reported household income range⁵.

26,905 SYP Governorate average food basket price^{5,6}.

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

5 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 **108** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



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



³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

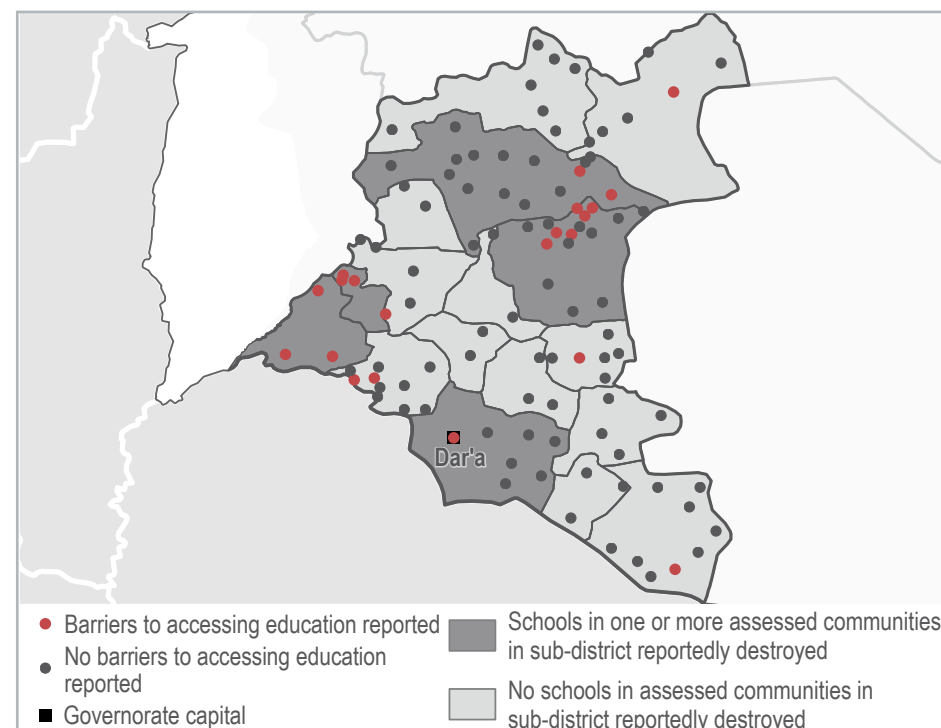
⁵ 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 March 2018)

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.

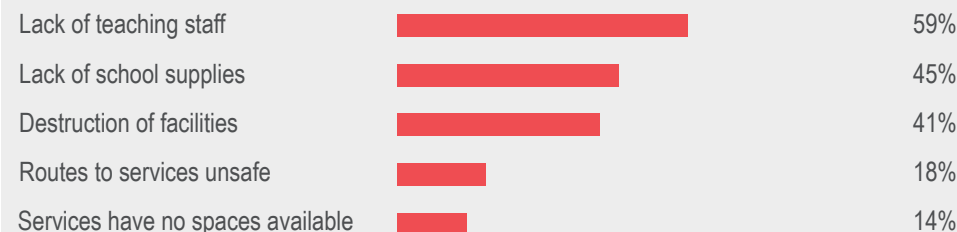
⁷ Extreme food-based strategies: Eating food waste; eating non-edible plants and spending days without eating.

EDUCATION

Barriers to accessing education services:



91 communities reported that most children were able to access education. The most commonly reported barriers to education in the remaining **22** 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 113 communities in April 2018, referring to the situation in Dar'a Governorate in March 2018. It presents key indicators, rather than the entire range of indicators gathered in the HSOS questionnaire. For community-level data on assessed sub-districts in Al Hasakeh, Dar'a, Idleb, Rural Damascus and Quneitra, please refer to the monthly sub-district 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 about which they are reporting. Where access and security constraints rendered direct data collection unfeasible, KI interviews were conducted remotely 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.

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 'Children' includes all persons below the age of 18.

⁴ Al-Zarier and Edwards (8 June 2017). Thousands of civilians fleeing home, some for the 3rd time as Daraa city fighting spurs mass displacement. Syria Direct. Retrieved from <http://syriadirect.org>.

⁵ UNHCR (12 July 2017). Syria: Flash update on recent events - 12 July 2017. Reliefweb. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

⁶ A-Noufal, Edelman, Zoubi and Al-Masalma (8 November 2017). Opposition officials have little assistance to offer as Daraa residents return to a provincial capital in ruins. Syria Direct. Retrieved from <http://syriadirect.org>.

⁷ Al-Haj Ali, A Noufal, Edelman, Al-Hariri, and Al-Ebrahim (12 March 2018). Thousands of civilians flee towns near Daraa's frontlines as rebels talk of 'preemptive strike' against government forces. Syria Direct. Retrieved from <http://syriadirect.org>.

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).