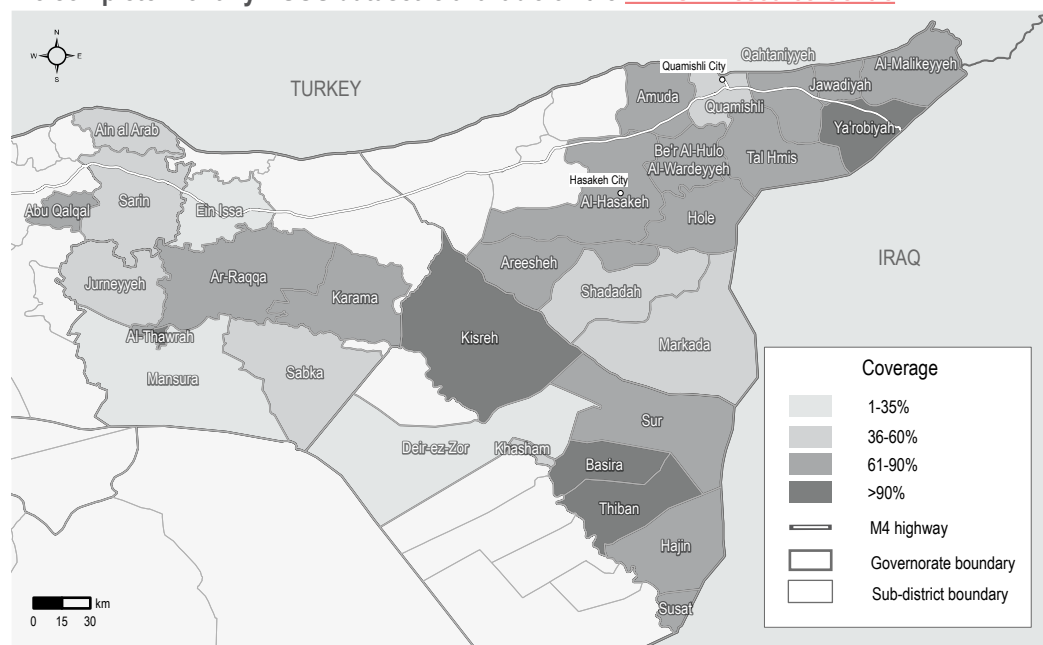


Introduction and Methodology

HSOS is a monthly assessment that provides comprehensive, multi-sectoral information about the humanitarian conditions and priority needs inside Syria. This factsheet presents a thematic review based on the HSOS assessment of the priority needs and humanitarian assistance, economic conditions, living conditions, access to basic services, COVID-19 situation, and security and protection situation in Northeast Syria. Sector-specific indicator findings by location can be found on the [HSOS dashboard](#).

The assessment is conducted using a key informant (KI) methodology at the community level. REACH enumerators are based inside Syria and interview three to six KIs per assessed location, either directly or remotely (via phone). KIs are chosen based on their community-level and sector-specific knowledge. This factsheet presents information gathered in **1,192 communities** across Aleppo¹ (144 communities), Ar-Raqqa (232 communities), Al-Hasakeh (707 communities), and Deir-ez-Zor (109 communities) governorates. **Data was collected between 3-17 of December 2020** from **3,791 KIs** (21% female). Unless specified by an endnote, all indicators refer to the situation in the 30 days prior to data collection (November/December 2020). Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalized across the population and region. Findings that are calculated based on a subset of the community are indicated by the following footnote ♦, with each subset specified in the endnotes.

The complete monthly HSOS dataset is available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#).



Key Highlights

December findings highlight significant challenges for populations across northeast Syria (NES) as escalating hostilities, cold winter temperatures, economic insecurity and the COVID-19 pandemic continue to impact the humanitarian situation of households.

- Escalating conflict posed protection risks to communities in eastern Aleppo and northern Ar-Raqqa.** On 24 November, military clashes and landmine explosions were reported near Ein Issa, Ar-Raqqa governorate.^a Threats from shelling, air strikes, unexploded ordnance (UXOs), or imminent conflict were reported by 17% of KIs reporting protection risks. Eastern Aleppo was also impacted by violence; on 7 December, clashes were reported near the communities of Arima and Qarrat Wayran.^b Safety and security was also a key concern for accessing healthcare, as reported by KIs in 11% of assessed communities in Aleppo. Similarly, 12% of communities in Aleppo faced security issues at markets.
- Cold winter weather impacted northeast Syria.** Winterisation assistance was listed as an overall priority need by over a third of the assessed communities. While winter items were widely available, KIs in nearly all communities reported that these goods were unaffordable. Among residents, winter clothes were the most prioritized winter item type, while KIs listed floor mats, heating fuel, and winter clothes as priorities for IDPs.
- Weather-related challenges hindered access to livelihoods from agriculture.** Agriculture is a major source of income for households across NES. Residents in over 70% of communities relied on income from livestock or crop production to meet their basic needs. In a context of rising seed and fertilizer prices, farmers faced additional challenges due to lack of sufficient rain. KIs in 25% of communities mentioned seasonality of production as a barrier for residents to access livelihoods from agriculture. REACH field staff indicated that farmers expect poorer profit margins and lower total yields for the season.
- Economic insecurity led households to adopt severe coping strategies,** including sending children to work and reducing food and water consumption. High prices and low purchasing linked to economic insecurity may lead to the adoption of negative coping strategies. In communities where livelihoods coping strategies were reported, KIs in more than half of communities indicated that children were being sent to work (57% for residents and 65% for IDPs). KIs in a quarter of communities reported that households skip or reduce meals to cope with a lack of food. Water trucking services were widely perceived to be too expensive, forcing households to limit water usage, including reducing drinking water consumption (cited in nearly half of communities reporting challenges).
- COVID-19 continues to negatively impact the health and economic situation** in NES. As of 6 December, 7,256 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in NES.^c In 91% of communities, livelihoods sectors were reportedly affected by the pandemic, with manufacturing the most commonly impacted. Furthermore, the pandemic prompted markets to reduce opening hours and days in nearly 70% of communities. Access to education was also disrupted; schools were not functioning in nearly 70% of communities, mostly due to local regulations. Online education was available in only one assessed community. Despite the risk posed by the virus, soap was unaffordable in 75% of communities. Health facilities in about a third of communities lacked sufficient equipment and medicines.

HSOS Dashboard

For a breakdown of sector-specific indicators by location, please see the [HSOS dashboard](#). The interactive HSOS dashboard provides a monthly sectoral overview of key indicators disaggregated at the sub-district and community level.



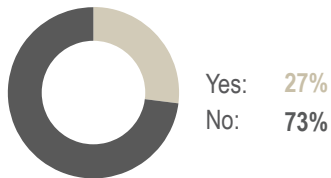
Priority Needs and Humanitarian Assistance



Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for Residents (by % of communities) ^{2,3,♦}

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	Healthcare	WASH	Livelihoods	Healthcare	67%
2	WASH ^e	Livelihoods	Healthcare	Livelihoods	62%
3	Food	Healthcare	WASH	WASH	57%

% of communities where any of the resident households were able to access humanitarian assistance [♦]



% of communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance** for residents ^{4,♦}

- 1% | Healthcare
- 0% | Livelihoods
- 3% | WASH

Most commonly reported barriers that resident households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of communities) ^{4,♦}

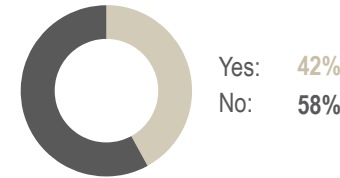
Communities reporting access to humanitarian assistance		Communities reporting no access to humanitarian assistance	
Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need	65% 1	95%	No humanitarian assistance was available
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	61% 2	3%	Not aware if assistance was available
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	46% 3	2%	People did not comply with the eligibility criteria



Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for IDPs (by % of communities) ^{2,3,♦,d}

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	Food	Healthcare	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	68%
2	Healthcare	Winterisation	Winterisation	Healthcare	54%
3	Shelter	Livelihoods	Healthcare	Winterisation	49%

% of communities where any of the IDP households were able to access humanitarian assistance [♦]



% of communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance** for IDPs ^{4,♦}

- 0% | Livelihoods
- 1% | Healthcare
- 1% | Winterisation

Most commonly reported barriers that IDP households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of communities) ^{4,♦}

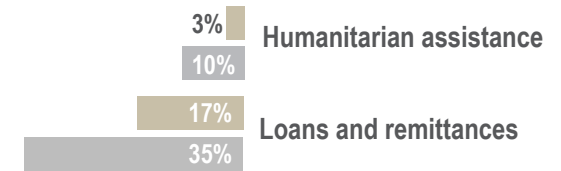
Communities reporting access to humanitarian assistance		Communities reporting no access to humanitarian assistance	
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	70% 1	96%	No humanitarian assistance was available
Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need	55% 2	2%	Not aware if assistance was available
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	50% 3	2%	People did not comply with the eligibility criteria



Economic Conditions

Region	Estimated median monthly household expense for water for a household of six ^{5,6}	Estimated median monthly rent price for a two bedroom apartment ^{5,6}	Estimated median daily wage for unskilled labour ^{5,7,8}
Northeast Syria	5,500 SYP	25,000 SYP	4,000 SYP
Aleppo	1,000 SYP	20,000 SYP	4,500 SYP
Al-Hasakeh	12,000 SYP	30,000 SYP	4,000 SYP
Ar-Raqqa	1,500 SYP	25,000 SYP	4,000 SYP
Deir-ez-Zor	15,000 SYP	25,000 SYP	4,000 SYP

% of communities where KIs reported the presence of residents and IDP households relying on non-productive sources of livelihoods to meet their basic needs ^{4,†}



Intersectoral findings on **unaffordability** hindering access to goods and services ^{4,§}



KIs in **98%** of communities reporting on challenges for renting shelters cited that **rent prices** were unaffordable for the majority of people



KIs in **31%** of communities where barriers to accessing electricity were reported, cited the high cost of **fuel for generators** as a common challenge



KIs in **59%** of communities where barriers to accessing sufficient water were reported, cited the high cost of **water trucking** as a common challenge



KIs in **83%** of communities where barriers to accessing sufficient food were reported, cited the high cost of **food** as a common challenge ⁸



KIs in **76%** of communities where barriers to accessing healthcare were reported, cited the high cost of **health services** as a common challenge



KIs in **27%** of communities where barriers to education access were reported, cited the high cost of **a private tutor** as a common challenge ⁸

% of communities where barriers to accessing income from agriculture to meet basic needs were reported ^{4,†}

Residents

17%

Lack of access to resources

25%

Seasonality of production

6%

Degradation of agricultural lands/crop damage

1%

High rates of livestock death

IDPs

7%

3%

0%

0%

82% and 93%

% of communities where KIs reported daily waged labour as a common source of income for **residents** and **IDPs** [†]

64 days

Number of days the average day labourer would need to work to earn the monthly cost of basic SMEB items ^{5,9}

88% and 73%

% of communities where KIs reported the **insufficient income of households** and **lack of employment opportunities** that match people's skills as barriers to meeting basic needs ^{8,†}

% of communities where common livelihood sources from agriculture were reported ^{4,†}

Livelihood source	Residents	IDPs
Food from crop production	43%	20%
Cash from crop production	71%	2%
Livestock products	72%	26%
Sale of livestock	51%	16%



Living Conditions

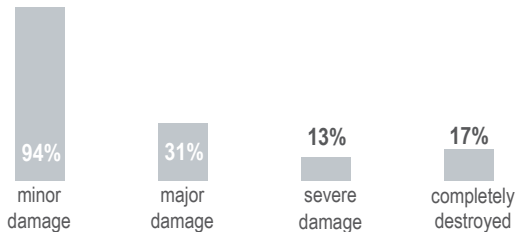


A lack of bathing facilities was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **13%** of communities [♦]



A lack of toilets was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **23%** of communities [♦]

Reported presence of occupied shelters with damage across communities where damages reported ^{5,10,♦}



In **92%** of communities reportedly at least **80%** of the resident population owned their shelter [♦]

In **82%** of communities reportedly none of the IDP households owned their shelter [♦]

In **31%** of communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in unfinished or abandoned residential buildings [♦]

In **65%** of communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in tents [♦]



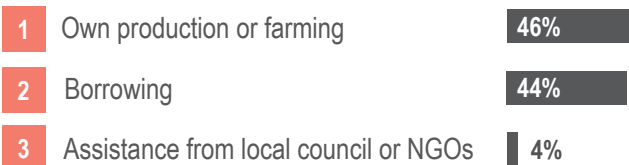
98% % of communities where KIs reported that households experienced barriers to accessing sufficient food ⁸

In 20% of these communities, KIs reported that the unavailability of certain food items was a challenge to accessing sufficient food ⁸

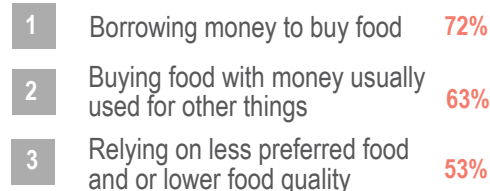


High price of suitable foods or formula was the most commonly reported challenge to feeding young children (reported by KIs in 94% of communities) ^{12,♦}

Commonly reported sources of food for households other than markets (by % of communities) ⁴

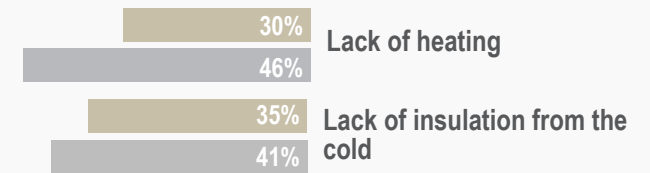


Most commonly reported coping strategies for a lack of food (by % of communities) ^{4,♦}

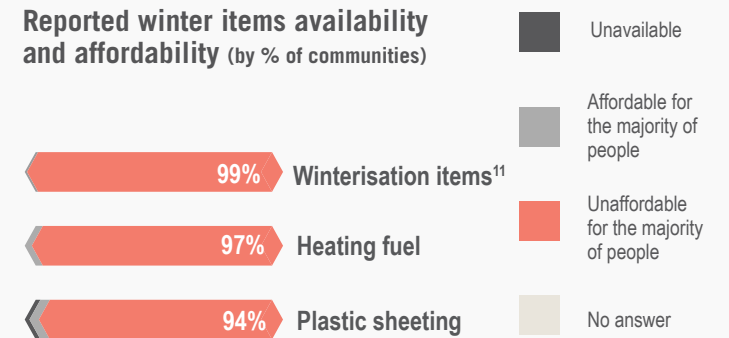


Winter-related findings

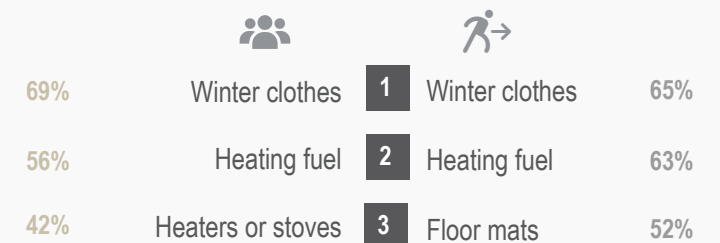
% of communities where winter-related shelter inadequacies for residents and IDPs were reported [♦]

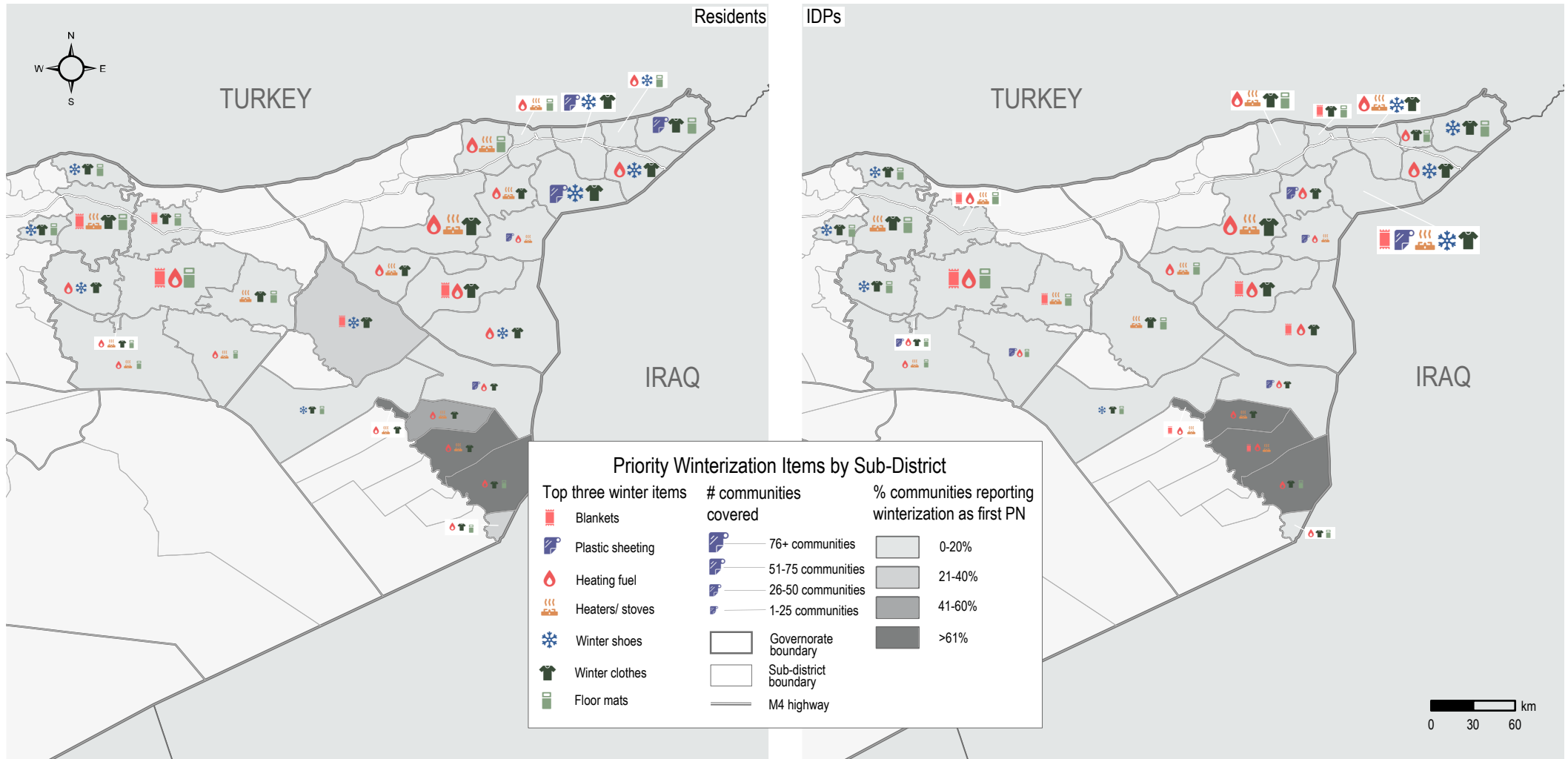


Reported winter items availability and affordability (by % of communities)



Top three most commonly reported winterisation needs for residents and IDPs (by % of communities) [♦]





Priority Needs for Winterization Items by Sub-District

Note on the map

This map shows the winterization items most prioritized by sub-district. The symbol sizes indicate the number of communities covered by HSOS, while the shading represents the percentage of communities reporting winterization as a first priority need. The highest percentages were found in Deir-ez-Zor.



Access to Basic Services



Access to Electricity

5-6 hrs per day

was the most commonly reported range for hours of electricity accessible to households (reported by KIs in 20% of communities)

Main network

was the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 80% of communities)

31%

% of communities where KIs reported the main network is partially or completely not functioning as a barrier for electricity access [†]



Access to Water

58%

% of communities where KIs reported that not all households had access to sufficient water



7 days	23%
5-6 days	19%
3-4 days	20%
1-2 days	15%
0 days	23%

Days per week water from the network was available (by % of 710 communities connected to a water network)

Piped water network

was the most commonly reported source of drinking water (reported by KIs in 39% of communities)

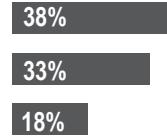


Access to Sanitation

85%

% of communities where KIs reported that no sewage system was present

Most commonly reported ways people disposed of solid waste (by % of communities)



Free public waste collection

Waste burnt

Waste disposed of by household to a dumping location

33%

% of communities where KIs reported waste removal services as a WASH priority need ⁸



Access to Markets

37%

% of communities in which households reportedly were unable to access markets in the assessed location

Not enough consumers to support markets in the assessed location

was the most commonly reported reason for why markets were not functioning (reported by KIs in 80% of communities where households were unable to access markets in their own location)

67%

% of communities where KIs reported that the lack of transportation to markets was a barrier to physically accessing food markets [†]

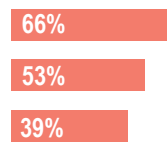


Access to Health Services

71%

% of communities where KIs reported that the households did not have access to health services in the assessed location

Most commonly reported health priority needs (by % of communities) ⁸



Treatment for chronic diseases

Medicines and other commodities

First aid or emergency care

Going to a pharmacy instead of a clinic

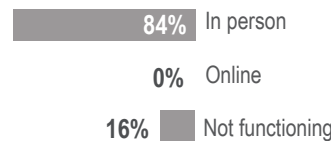
was the most commonly reported coping strategy for a lack of healthcare (reported by KIs in 90% of communities) [†]



Access to Education Services

20

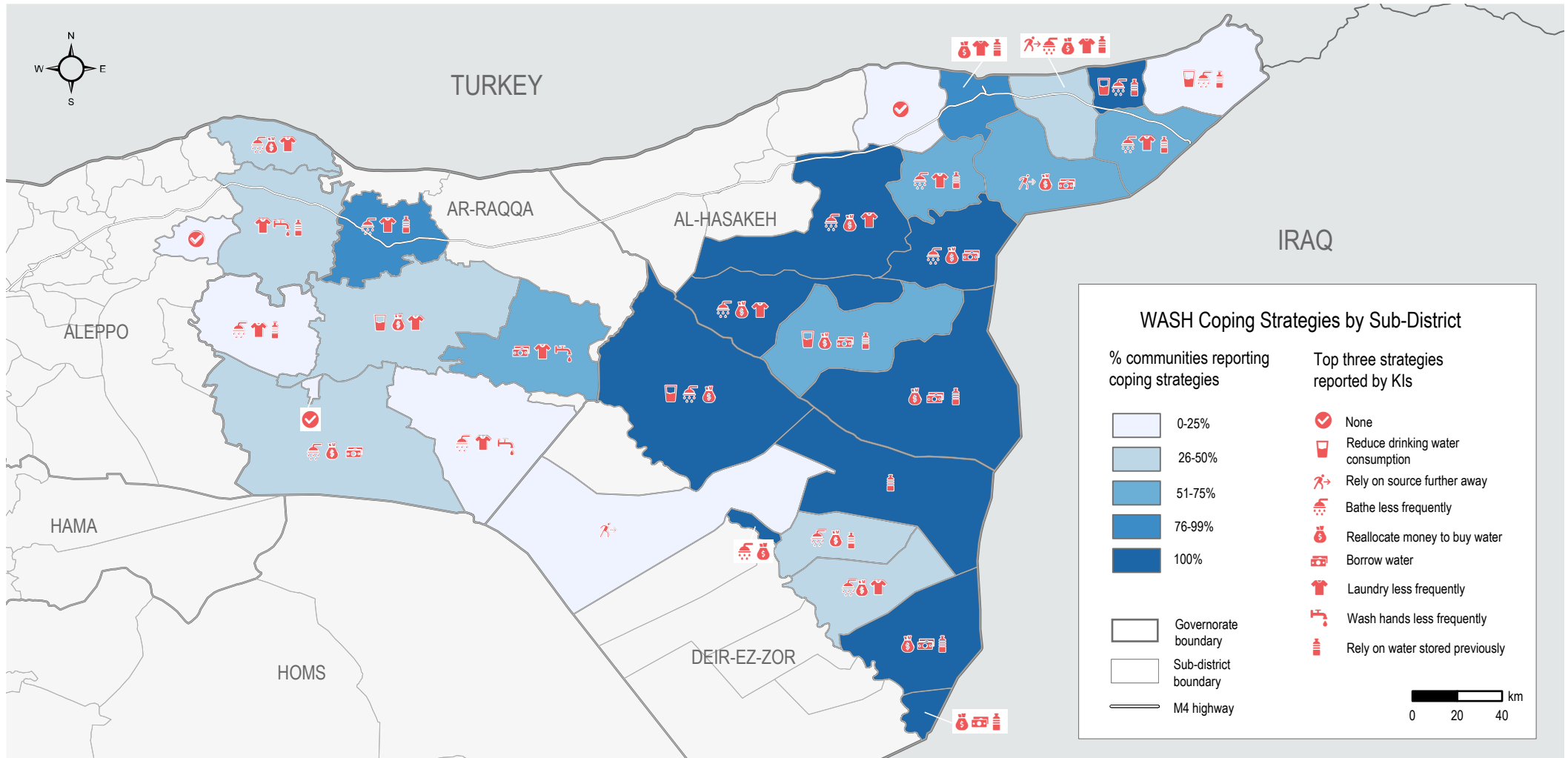
communities where KIs reported that no functioning education services were available in the assessed and nearby community



% of communities where KIs reported on the functioning of education services in the assessed location ⁴

48%

% of communities where KIs reported that the lack of recognised certification of education level completed was a barrier to accessing education services ^{8,†}



WASH Coping Strategies Reported by KIIs

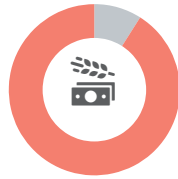
Note on the map

This map shows the distribution of WASH coping strategies by sub-district. Only the three most commonly reported strategies are symbolized, but in cases where more than three are equally represented, more may be shown. Coping strategies were most often reported in communities in eastern Deir-ez-Zor and southern Al-Hasakeh.



COVID-19

Effects of COVID-19 on livelihoods sectors in the community (by % of communities)

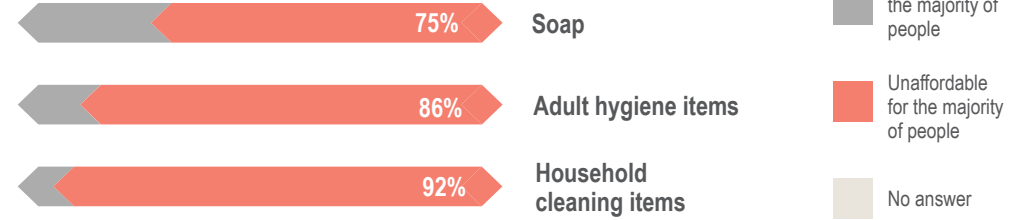


None of the available livelihood sectors were affected 9%
At least one of the available livelihood sectors was partially or totally affected 91%

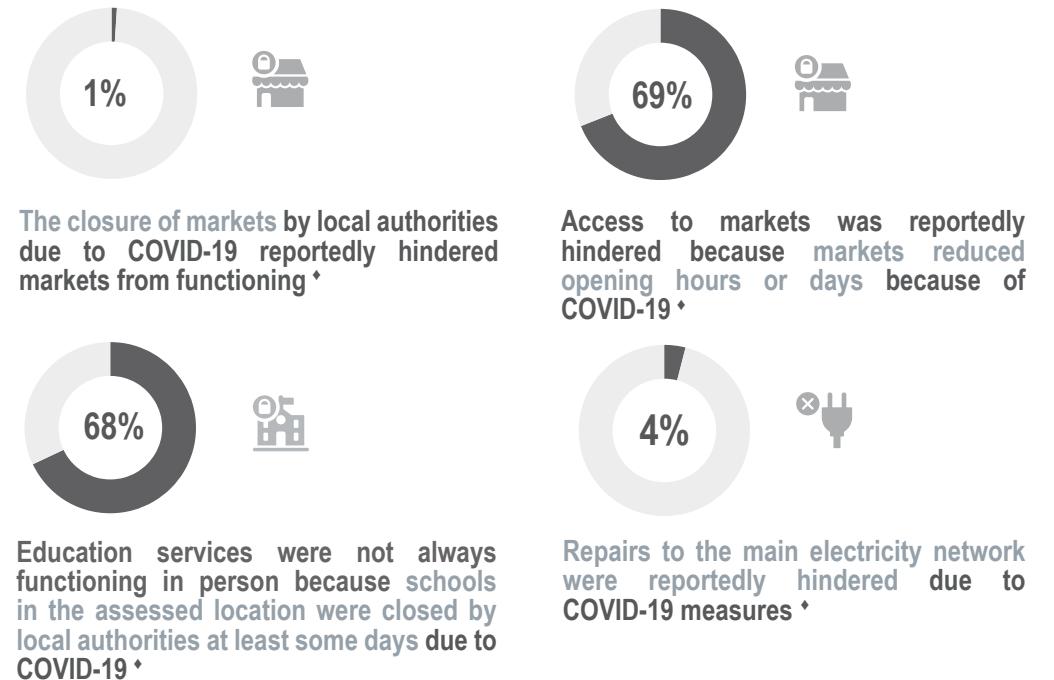
% of communities where COVID-19 risk indicators were reported *

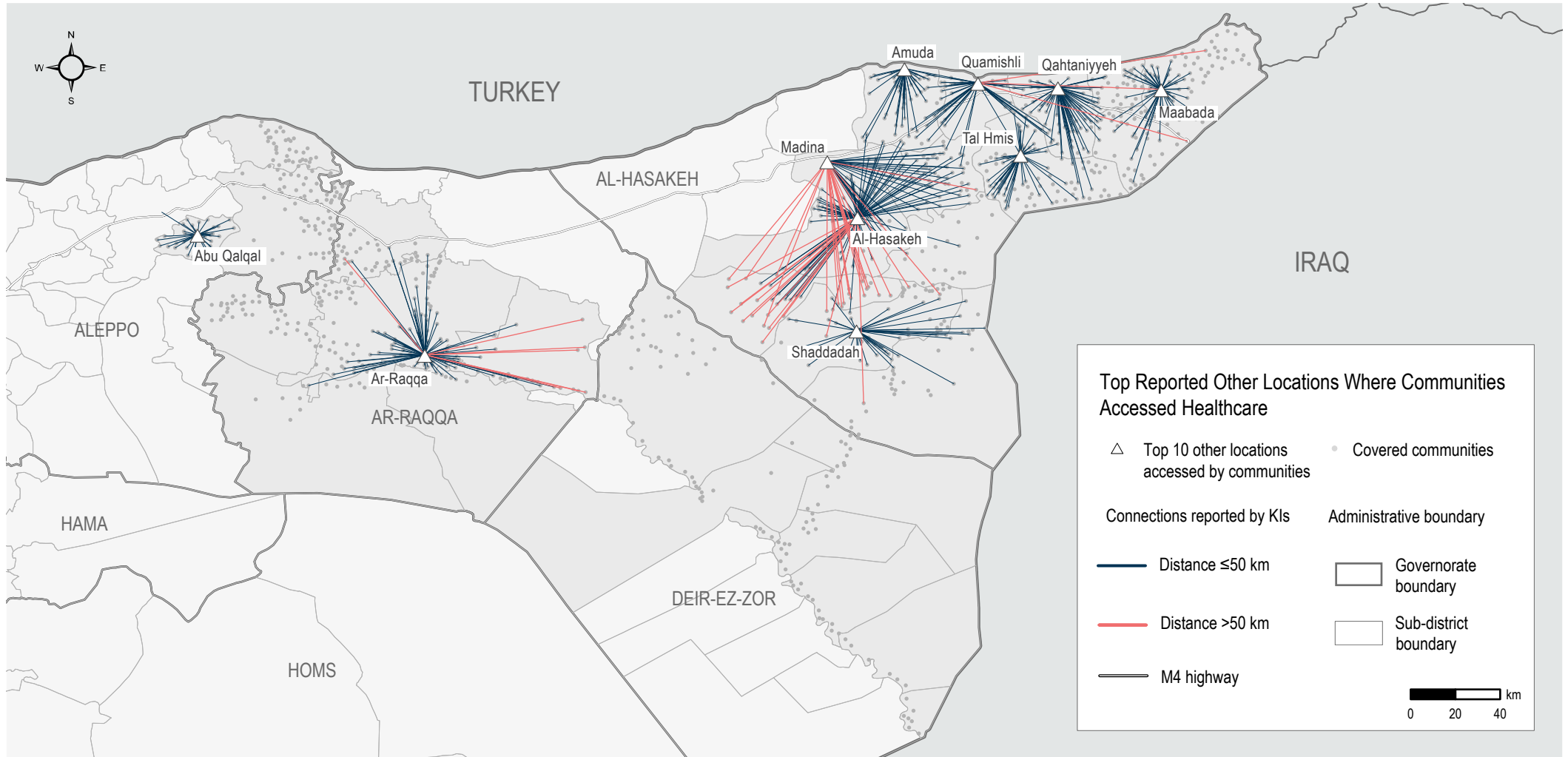


Reported hygiene item availability and affordability (by % of communities) ¹³



% of communities where COVID-19 related barriers to access to services were reported





Health Network Analysis

Note on the map

This map shows the connections between assessed communities and other locations where health services are most commonly accessed. One line represents one connection, and red lines denote cases where the distance between locations is ≥ 25 kilometers. This map does not estimate travel time, road conditions, or the availability of direct routes between communities.



Security and Protection

Intersectoral findings on security

-  **General safety and security concerns restricting movement to markets** was reported as barrier to market access in **110** communities
- General safety and security concerns at markets** was a reported barrier to market access in **23** communities
- Movement restrictions** was reported as a protection risk in **71** communities ⁸
- Tribal disputes** were reported as a protection risk in **15** communities ⁸
- Threat from shelling** was reported as a protection risk in **10** communities ⁸
- Fear from imminent conflict** was reported as a protection risk in **40** communities ⁸
- The inability to lock homes securely** was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **29%** of communities ^{8,♦}
- Lack of lighting around the shelter** was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **77%** of communities ^{8,♦}
- The security situation** was reported as a barrier to shelter repairs in **3%** of communities [♦]
- Housing, land, and property issues** were reported as a protection risk in **2%** of communities ^{8,♦}
- General safety and security concerns at the health facilities** was reported as a barrier to healthcare in **17** communities

Most commonly reported protection priority needs

(by % of communities) ^{3,8,♦}

- 75%** Special assistance for vulnerable groups
- 41%** Specialised child protection services
- 35%** Psychosocial support



% of communities where the lack of civil documentation for residents and IDPs was reported [♦]

- 16%** Lack or loss of civil documentation as a protection risk
- 23%** Lack of personal documentation required to enrol in school as a barrier to education access
- 2%**
- 6%**

% of communities where extreme coping strategies used by residents and IDPs to meet basic needs were reported ^{4,♦}

Residents

- 32%** Early marriage
- 4%** Forced marriage
- 2%** High risk work
- 1%** Sending family members to beg
- 57%** Sending children (15 or below) to work

IDPs

- 35%**
- 5%**
- 4%**
- 2%**
- 65%**

Age, Gender, and Diversity

- KIs in **37%** of communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for women** as a barrier to meeting basic needs ^{8,♦}
- KIs in **28%** of communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for persons with a disability** as a barrier to meeting basic needs ^{8,♦}
- KIs in **8%** of communities reported a **lack of privacy for women and girls at health facilities** as a barrier to healthcare access [♦]
- KIs in **21%** of communities reported a **lack of market access for people with restricted mobility** [♦]

- Child labour** and **early marriage** were reported to prevent children from going to school in **59%** and **22%** of communities ^{8,♦}
- Children below the age of 12** were reported as a group affected by child labour in **22%** of communities ^{8,♦}
- Hazardous child labour** was reported as a protection risk in **5** communities ^{8,♦}

Endnotes

1. Aleppo governorate includes Menbij and Ain Al Arab districts. The rest of Aleppo governorate is included under Northwest Syria.
2. KIs were asked to select a first, second, and third highest priority needs in their communities. The ranking shows the sectors most frequently chosen as either first, second or third highest priority. The overall priority need refers to the frequency a sector was selected across all three categories (first, second or third highest priority).
3. KIs could select three answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.
4. KIs could select multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.
5. KIs were asked about the situation currently, instead of the last 30 days.
6. KIs had the option to select the price in United States Dollars (USD), Turkish Lira (TRY), or Syrian Pounds (SYP). When the price was not reported in SYP, the NES **REACH Market Monitoring** exchange rate was used to calculate the amount in SYP. According to the REACH Market Monitoring December 2020, 1 USD = 2,728 SYP; 1TRY= 350 SYP.
7. According to the NES **REACH Market Monitoring** December 2020, 1 USD = 2,728 SYP.
8. Findings for residents and IDPs were merged. The merge was calculated as follows: (option was selected for either residents or IDPs) / (communities reporting challenges/barriers/coping strategies for either residents or IDPs).
9. According to the NES **REACH Market Monitoring** December 2020, the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) = 254,111.2 SYP.
10. Minor damage (cracks in walls, leaking roof, need of new doors and window repairs, etc.); Major damage (buildings with extensive damage to window frames and doors, but no structural damage to columns, slabs, or loadbearing walls); Severe damage (buildings with significant structural damage to column slabs, or loadbearing walls, cracking, steel elements and deformations visible in concrete; the building would require extensive repairs); Completely destroyed (buildings with structural damage so significant that rehabilitation is not possible).
11. Winterisation items include: winter clothes, winter shoes, and winter blanket.
12. KIs were asked about the situation in the last two months, instead of the last 30 days.
13. Adult hygiene items include: shampoo, toothbrush, and toothpaste. Household cleaning items include: washing powder, liquid, and dish detergent.

◆ By number of communities where KIs reported the relevant indicator (accesses/barriers/inadequacies/damages/coping strategies/risks etc.) for the relevant population group(s)

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Subset</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Subset</i>
<i>N.o of communities reporting on:</i>		<i>N.o of communities reporting on:</i>	
Residents	1,192	Coping strategies for a lack of food	1,166
IDPs	522	Coping strategies for a lack of healthcare	1,190
Barriers to accessing healthcare	1,192	Coping strategies for a lack of water	687
Barriers to accessing sufficient food (merged)	1,170	Groups affected by child labour	725
Barriers to accessing sufficient water	690	Health priority needs (merged)	1,192
Barriers to education access (IDPs)	431	Main protection risks (IDPs)	468
Barriers to education access (merged)	859	Main protection risks (merged)	1,016
Barriers to education access (residents)	855	Main protection risks (residents)	1,007
Barriers to education quality (merged)	941	Protection priority needs (merged)	1,087
Barriers to feeding young children	1,182	Reasons education services not funct.	1,171
Barriers to assistance access (IDPs)	303	Shelter damages	1,179
Barriers to assistance access (resident)	871	Shelter issues/inadequacies (IDPs)	512
Barriers to markets functioning	437	Shelter issues/inadequacies (merged)	1,149
Barriers to physically accessing markets	1,183	Shelter issues/inadequacies (resident)	1,093
Barriers to shelter repairs	1,107	Tents (IDPs)	85
Challenges for renting shelters	281	Unfinished or abandoned buildings (IDPs)	57
Cop. strategies to meet basic needs (IDPs)	515	WASH priority needs (merged)	1,191
Cop. strategies to meet basic needs (res)	1,176		

About REACH

REACH facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT). For more information please visit our website: www.reach-initiative.org. You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org.