

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OVERVIEW OF SYRIA (HSOS)

October 2024 | Northeast Syria

SITUATION OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

HSOS is a monitoring key informant (KI) assessment that provides comprehensive, multi-sectoral information about the humanitarian conditions and priority needs inside Syria. This Situation Overview presents a thematic review based on the HSOS assessment of the priority needs and humanitarian assistance, access to basic services and infrastructure, economic conditions, public health, as well as the security and protection situation in Northeast Syria (NES). HSOS focuses on host community and internally displaced persons (IDP) households residing in communities. **This assessment does not provide information on camps and informal settlements.**

This Situation Overview presents information gathered in **1061 communities** across Aleppo¹, Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hasakeh, and Deir-ez-Zor. Data was collected **between 6-17 October 2024** from **3465 KIs** (14% female).

The complete HSOS dataset and analysis can be downloaded as an [excel file](#).

INTERPRETATION

Findings are indicative rather than representative and should not be generalised across the population and region. **All results in this output should be interpreted as referring to a percentage of assessed community where KIs reported an information.** All indicators refer to the situation in the 30 days prior to data collection.

The symbol ▲ indicates that KIs could select multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.

HSOS Dashboards

- [Sectoral dashboard](#): This interactive dashboard presents a sectoral review of key indicators from HSOS. Users can easily navigate through their sector of interest and visualise data from the community level to the region level.
- [Trend analysis dashboard](#): This dashboard allows users to quickly see how the humanitarian situation in northern Syria has been changing over time. It also includes a flagging system tab that highlights numerical differences across different periods.
- [Water and electricity dashboard](#): This dashboard shows trends of access to water, access to electricity and problems with drinking water indicators in NES. Trends are displayed in graphs and maps showing findings at various administrative levels.

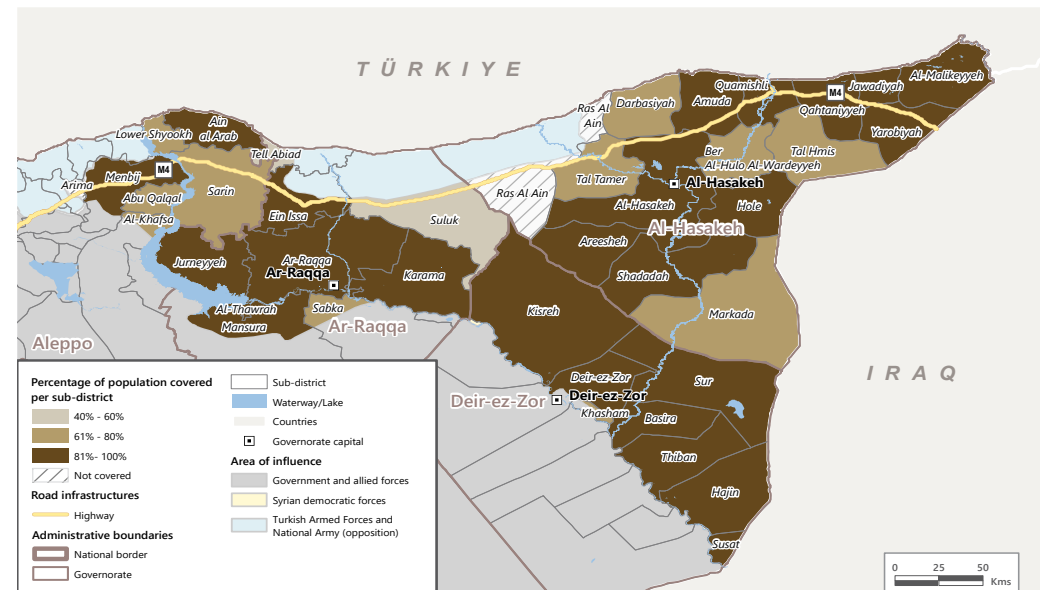
¹ Aleppo governorate includes Menbij and Ain Al Arab districts

² North press agency: [Syrians face increasing hunger as economic collapse deepens – WFP](#), 13 Oct 2024

³ North press agency: [Medication shortage in Syria's Qamishli sparks growing health crisis](#), 29 September 2024

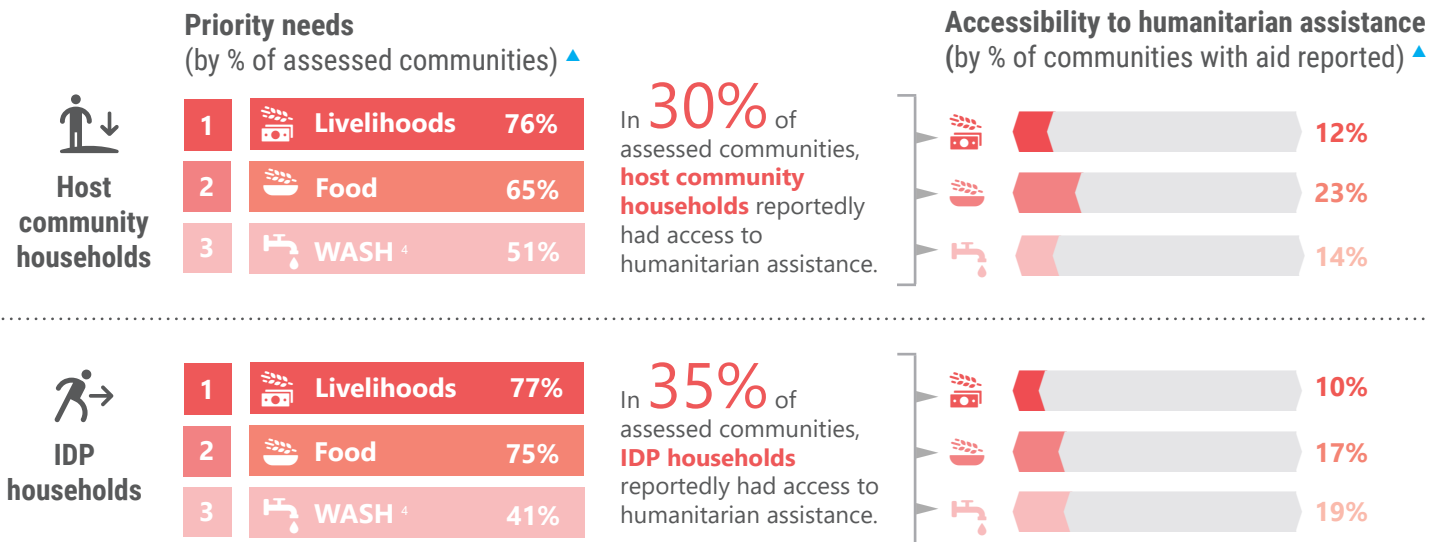
KEY MESSAGES

- **Deir al-Zor governorate had the highest percentage of communities where KIs reported that households lacked access to sufficient amounts of water, in October, compared to other assessed governorates across NES.** KIs highlighted the high cost of water and the main water network not reaching all households as the primary barriers preventing access to sufficient water. In light of these barriers, providing drinking water and expanding the water network to reach all households were identified as the top WASH needs in the governorate.
- Food insecurity remained a critical issue across NES, with KIs in nearly all assessed communities reporting that households faced challenges accessing sufficient amounts of food. **Furthermore, while a large proportion of KIs identified food as top priority, only a small percentage (7%) reported receiving food aid.** Food shortages in NES worsened, and with funding becoming limited, the [WFP was forced to reduce](#)² its assistance in 2024, leaving the population in greater need of international support.
- In October, health conditions in Al-Qamishli, a district in Al-Hasakeh, had reportedly deteriorated compared to the July round. The percentage of KIs reporting a lack of medicines and medical equipment as a challenge to healthcare access increased to 67%, up from 51% in July. Additionally, in more than half of the assessed communities, KIs identified access to medicines as the top health need, indicating an increase from the July round. Al-Qamishli is facing a [critical lack of essential medicines](#)³, which could put patients in need of treatment at risk of a serious crisis.



PRIORITY NEEDS AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

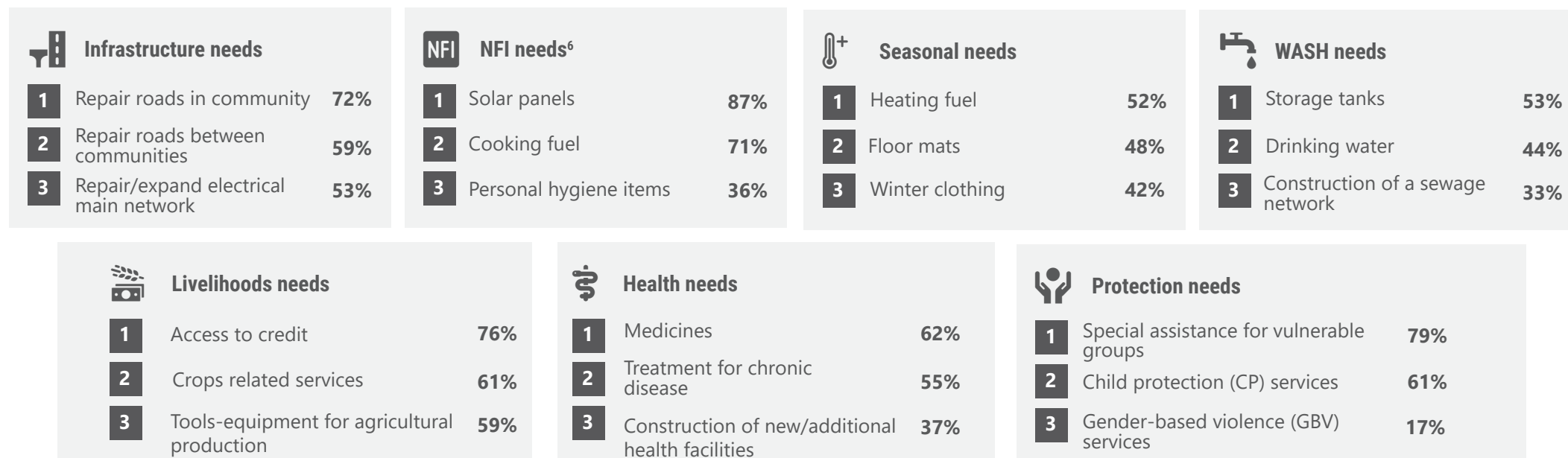
Most commonly reported priority needs and reported accessibility to associated humanitarian assistance



Most commonly reported difficulties faced when accessing humanitarian aid (by % of communities where access to aid was reported) ▲

- | | | |
|---|--|-----|
| 1 | Assistance provided was not enough to cover all people in need | 75% |
| 2 | Types of assistance provided were not relevant to all needs | 72% |
| 3 | Quality of assistance provided was not good | 30% |
-
- | | | |
|---|--|-----|
| 1 | Types of assistance provided were not relevant to all needs | 80% |
| 2 | Assistance provided was not enough to cover all people in need | 71% |
| 3 | Quality of assistance provided was not good | 31% |

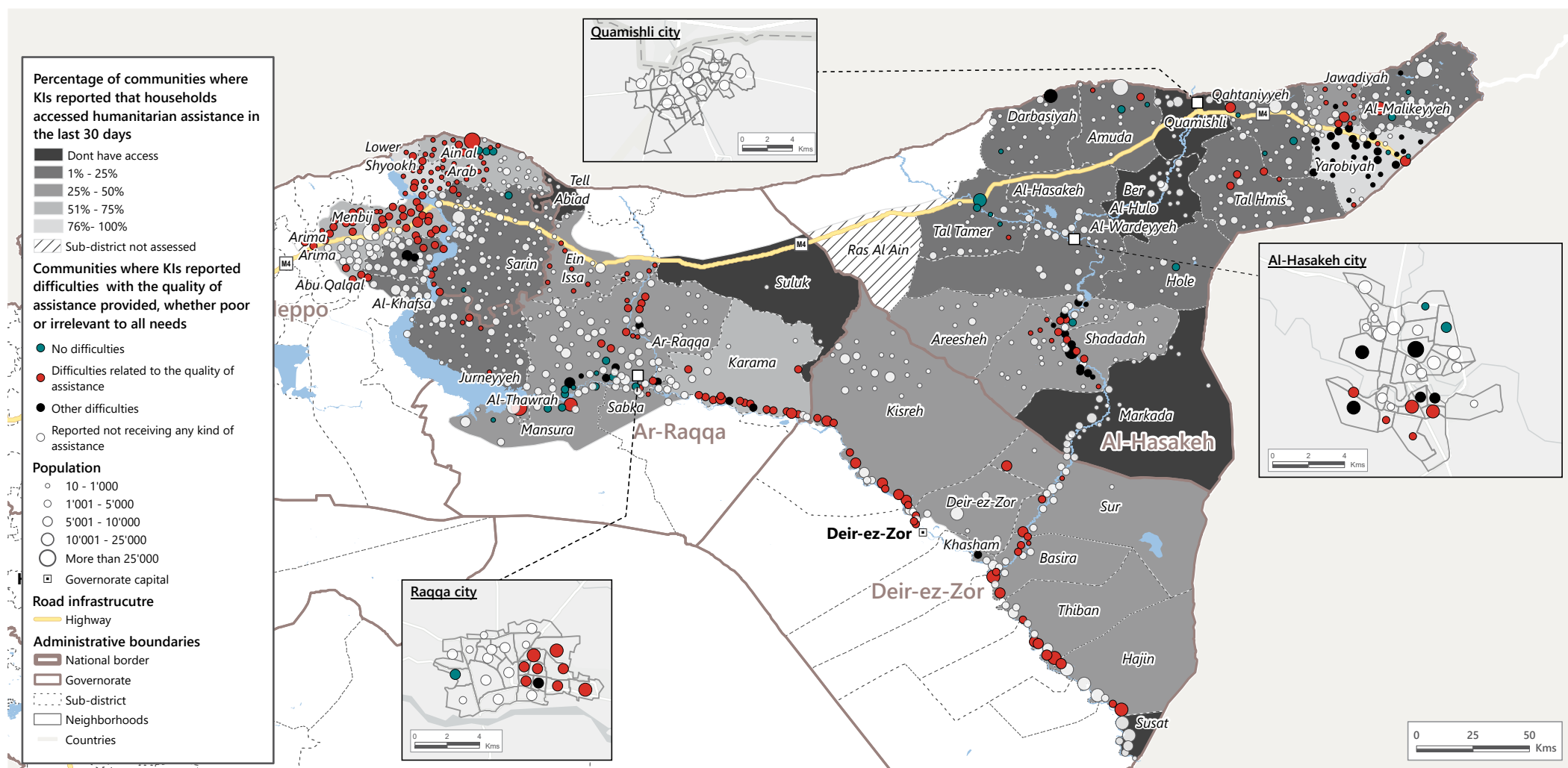
Top reported needs by sector (by % of assessed communities) ▲, ⁵



⁴ Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

⁵ All the findings on priority needs by sector correspond to the needs of the general population living in assessed communities. Hence, they cover both host community and IDP households.

⁶ Non-food items (NFI)



Note on the map

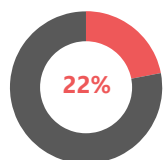
This map shows the percentage of communities per sub-district where KIs reported that households had access to humanitarian assistance in the last 30 days. Sub-districts with lighter shading show a higher percentage of communities with access. Green dots indicate communities where KIs reported no difficulties when accessing humanitarian assistance, while red dots indicate communities where KIs reported at least one difficulty related to the quality of assistance, whether due to poor quality or types of assistance that were not relevant to the needs.

ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Access to Markets

% of assessed communities where **markets were not functioning every day**



Hasakeh	15%
Deir-ez-Zor	5%
Raqqa	25%
Aleppo	37%

Most commonly reported barriers to food-market functioning (by % of assessed communities) ▲

1	People do not have financial means to open a shop/market	20%
2	Lack of sufficient electricity/other power sources	5%
3	Limited demand from customers	5%

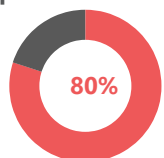
Most commonly reported NFI unavailable in markets (by % of assessed communities) ▲

1	Bedding items	6%
2	Mattresses Sleeping mats	6%
3	Cooking utensils	5%



Access to Healthcare

% of assessed communities where **no health services were provided**



Hasakeh	80%
Deir-ez-Zor	56%
Raqqa	76%
Aleppo	91%

97% Assessed communities where KIs reported that **households accessed health services in other/nearby** communities.

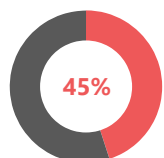
Most commonly reported challenges to access healthcare (by % of assessed communities) ▲

1	High costs of health services	94%
2	High cost of transportation to health facilities	72%
3	Lack of medicines/medical equipment	65%



Access to Electricity

% of assessed communities where households had **access to less than 6 hours of electricity per day** in average



Hasakeh	32%
Deir-ez-Zor	72%
Raqqa	50%
Aleppo	52%

% of assessed communities connected to the main electricity network (either functioning or not)

Connected **100%**
Not connected **0%**

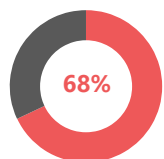


In **25%** of assessed communities connected to the main electricity network, KIs reported that **the electricity network was partially or completely not functioning**



Access to Water

% of assessed communities where **not all households had access to sufficient water**



Hasakeh	70%
Deir-ez-Zor	96%
Raqqa	54%
Aleppo	68%

% of assessed communities connected to the main water network (either functioning or not)

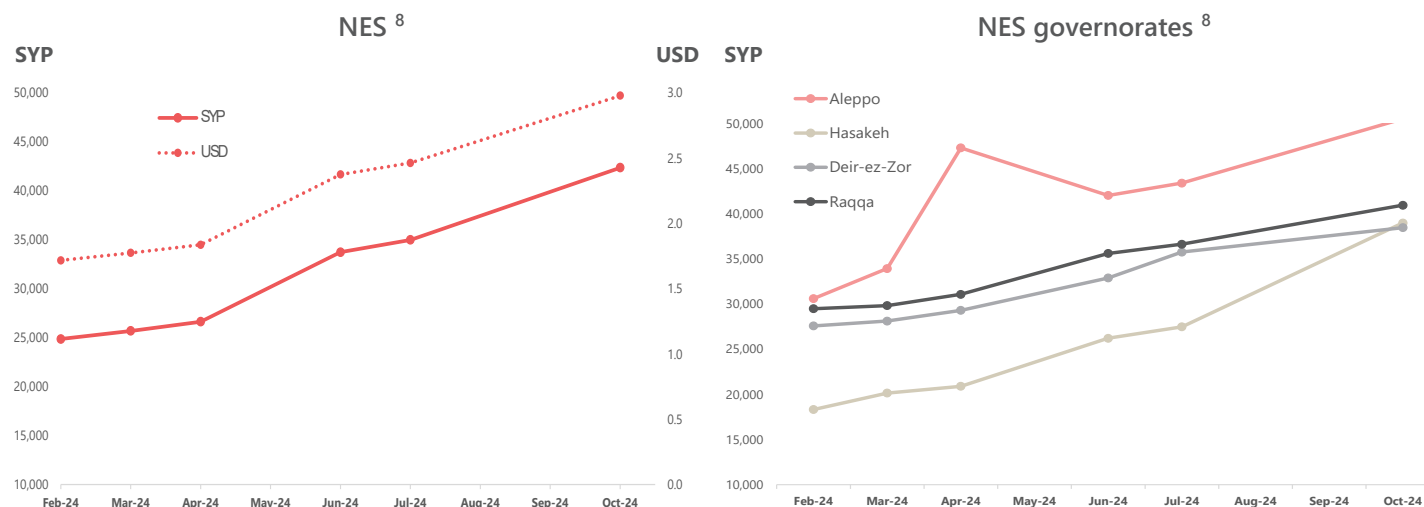
Connected **68%**
Not connected **32%**



In **16%** of assessed communities connected to the main water network, KIs reported that **the water network was partially or completely not functioning**

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Evolution of the average daily wage for casual or irregular labour reported over the past six HSOS rounds in NES ⁷



Governorate	Median estimated monthly rent price for a two-bedroom apartment
Aleppo	150,000 SYP
Al-Hasakeh	300,000 SYP
Ar-Raqqa	300,000 SYP
Deir-ez-Zor	237,500 SYP
Northeast Syria	250,000 SYP

Most commonly reported non-income generating sources of livelihoods (by % of assessed communities) [▲]

	Host community households	IDP households
Borrowing/loans	74%	72%
Remittances (from outside Syria)	28%	22%
Financial support from family or friends (inside Syria)	6%	14%
Cash or in-kind humanitarian assistance	0%	1%

In **74%** of assessed communities, KIs reported that **agriculture was a common source of livelihoods** for households.

Most common challenges to access livelihoods related to agriculture (by % of communities relying on agriculture) [▲]

- 1 High operational costs **90%**
- 2 Seasonality or instability of income **73%**
- 3 Lack of sufficient quantity and quality of resources for agriculture **63%**

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



In **84%** of assessed communities with people renting, KIs indicated that **rent was unaffordable for the majority of people**



KIs in **89%** of assessed communities reported that the **high cost of solar panels or batteries to store solar power** was a common challenge to access power



KIs in **51%** of assessed communities reported that the **high cost of fuel for generators** was a common challenge to access power



KIs in **36%** of assessed communities indicated that the **high cost of water** prevented households to access sufficient water



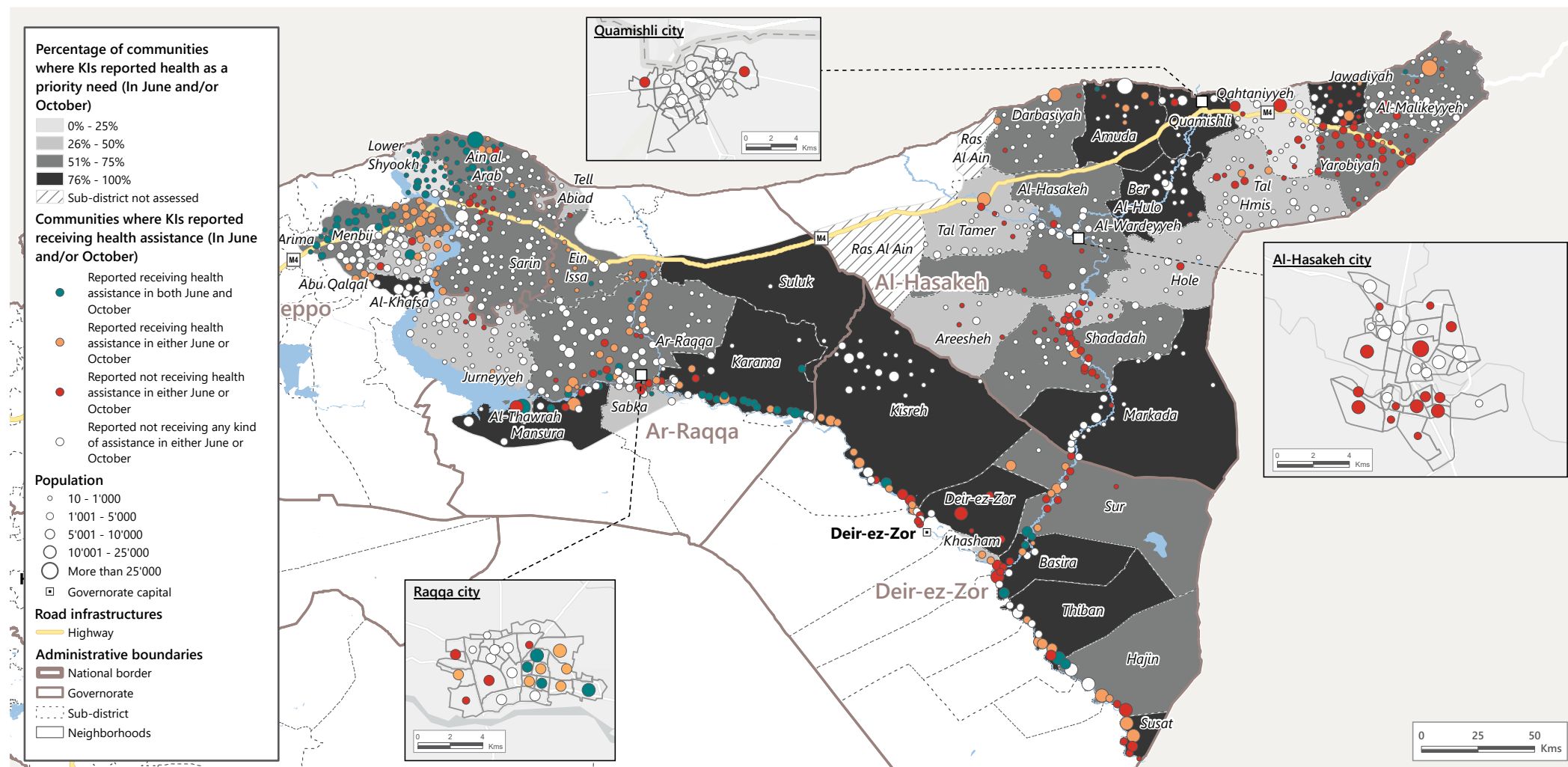
KIs in **90%** of assessed communities cited the **unaffordability of food** as a common challenge



KIs in **94%** of assessed communities cited the **high cost of health services** as a common challenge

⁷ KIs had the option to select the price in United States Dollars (USD) or Syrian Pounds (SYP). The values displayed here were all harmonised in SYP and USD, based on the exchange rate from the NES Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI). According to the REACH Market Monitoring April 2024, 1 USD = 14,200 SYP.

⁸ There was no KI data collection in May, August and September 2024 across NES.

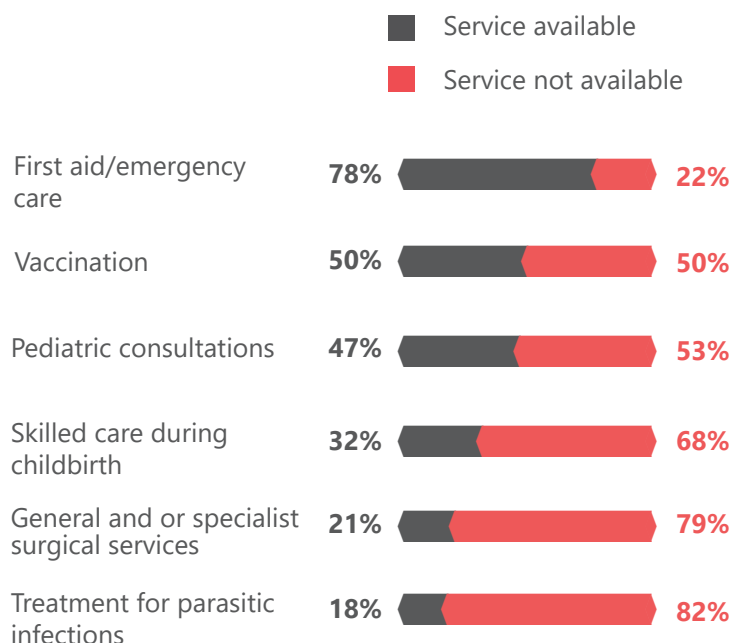


Note on the map

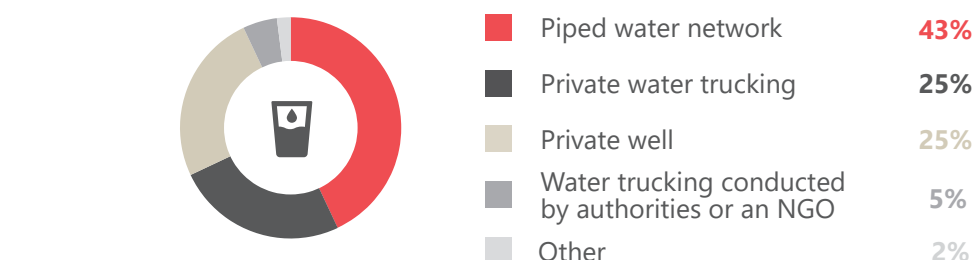
This map shows the percentage of communities per sub-district where KIs reported health as a priority need (based on data from the HSOS June and October rounds). Green dots represent communities where KIs reported receiving health assistance in both June and October, orange dots indicate communities where KIs reported receiving health assistance in either June or October, while red dots represent communities where KIs reported not receiving any health assistance in either June or October.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Essential health services available in the assessed community
(by % of assessed communities where households could access health services [20%]) ⁹



Source of drinking water used by most households (by % of assessed communities)



In **61%** of assessed communities, KIs reported that households **faced problems with drinking water**



Problems with drinking water ¹⁰

- 1 Water tastes or smells bad 61%
- 2 Water has bad colour 29%
- 3 Water perceived to be making people sick 19%

In **36%** of assessed communities, KIs reported that households **did not treat their water despite needing to**.



Methods used by households to make water safer to drink ¹¹

- 1 Sedimentation 88%
- 2 Household water filters 14%
- 3 Chlorine 13%

Most commonly reported sanitation issues (by % of assessed communities) ¹²

- 1 Garbage in the streets 37%
- 2 Rodents and/or pests frequently visible 29%
- 3 Sewage system pollutes public areas 23%
- 4 Could not afford desludging services 22%
- 5 Stagnant water in the streets 21%



In **37%** of assessed communities, **leaving garbage in public areas** was among the most commonly reported ways people disposed of solid waste.



In **16%** of assessed communities, **releasing wastewater and human feces over land surface** was among the most commonly reported ways people disposed of wastewater.

⁹ The displayed services were not selected based on how commonly they were reported.

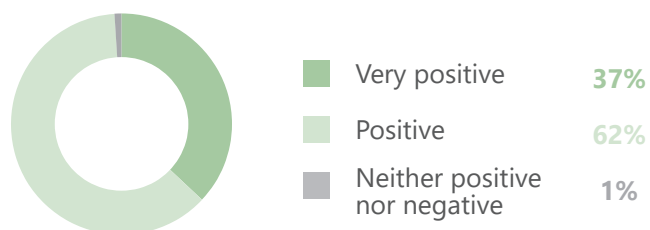
¹⁰ These problems were not selected based on how commonly they were reported, but rather on their potential negative impact on health.

SECURITY AND PROTECTION


Most commonly reported protection risks (by % of assessed communities) ▲





Perception of the social cohesion (by % of assessed communities)



Intersectoral findings on security

 **Security restrictions** reportedly prevented the access to livelihood activities by KIs in 42 assessed communities (4% of assessed communities).

 **General safety and security concerns at markets or while travelling to markets** was a reported barrier to market access by KIs in 42 assessed communities (4% of assessed communities.).

 In 39 assessed communities (4% of assessed communities), KIs reported that households could not access sufficient water due to **disruption caused by conflict activity**.

METHODOLOGY

The assessment is conducted using a key informant (KI) methodology at the community level. In each community, REACH enumerators interview a minimum of three KIs selected based on their knowledge of the community and areas of expertise. Enumerators submit one single form per community and only one KI should answer each section of the survey. Interviews are usually done in person unless security and access restrictions prevent enumerators to reach the community.

More information about HSOS KI methodology can be found on [HSOS KI terms of reference \(ToR\)](#).

This Situation Overview only presents a selection of collected indicators. The complete HSOS dataset and analysis can be downloaded as an [excel file](#).

Number of communities per subset:	Subset
Host community households	1043
IDP households	552
Communities where assistance was reported (host community)	313
Communities where assistance was reported (IDP)	192
Communities connected to a main electricity network	1047
Communities connected to a main water network	713
Communities with agriculture as a common source of livelihoods	780
Communities with access to health services	214

ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative 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).