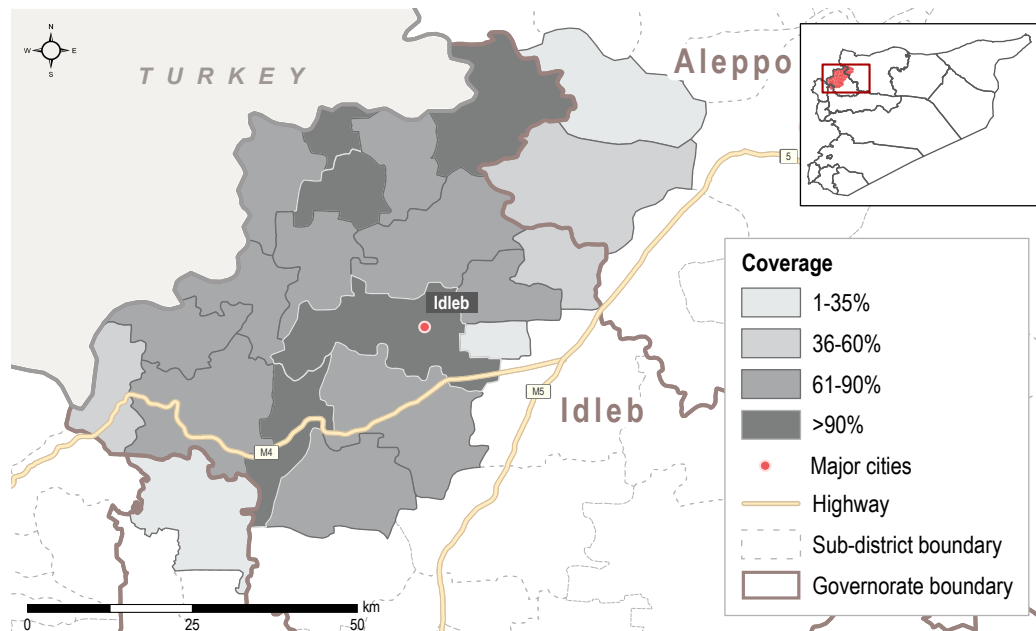


Introduction and Methodology

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 the security and protection situation in Northwest Syria (NWS). **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 371 communities across the greater Idleb area¹. Data was collected between 10-18 October 2021 from 1,348 KIs (17% female). Unless specified by an endnote, all indicators refer to the situation in the 30 days prior to data collection. 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

Instability and the threat of escalating violence are at the forefront of humanitarian concerns in Greater Idleb with wide ranging impacts across the region and the humanitarian response. Recent violence in Jabal Al-Zawiya and Ariha, which caused a marked increase in displacement, raises fears of further attacks elsewhere.^a Large increases in the number of COVID-19 cases in the region called for preventive measures that negatively affected access to services, including education. Unaffordability of food was commonly reported, as fuel and food prices increased.

- **Military activities along the frontlines in southern Idleb continue to impact civilians' lives and their access to basic services.** General safety and security concerns restricting movement to markets was a reported barrier to market access in 7% of assessed communities, while safety and security concerns at markets were a reported barrier in 22% of assessed communities. In 105 communities (28%), KIs reported protection risks from airstrikes while 29% of assessed communities reportedly faced risks from shelling, sniper or gunfire.

- **Confirmed COVID-19 cases continued to increase throughout October while vaccination rates remained low and health access was challenging.** 14,969 new COVID-19 cases were registered in October in Northwest Syria (NWS) and 96% of intensive care unit beds were reportedly occupied by the end of October.^a As of 10 October, around 140,000 persons in NWS received a vaccine dose through the COVAX campaign. Yet, less than 35,000 persons were fully vaccinated.^b Additionally, overcrowding of health facilities was indicted as a barrier to accessing healthcare in 53% of the assessed communities.

- **COVID-19 preventive measures disrupted access to livelihoods and services, including education.** KIs reported that COVID-19 affected at least one of the existing livelihood sources in half of the assessed communities. Due to the spread of COVID-19, schools were reportedly closed by local authorities and classes were reduced in 81% and 13% of assessed communities, respectively. In only 9 of 371 assessed communities (2%) children were reportedly able to access in-person education without interruptions. Moreover, KIs in 62% of the assessed communities reported no online education services available for children. Even when online education was offered, many children did not have the means to attend. In fact, according to According to the Idleb Governorate Market Monitoring October 2021, the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) = 458,114 SYP, at least half of the children in NWS do not have tablets, phones or internet to access online learning.^b

- **Fuel and food prices increased in Idleb governorate, making it harder for households to meet basic needs.** Fuel prices increased in Idleb governorate in October as a result of the depreciation of the Turkish lira against foreign currencies.^d Fluctuations in fuel prices are contributing to the rise in food prices.^e KIs in 85% of the assessed communities reported that some households cannot afford essential food items. Likewise, the high price of foods formulas suitable for babies and young children (less than 2 years old) was reported in 88% of assessed communities.

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 assessed communities) ^{2,3}

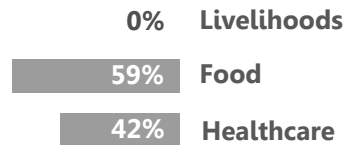
	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	Food	Food	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	63%
2	Livelihoods	NFIs [▲]	NFIs	Food	54%
3	Healthcare	Healthcare	WASH [▼]	Healthcare	44%

% of assessed communities where some of the resident households were able to access humanitarian assistance



Yes: **81%**
No: **19%**

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance for residents** ⁴



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

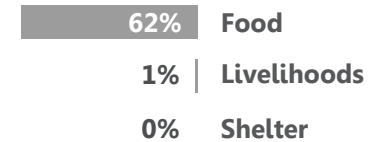
	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	Food	Food	Livelihoods	Food	66%
2	Shelter	NFIs	NFIs	Livelihoods	55%
3	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	Healthcare	Shelter	44%

% of assessed communities where some of the IDP households were able to access humanitarian assistance



Yes: **83%**
No: **17%**

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance for IDPs** ⁴



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

In communities where access to humanitarian assistance was reported

In communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people	64%	1	94%	No humanitarian assistance was available
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	47%	2	3%	People did not comply with the eligibility criteria
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	36%	3	1%	Distribution points were too far or the routes were inaccessible

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

In communities where access to humanitarian assistance was reported

In communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

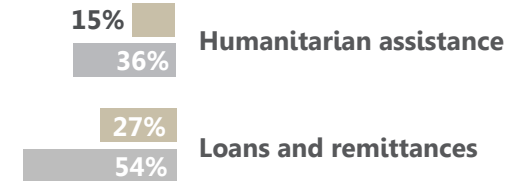
Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people	64%	1	97%	No humanitarian assistance was available
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	46%	2	2%	Distribution points were too far or the routes were inaccessible
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	39%	3	2%	People did not comply with the eligibility criteria



Economic Conditions

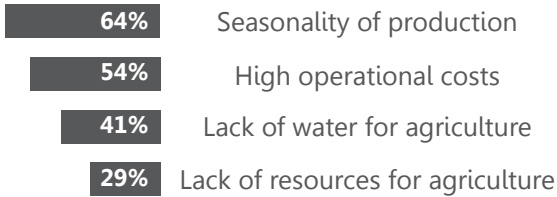
Region	Median estimated monthly household expense for water for a household of six ^{5,6}			Median estimated monthly rent price for a two bedroom apartment ^{5,6}			Median estimated daily wage for unskilled labour ^{5,7,8}		
	SYP	TRY [▲]	USD	SYP	TRY	USD	SYP	TRY	USD
Greater Idlib area	21,689 SYP			59,153 SYP			7,098 SYP		
% of assessed communities where indicator was reported in following currencies [▲]	0%	100%	0%	0%	70%	30%	0%	100%	0%

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

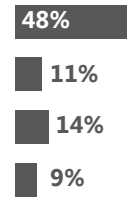


Most commonly reported barriers to accessing livelihoods related to agriculture (by % of assessed communities) ⁴

Residents



IDPs



86% and 95%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported daily waged labour as a common source of income for residents and IDPs

65 days

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

92% and 46%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the insufficient income of households and general lack of employment opportunities as barriers to meeting basic needs ⁸

Intersectoral findings on **unaffordability** hindering access to goods and services



KIs in **66%** of assessed communities cited that **rent** was unaffordable for the majority of people



KIs in **56%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **fuel for generators** as a common challenge



KIs in **82%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **solar panels** as a common challenge



KIs in **51%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **water trucking** as a common challenge



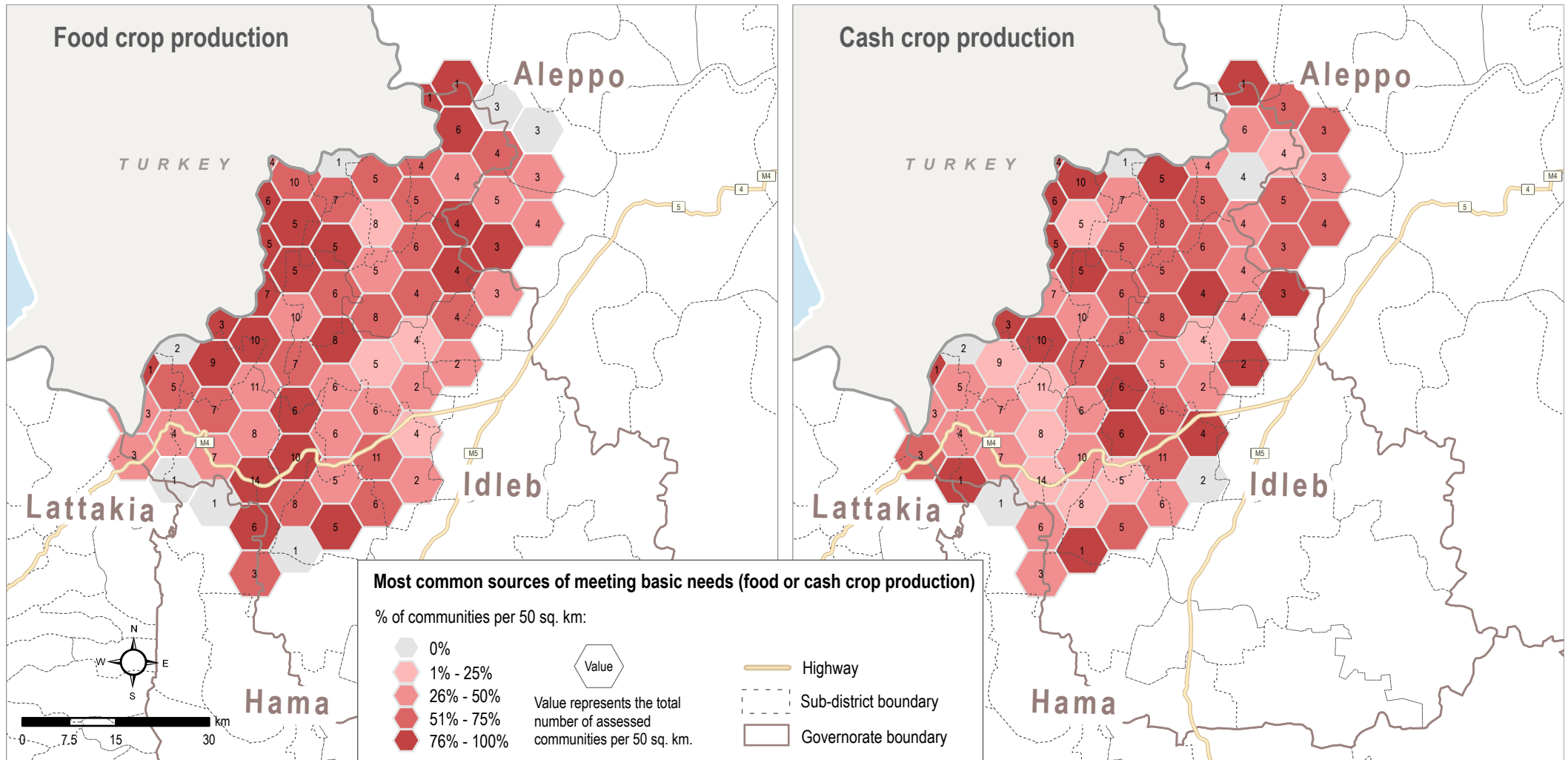
KIs in **85%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **food** as a common challenge ⁸



KIs in **47%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **health services** as a common challenge

% of assessed communities where common livelihood sources from agriculture were reported ⁴

Livelihood source	Residents	IDPs
Food crop production	62%	11%
Cash crop production	54%	3%
Livestock products	59%	54%
Sale of livestock	11%	25%



Agriculture as a livelihoods source

Note on the map

These maps show the percentage of assessed communities where KIs indicated that food crop production or cash crop production as a source of meeting basic needs. Food crop production was reported in more than 75% of the assessed communities in Mhambal, Dana, Salqin and Armanaz Sub-districts. Cash crop production was reported in more than 75% of the assessed communities in Teftnaz, Sarmin and Qourqeena Sub-districts.



Living Conditions

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

In **65%** of assessed communities reportedly none of the IDP households owned their shelter

In **19%** of assessed communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in unfinished or abandoned residential buildings

In **25%** of assessed communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in tents



A lack of toilets was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **10%** of assessed communities



A lack of bathing facilities was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **7%** of assessed communities

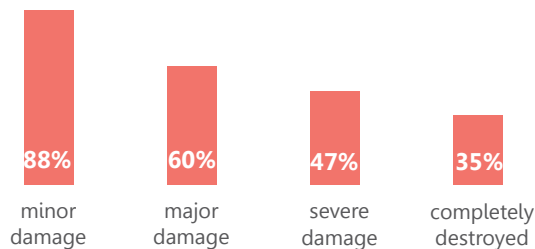


Problems with the drinking water were reported in **39%** of assessed communities



Water being calcareous was the most commonly reported problem with drinking water (reported by KIs in 39% of assessed communities)

Reported presence of occupied shelters with damage across communities where damages were reported (by % of assessed communities) ^{5,10}



Shelter and repair materials being too expensive was the most commonly reported challenge for households to repair their shelter (reported by KIs in 75% of assessed communities) ⁴

Reported sanitation issues affecting public space in the community (by % of assessed communities) ⁴

Rodents and/or pests are frequently visible



Solid waste in the streets



Sewage system pollutes public areas



Stagnant water



Flooding in the streets



94%

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



In **18%** of these communities, KIs reported that the **unavailability of certain food items** was a challenge to accessing sufficient food ⁸

Most commonly reported coping strategies for a lack of food (by % of assessed communities) ⁴

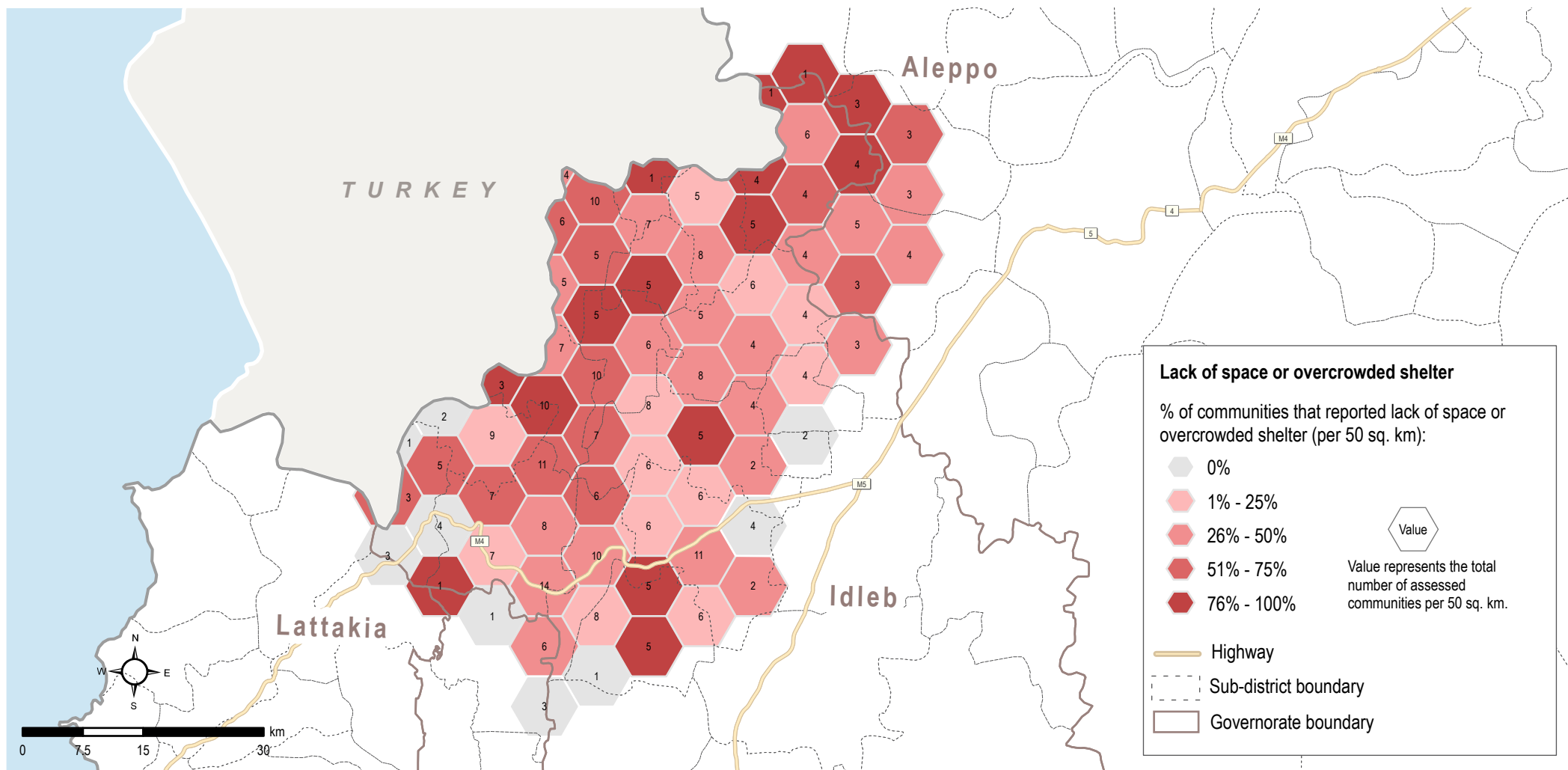
- 1 Borrowing money to buy food **72%**
- 2 Relying on less preferred food / lower food quality **71%**
- 3 Buying food with money usually used for other things **66%**



High price of suitable foods formula was the most commonly reported challenge to feeding young children (reported by KIs in 88% of assessed communities) ^{4,11}

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

- 1 Own production or farming **60%**
- 2 Assistance from local council or NGOs **24%**
- 3 Relying on food stored previously **21%**



Lack of Space or Overcrowding as a Shelter Inadequacy

Note on the map

This map shows the percentage of assessed communities where KIs indicated a lack of space or overcrowding a a shelter inadequacy for either residents or IDPs. KIs in more than 75% of the assessed communities in Darkosh and Daret Azza Sub-districts indicated this shelter inadequacy for IDPs. For residents, this shelter inadequacy was most commonly reported in Dana Sub-district (67% of assessed communities).



Access to Basic Services



Access to Electricity

7-8 hrs per day

was the most commonly reported range for hours of electricity accessible to households (reported by KIs in 42% of assessed communities)

Solar panels

was the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 63% of assessed communities)

46%

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



Access to Water

57%

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



7 days	4%
5-6 days	13%
3-4 days	22%
1-2 days	16%
0 days	45%

Days per week where water from the network was available (by % of 302 communities connected to a water network) ⬇

Private water trucking

was the most commonly reported source of drinking water (reported by KIs in 43% of assessed communities)



Access to Sanitation

36%

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

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

32%
23%
22%

- Paid private waste collection
- Free public waste collection
- Waste burnt

42%

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



Access to Markets

17%

% of assessed 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 52% of assessed communities where markets were not functioning)

65%

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



Access to Health Services

46%

% of assessed 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 assessed communities) ⁸

49%
46%
43%

- First aid or emergency care
- Paediatric consultations
- Treatment for chronic diseases

Going to the pharmacy instead of a clinic

was the most commonly reported coping strategy for a lack of healthcare (reported by KIs in 85% of assessed communities)



Access to Education Services

32%
50%

% of communities in which half or less of the school-aged children accessed school in the last 30 days for residents and IDPs

75%	In person
38%	Online
18%	Not functioning

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

30%

% of communities where KIs reported that the lack of access to internet, electricity and/or equipment was a barrier to accessing (online) education services ⁸



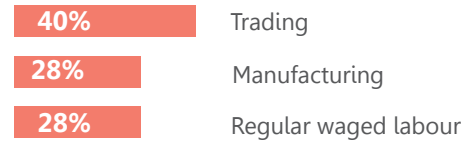
COVID-19

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

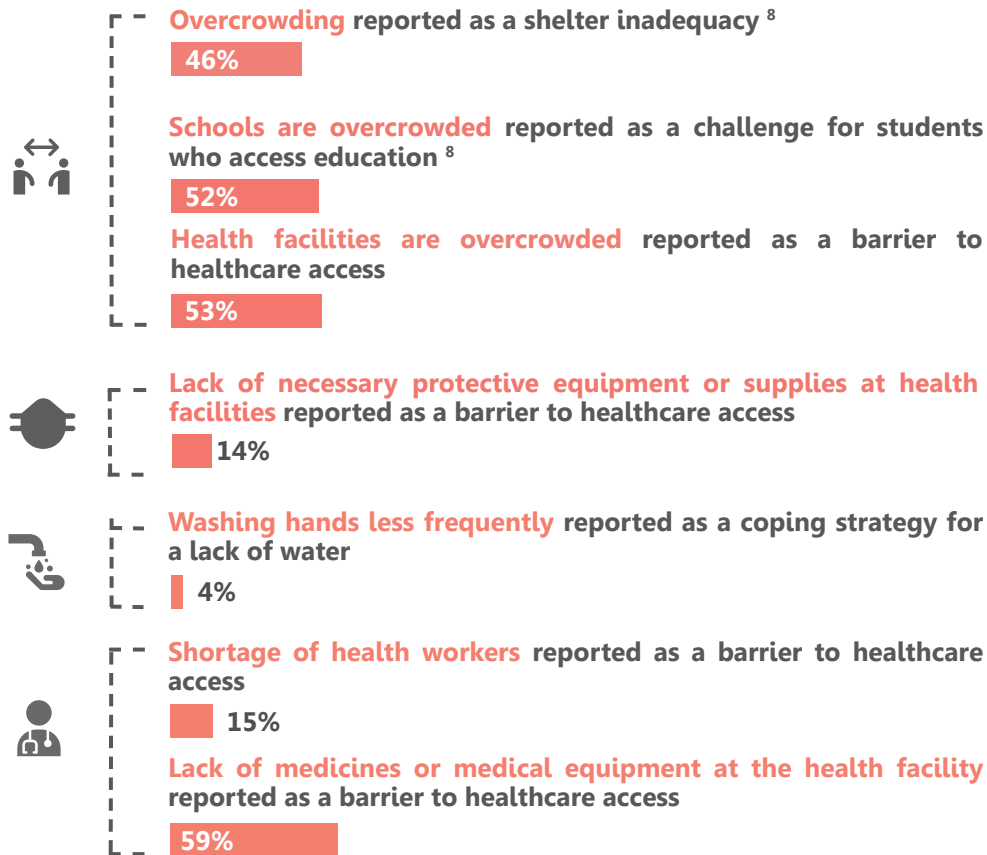


None of the available livelihood sectors were affected 51%
At least one of the available livelihood sectors was partially or totally affected 49%

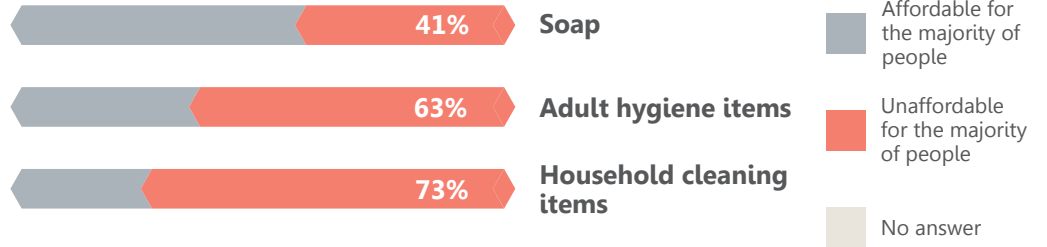
Most commonly reported sectors affected by COVID-19 (by % of assessed communities)



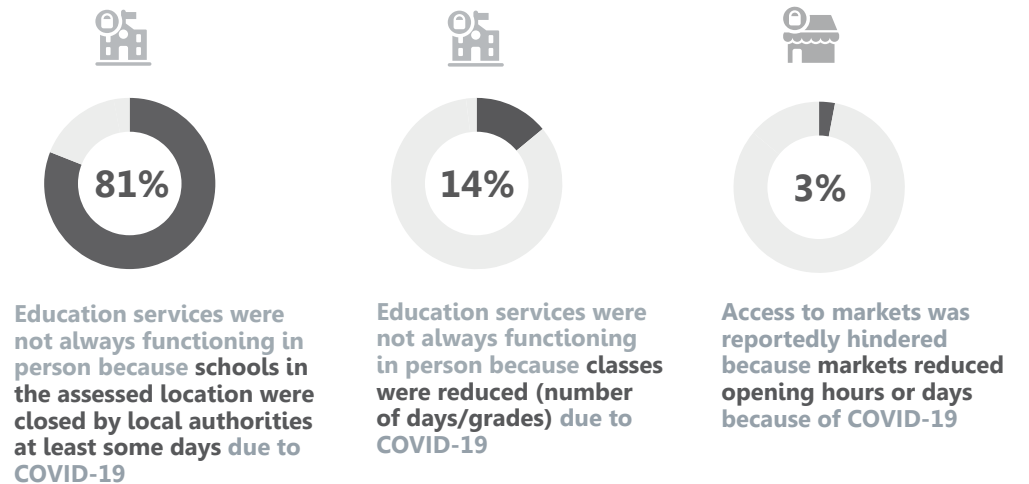
% of assessed communities where COVID-19 risk indicators were reported by KIs

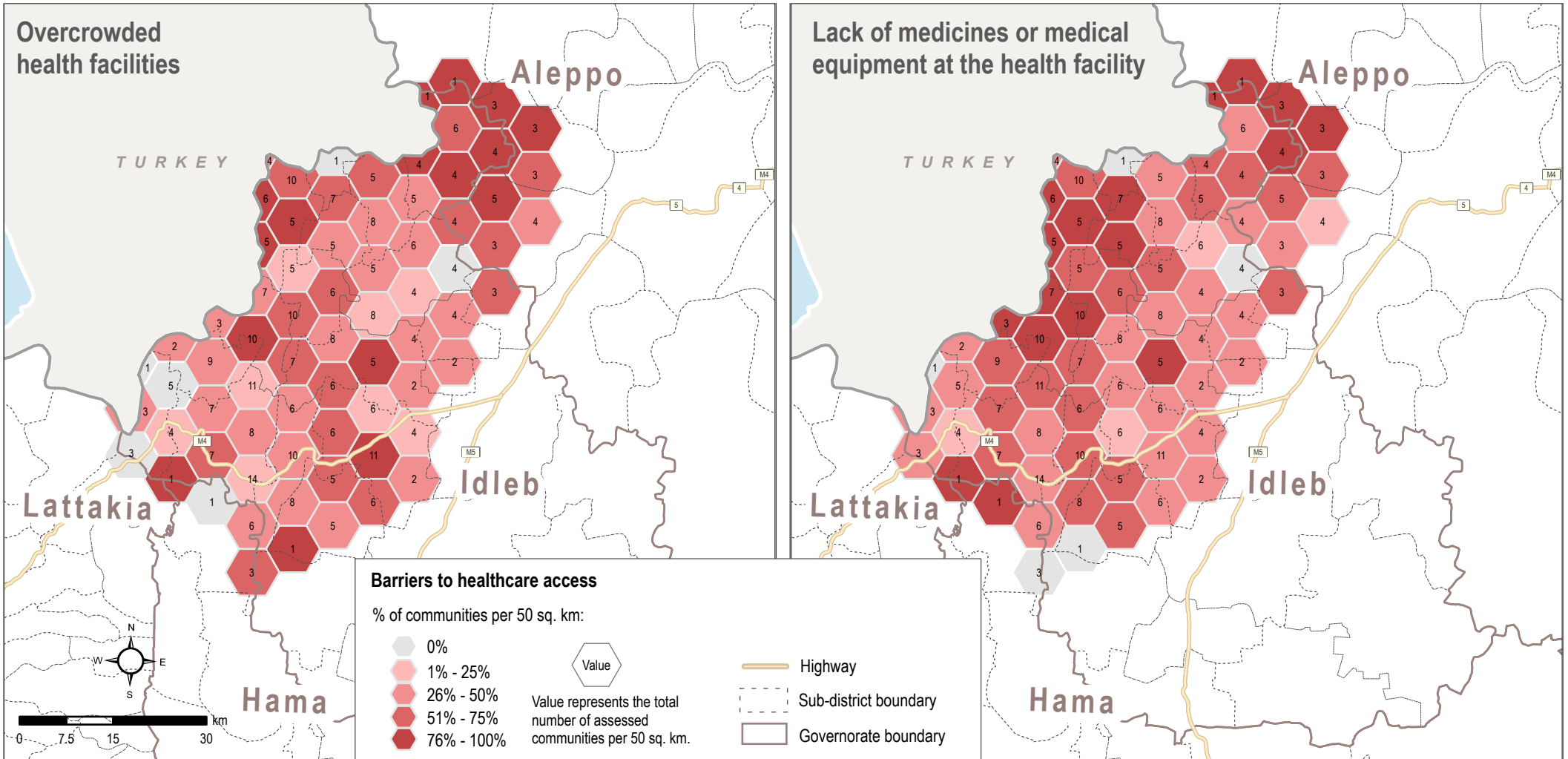


Reported hygiene item availability and affordability (by % of assessed communities)¹²



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





Overcrowding and Lack of Medicines or Medical Equipment as Barriers to Healthcare Access

Note on the map

This map shows the percentage of assessed communities where KIs indicated overcrowding at health facilities or lack of medicines/medical equipment at health facilities. Overcrowding at health facilities was most commonly reported in Sarmin, Dana, Daret Azza and Harim Sub-districts, where KIs in more than 75% of the assessed communities indicated this barrier. In Sarmin and Kafr Takharim Sub-districts, KIs in all assessed communities reported the lack of medicines/medical equipment at health facilities.



Security and Protection

Intersectoral findings on security



General safety and security concerns restricting movement to markets was a reported barrier to market access in **7%** of assessed communities

General safety and security concerns at markets was a reported barrier to market access in **22%** of assessed communities

Markets not opening because of security issues was a reported barrier to markets not functioning in **4%** of assessed communities



Threat from airstrikes was reported as a protection risk in **105** communities⁸

Threat from shelling, snipers or gunfire was reported as a protection risk in **109** communities⁸

Threat from improvised explosive devices (IEDs), mines or unexploded ordnances was reported as a protection risk in **34** communities⁸

Fear from imminent conflict was reported as a protection risk in **62** communities⁸



The inability to lock homes securely was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **39%** of assessed communities⁸

Lack of lighting around the shelter was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **84%** of assessed communities⁸

The security situation was reported as a barrier to shelter repairs in **21%** of assessed communities

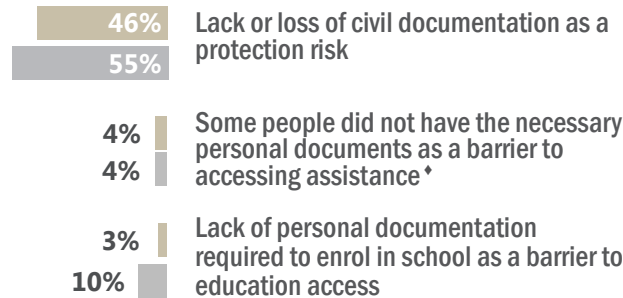


General safety and security concerns at the health facility was reported as a barrier to healthcare in **13%** of assessed communities

Most commonly reported protection priority needs (by % of assessed communities)^{3, 8}

- 1 **84%** Special assistance for vulnerable groups
- 2 **51%** Specialised child protection services
- 3 **36%** Psychosocial support

% of assessed communities where the lack of civil documentation for residents and IDPs was reported



% of assessed communities where extreme coping strategies used by residents and IDPs to meet basic needs were reported⁴

Residents

- 32%** Early marriage
- 1%** Forced marriage
- 7%** High risk work
- 1%** Sending family members to beg
- 71%** Sending children (15 or below) to work

IDPs

- 40%**
- 0%**
- 7%**
- 3%**
- 77%**

Age, Gender, and Diversity

- KIs in **40%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for women** as a barrier to meeting basic needs⁸
- KIs in **43%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for persons with a disability** as a barrier to meeting basic needs⁸
- KIs in **19%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of privacy for women and girls at health facilities** as a barrier to healthcare access
- KIs in **44%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of market access for people with restricted mobility**
- KIs in **7%** of assessed communities reported that **women and girls feel unsafe when traveling to markets**

- **Children below the age of 12** were reported as a group affected by child labour in **15%** of assessed communities⁸
- **Hazardous child labour** was reported as a protection risk in **8%** of assessed communities⁸

Endnotes

1. The greater Idleb area includes Idlib governorate, parts of Aleppo western countryside, and parts of Hama northwestern countryside controlled by armed opposition groups (AOGs).
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 at the time of data collection, instead of the last 30 days.
6. Is 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 Idleb Governorate Market Monitoring exchange rate was used to calculate the amount in SYP. According to the [Market Monitoring](#) October 2021, 1 USD = 3,490 SYP; 1TRY= 395 SYP.
7. According to the Idleb Governorate Market Monitoring October 2021, 1 USD = 3,490 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 Idleb Governorate Market Monitoring October 2021, the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) = 458,114 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. KIs were asked about the situation in the last two months, instead of the last 30 days.
12. 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 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	365	Currency used for paying water	328
IDPs	351	Currency used for paying rent	256
Challenges to assistance access (resident)	276	Currency in which wages are paid (merge)	314
Barriers to assistance access (resident)	71	Barriers to accessing sufficient food (merge)	350
Challenges to assistance access (IDPs)	273	Days when water is available from network	302
Barriers to assistance access (IDPs)	61	Barriers to markets functioning	64

Sources

- a. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (17 November 2021). Syrian Arab Republic: Developments in north-west Syria and Ras Al Ain - Tell Abiad - Situation Report No. 32 – October 2021. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>
- b. United Nations International Children's Fund. (18 November 2021). Whole of Syria Humanitarian Situation Report, September 2021. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>
- c. Information provided by REACH field team.
- d. Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. (19 October 2021). Citizens constantly fight and die for their livelihood in light of the continuous collapse of the Turkish lira (translated from Arabic). Retrieved from <https://www.syriahr.com/>
- e. Cash Working Group - Northwest Syria (NWS). October 2021 - Monthly Market Monitoring. Retrieved from <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info>

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.