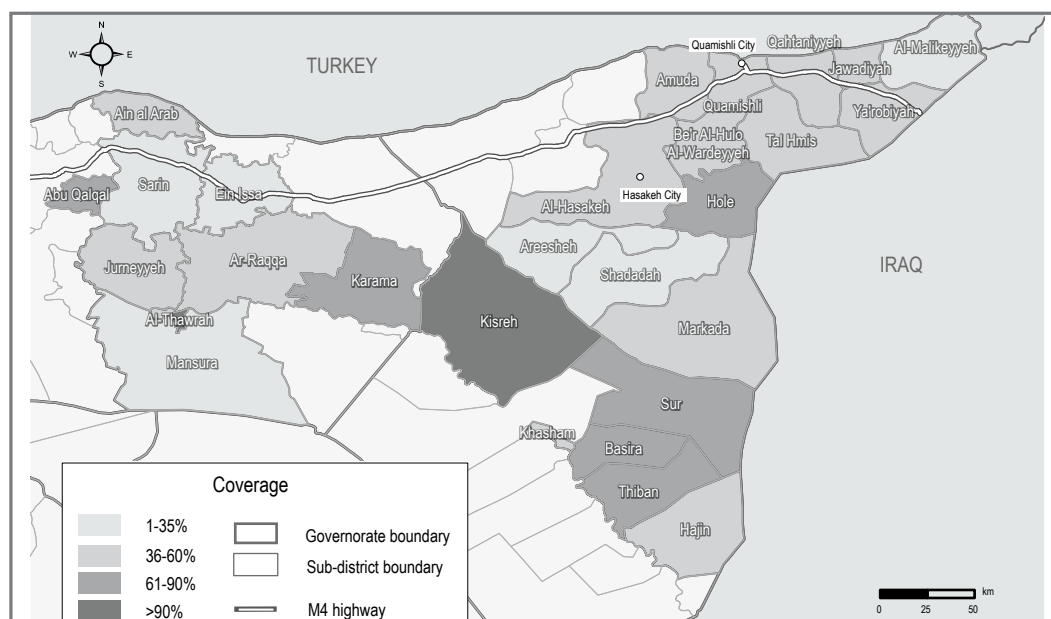


Introduction and Methodology

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 **855 communities** across Aleppo¹ (125 communities), Ar-Raqqa (193 communities), Al-Hasakeh (452 communities), and Deir-ez-Zor (85 communities) governorates. **Data was collected between 12-25 of November 2020 from 2,716 KIs** (22% female). Unless specified by an endnote, all indicators refer to the situation in the 30 days prior to data collection (October/November 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

November findings indicate that households in Northeast Syria (NES) experienced acute needs across various sectors, including health, as households continued to navigate a range of socio-economic challenges and security risks.

- **NES saw the most intense fighting since February**, with localized clashes erupting along the Peace Spring frontlines in Hasakeh and Raqqa governorates. Violence caused small-scale displacement and resulted in several civilian casualties. Attacks claimed by cells affiliated with the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) as well as heightened tensions between local authorities and the population increased security concerns for households in Deir-ez-Zor governorate.^a Moreover, tribal disputes were reported in over one fifth of communities in Deir-ez-Zor.

- As a **preventive measure against COVID-19**, the Self-Administration (SA) implemented a partial curfew across NES with stricter lockdowns imposed in some areas over a period of time in November. Public transportation, markets, and education services were disrupted during this time. As of 27 November, local authorities registered 6,899 COVID-19 cases in NES. However, the actual number is likely much higher due to limited testing.^b

- Years of conflict and economic downturn have **eroded health infrastructure** in NES. Findings indicate that barriers to accessing healthcare were present in all assessed communities. The lack of medicines, the lack of ambulance services, and a shortage of health workers were reported in 34%, 27%, and 17% of communities, respectively. Additionally, health services were reportedly unaffordable for households in 76% of communities. Even when healthcare was provided free of charge, households still struggled to access health services due to the high cost of transportation to the health facilities (reported in 59% of communities). As a result, households relied on pharmacies in an effort to meet their health needs (reported in 89% of communities). In some cases, households had to forgo essential treatment when they were unable to access services (reported in 10% of communities). Relatedly, healthcare was the top priority need for residents. However, the presence of health assistance was reported in just 1% of communities, pointing at a disconnect between reported needs and types of assistance perceived to be provided. In fact, KIs cited that the assistance provided was not relevant to all needs of households in over half of communities where access to assistance was reported.

- **Knock on effects of COVID-19 worsened the economic hardship for households** in NES. Findings suggest that COVID-19 negatively affected livelihoods in over half of assessed communities. Daily waged labour, which was the most commonly reported source of income, was affected in over 70% of communities. Agriculture, another major source of income, was affected in 37% of communities. According to the [World Food Programme \(WFP\)](#),^c 53%, 50%, and 37% of households lost one or more sources of income due to COVID-19 related restrictions in Hasakeh, Raqqa, and Deir-ez-Zor governorates, respectively. The loss of income coupled with a rise in food prices - mainly due to the end of the agricultural season and the increased reliance on costly imported fresh food items^a - resulted in insufficient food consumption for roughly 40% of households across NES.^c

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.



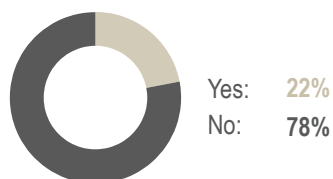
Priority Needs and Humanitarian Assistance



Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for Residents ^{2,3,†}

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	Healthcare	Healthcare	Livelihoods	Healthcare	72%
2	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	Winterisation	Livelihoods	62%
3	WASH ^e	WASH	Healthcare	WASH	45%

% 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
1% | Livelihoods
1% | WASH

Most commonly reported barriers that resident households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance ^{4,†}

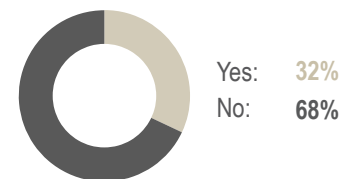
Communities reporting access to humanitarian assistance		Communities reporting no access to humanitarian assistance
Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need	64% 1	94% No humanitarian assistance was available
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	58% 2	5% Not aware if assistance was available
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	51% 3	1% Other



Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for IDPs ^{2,3,†,d}

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	Food	Healthcare	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	76%
2	Shelter	Livelihoods	Winterisation	Healthcare	55%
3	Healthcare	Winterisation	Health	Food	51%

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

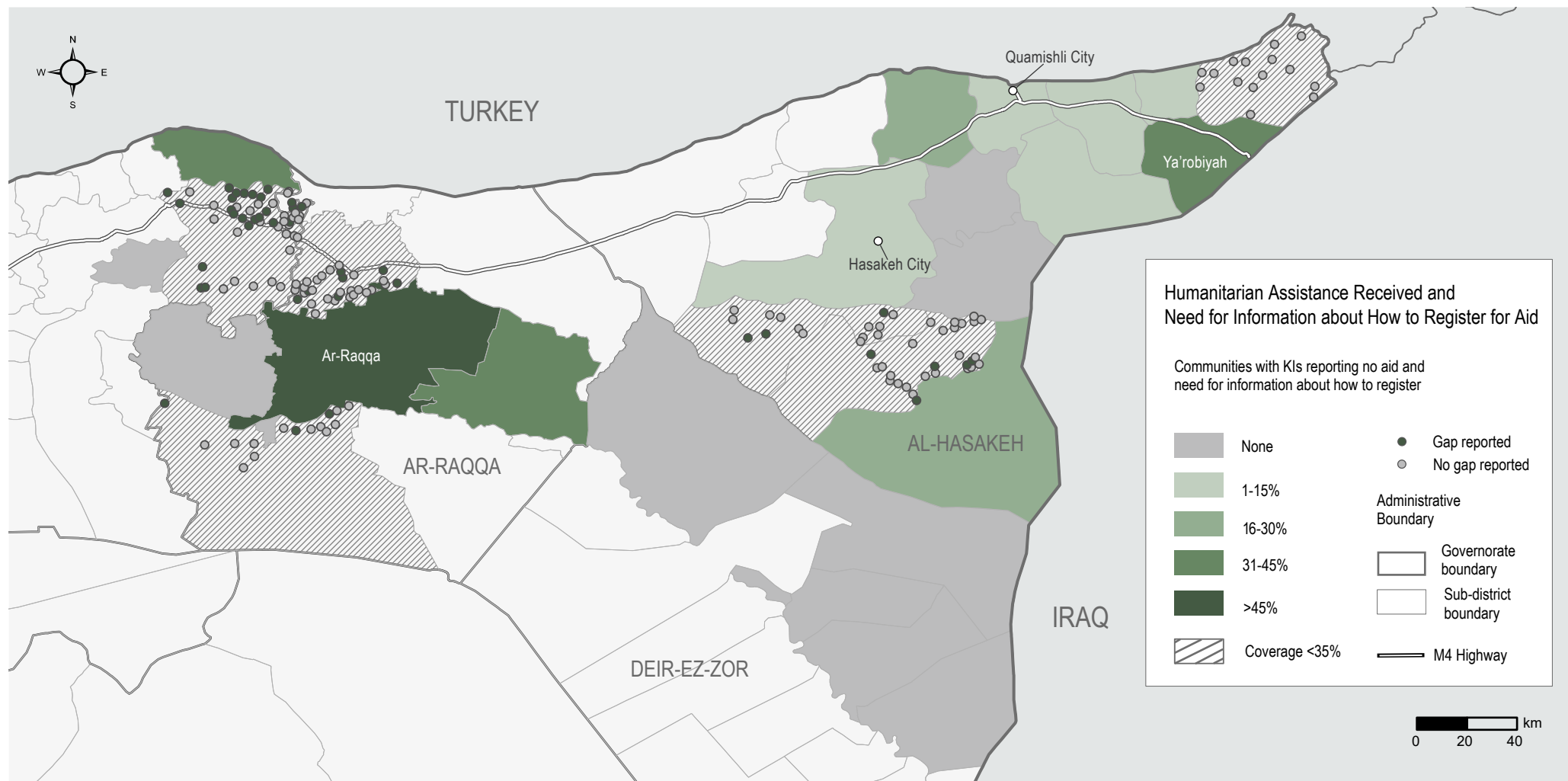


% of communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance** for IDPs ^{4,†}

0% | Winterisation
1% | Food
19% | Livelihoods

Most commonly reported barriers that IDP households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance ^{4,†}

Communities reporting access to humanitarian assistance		Communities reporting no access to humanitarian assistance
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	86% 1	96% No humanitarian assistance was available
Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need	55% 2	4% Not aware if assistance was available
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	55% 3	



Humanitarian Assistance Received and Need for Information about How to Register for Aid

Note on the map

This map shows the proportion of communities reporting both no aid and an unmet need for information about how to register for aid. To accurately represent findings, in sub-districts where fewer than 35% of communities were assessed, information is displayed at the community level. In subdistricts where at least 35% of communities were assessed, information is aggregated up to the sub-district level.

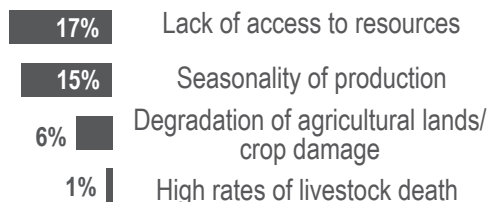


Economic Conditions

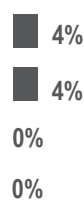
Region	Estimated median monthly household expense for water for a household of six ^{5,6}	Estimated median monthly rent price for a two bedroom apartment ^{5,6}	Estimated median daily wage for unskilled labour ^{5,7,8}
Northeast Syria	8,500 SYP	25,000 SYP	4,000 SYP
Aleppo	1,000 SYP	20,000 SYP	5,000 SYP
Al-Hasakeh	15,000 SYP	40,000 SYP	4,500 SYP
Ar-Raqqa	1,000 SYP	20,000 SYP	4,000 SYP
Deir-ez-Zor	15,000 SYP	25,000 SYP	3,000 SYP

Reported barriers to accessing income from agriculture to meet basic needs ^{4,♦}

Residents



IDPs



Reported common livelihood sources from agriculture ^{4,♦}

Livelihood source	Residents	IDP
Food from crop production	42%	14%
Cash from crop production	68%	2%
Livestock products	64%	30%
Sale of livestock	59%	23%

88% and 98%

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

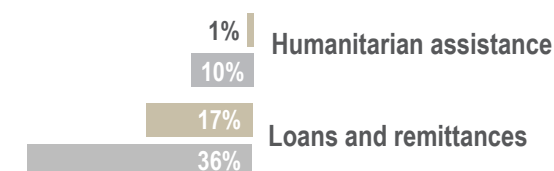
54 days

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

87% and 75%

% 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 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 [♦]



KIs in **91%** of communities reporting on challenges for renting shelters cited that **rent prices** were unaffordable for the majority of people



KIs in **23%** of communities where barriers to accessing electricity were reported, cited the high cost of **fuel for generators** as a common challenge



KIs in **66%** of communities where barriers to accessing sufficient water were reported, cited the high cost of **water trucking** as a common challenge



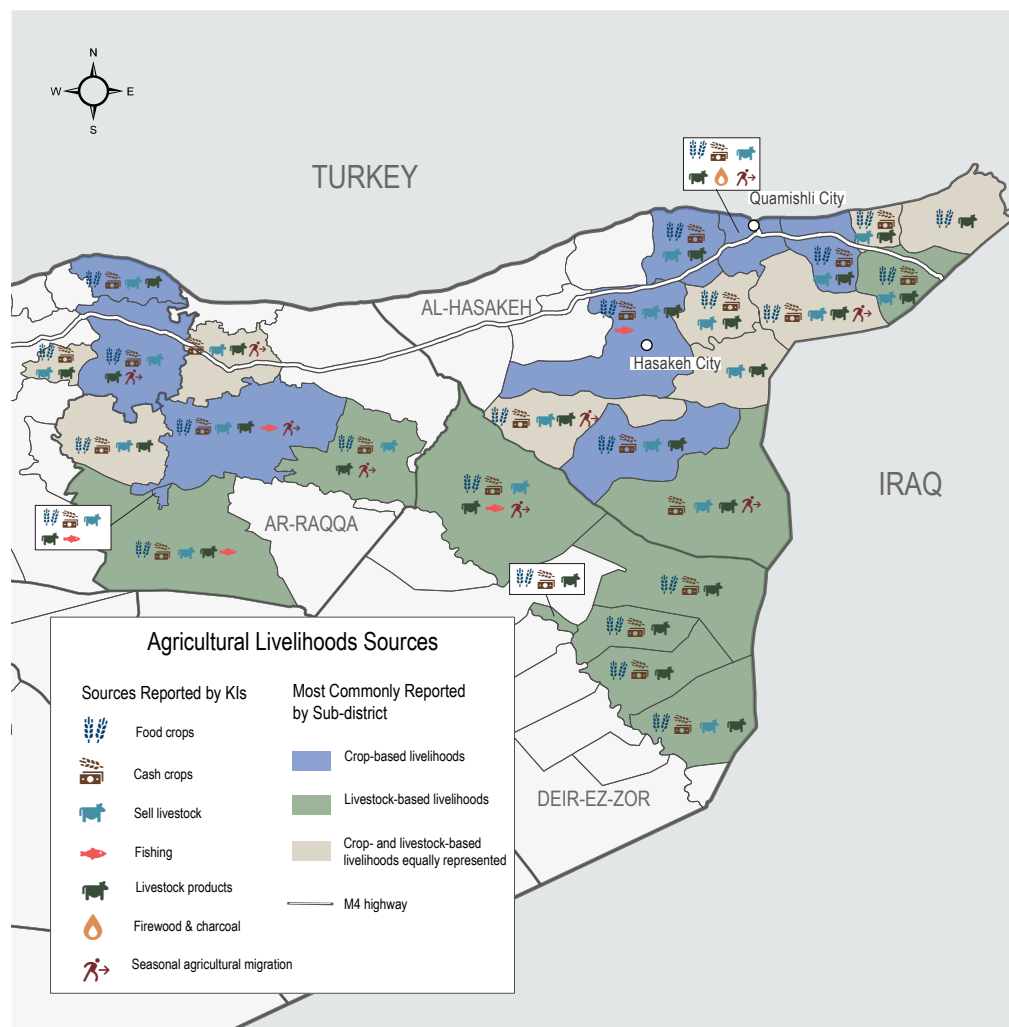
KIs in **83%** of communities where barriers to accessing sufficient food were reported, cited the high cost of **food** as a common challenge ⁸



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



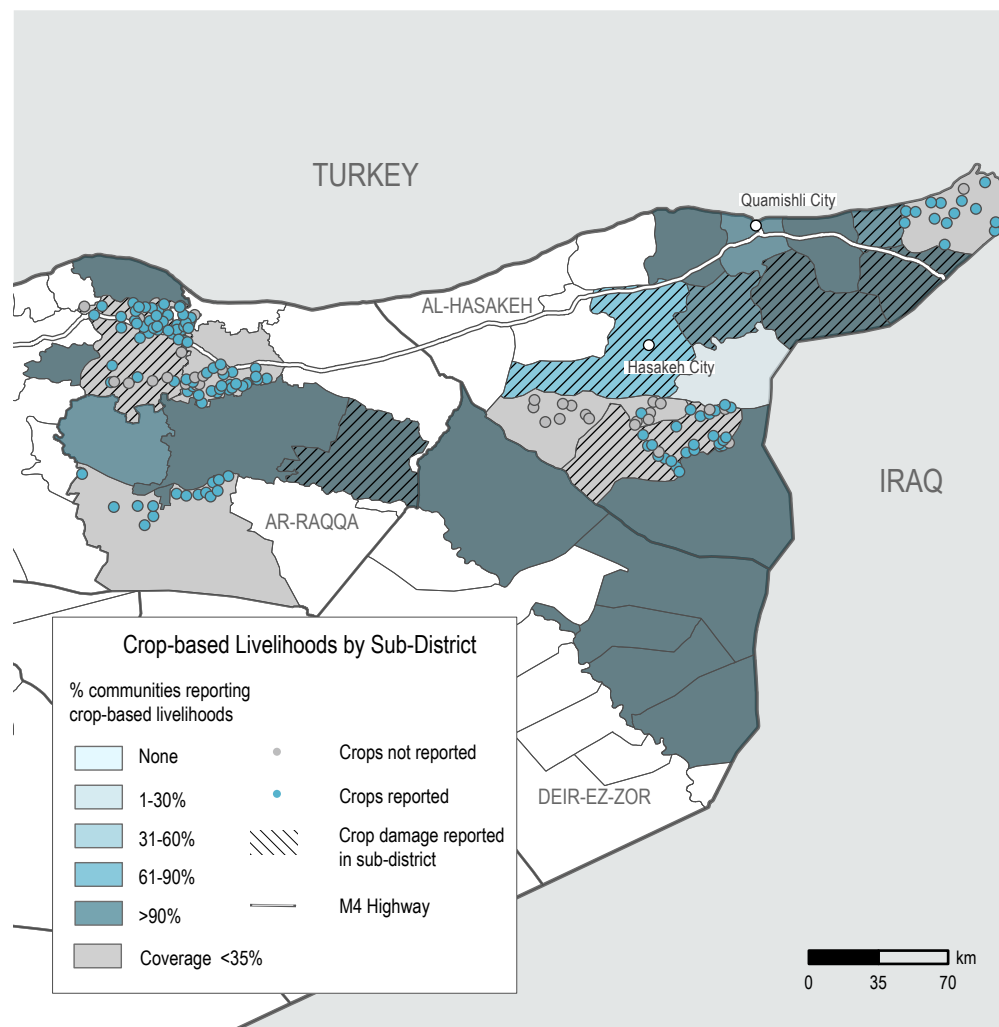
KIs in **28%** of communities where barriers to education access were reported, cited the high cost of **a private tutor** as a common challenge ⁸



Agricultural Livelihoods Sources by Sub-District

Note on the map

This map shows the distribution of agricultural livelihoods sources by sub-district. Each icon represents a different source of income reported by KIs. The shading of the sub-districts indicates which type of agricultural livelihood was most commonly reported.



Crop-Based Livelihoods and Reported Damage

Note on the map

This map shows the distribution of crop-based livelihoods and reported damage to cropland by sub-district. The hatched sub-districts contain communities in which crop damage was reported by KIs. To accurately represent findings, in sub-districts where fewer than 35% of communities were assessed, information is displayed at the community level.



Living Conditions

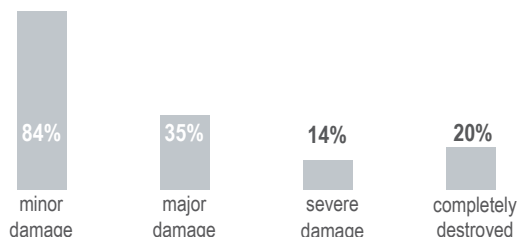


A lack of bathing facilities was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **21%** of communities *



A lack of toilets was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **31%** of communities *

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

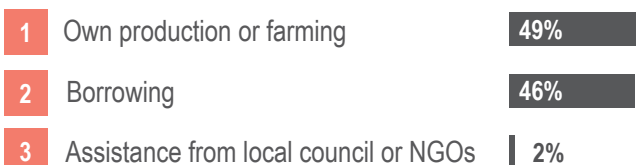


99% % of communities where KIs reported that households experienced barriers to accessing sufficient food ⁸



In 29% of these communities, KIs reported that the unavailability of certain food items was a challenge to accessing sufficient food ⁸

Commonly reported **sources of food** for households other than markets ⁴



In **84%** of communities reportedly at least **80%** of the resident population owned their shelter *

In **87%** of communities reportedly none of the IDP households owned their shelter *

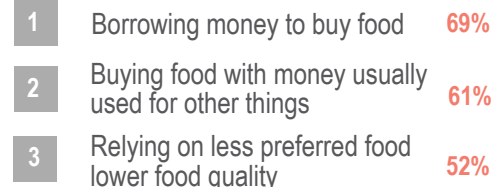
In **39%** of communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in unfinished or abandoned residential buildings *

In **52%** of communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in tents *



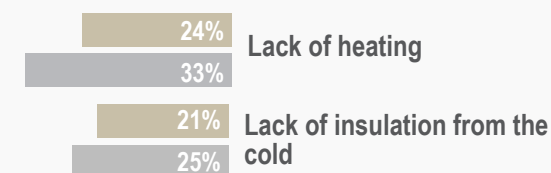
High price of suitable foods or formula was the most commonly reported challenge to feeding young children (reported by KIs in 93% of communities) ^{12, *}

Most commonly reported coping strategies for a lack of food ^{4, *}

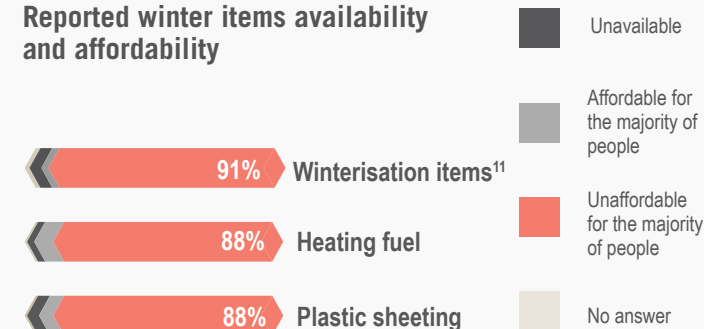


Winter-related findings

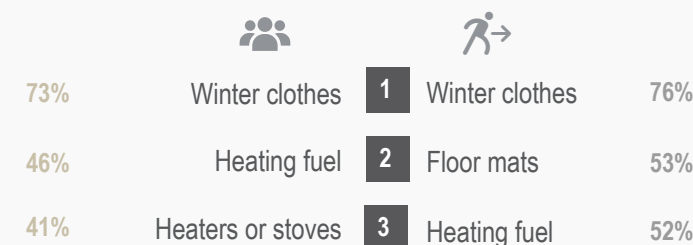
Winter-related shelter inadequacies for residents and IDPs *



Reported winter items availability and affordability



Top three most commonly reported winterisation needs for residents and IDPs *





Access to Basic Services



Access to Electricity

12+ hrs per day

was the most commonly reported range for hours of electricity accessible to households (reported by KIs in 39% of communities)

Main network

was the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 83% of communities)

29%

% 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 24%
5-6 days 17%
3-4 days 24%
1-2 days 14%
0 days 21%

Days per week water from the network was available (by % of 620 communities connected to a water network)

Piped water network

was the most commonly reported source of drinking water (reported by KIs in 40% of communities)



Access to Sanitation

80%

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

Most commonly reported ways people disposed of solid waste

38%

Free public waste collection

33%

Waste burnt

18%

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 92% of communities where households were unable to access markets in their own location)

63%

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



Access to Health Services

68%

% 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 ⁸

63%

Treatment for chronic diseases

48%

First aid or emergency care

35%

Skilled care during child birth

Going to a pharmacy instead of a clinic

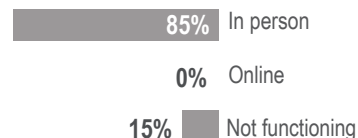
was the most commonly reported coping strategy for a lack of healthcare (reported by KIs in 89% of communities) [♦]



Access to Education Services

9

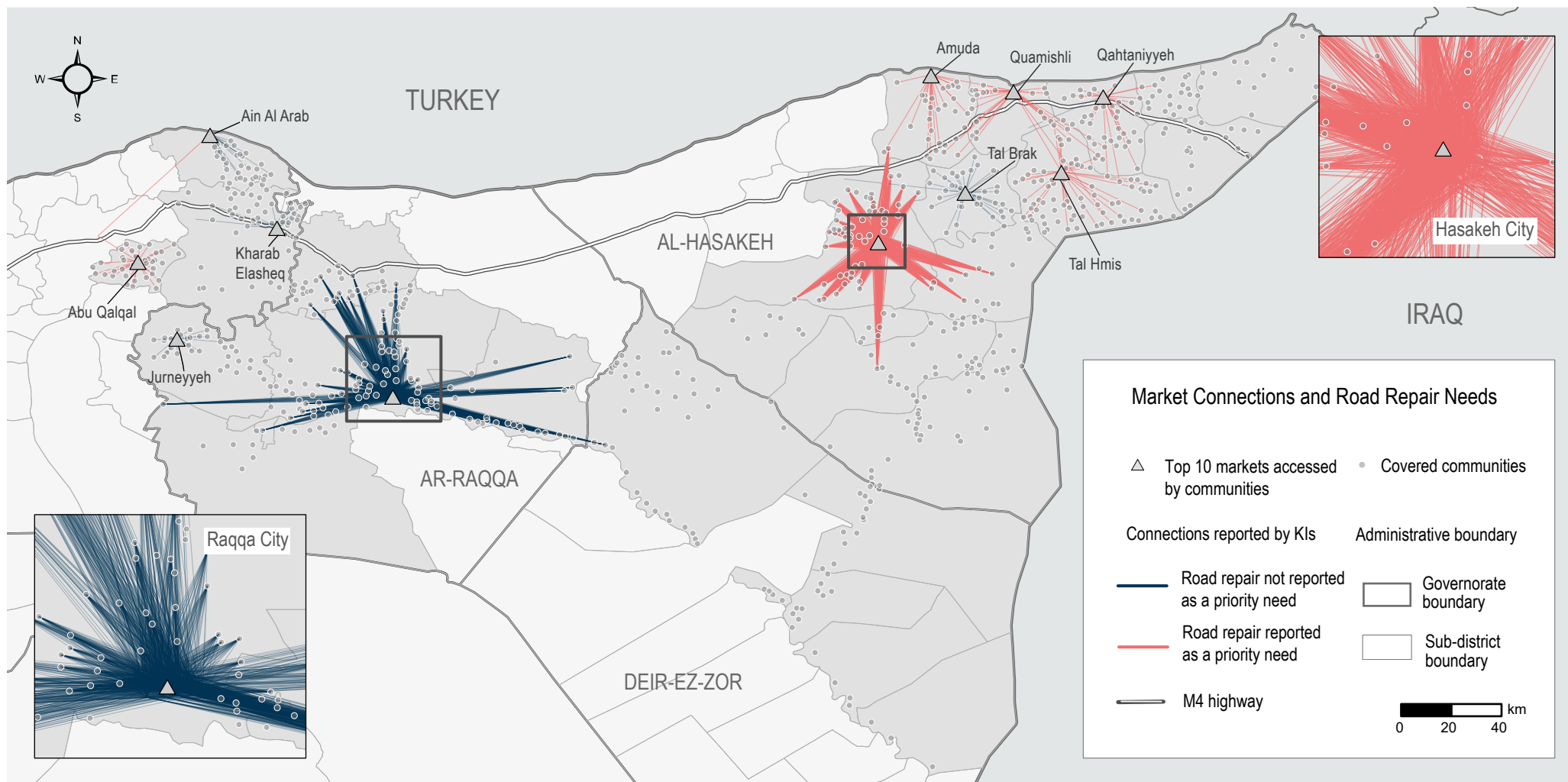
communities where KIs reported that **no functioning education services were available** in the assessed and nearby community



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

54%

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



Market Connections and Road Repair needs

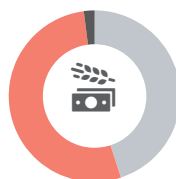
Note on the map

This map shows the connections between assessed communities and the market centres most commonly identified by KIs. One line represents one connection, and red lines denote cases where KIs also identified road repair between communities as a priority need. This need was most often reported in Al-Hasakeh governorate, including Hasakeh City and communities to the northeast.



COVID-19

Effects of COVID-19 on livelihoods sectors in the community

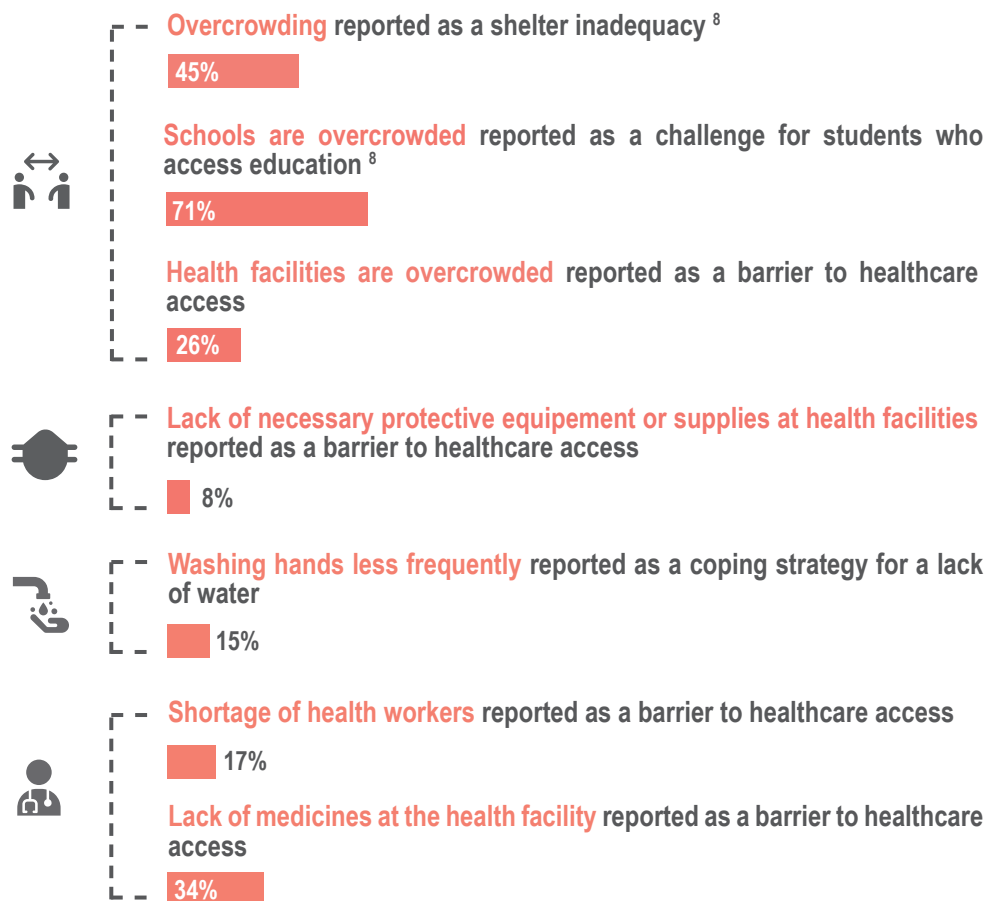


Not affected 45%

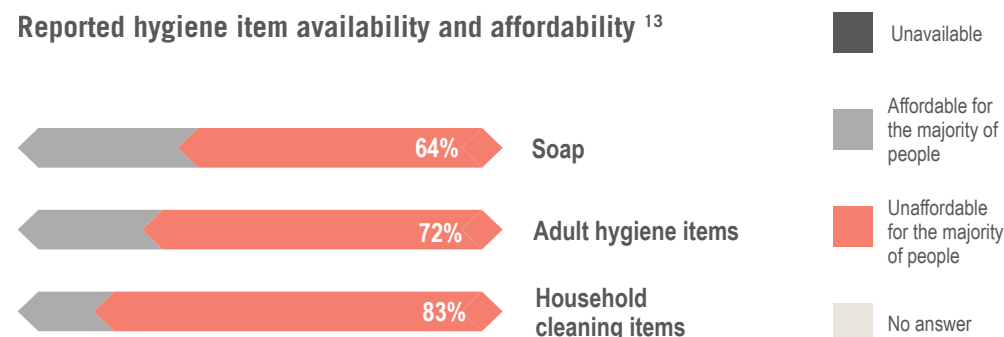
Partially affected 53%

Totally affected 2%

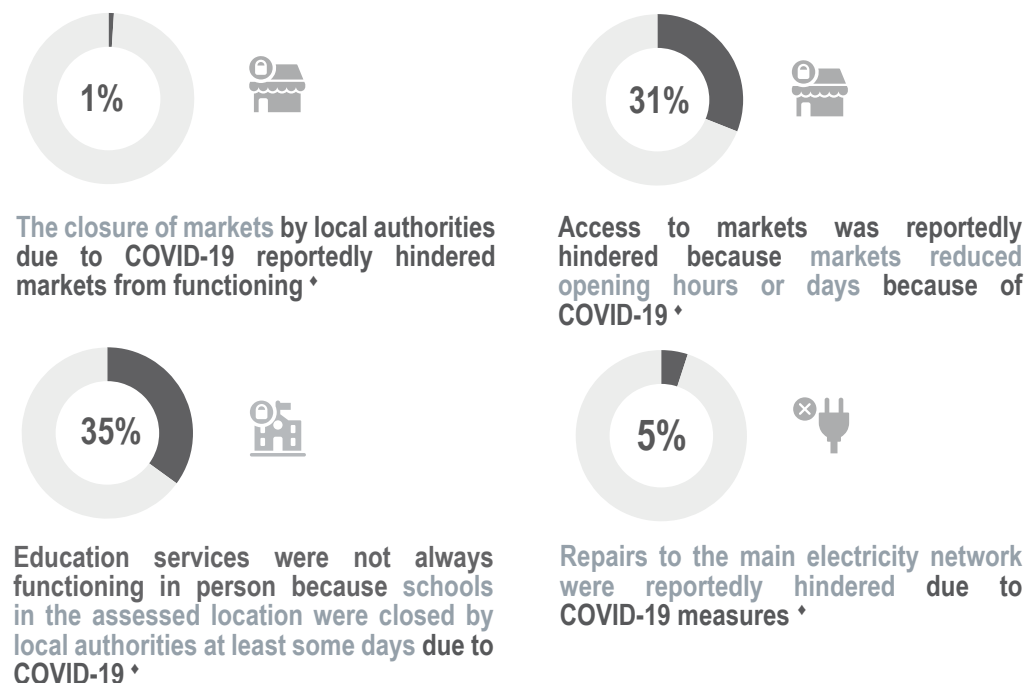
COVID-19 risk indicators *

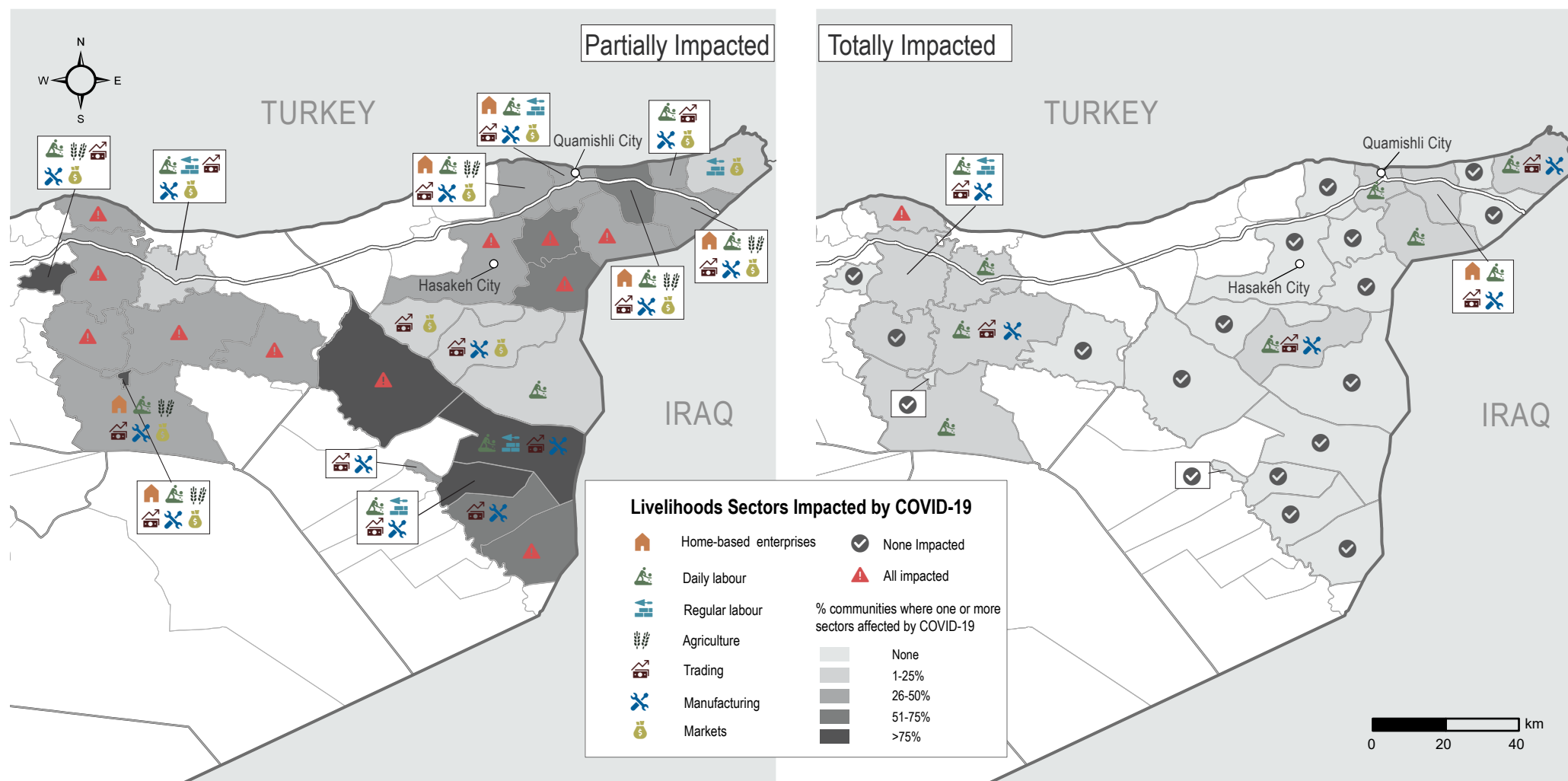


Reported hygiene item availability and affordability¹³



COVID-19-related barriers to access to services





Livelihoods Sectors Impacted by COVID-19

Note on the map

This map shows the distribution of sectors partially and totally impacted by COVID-19. The shading of sub-districts indicates the percentage of communities where at least one sector has been affected. While partial disruptions were reported in every sub-district, KIs in Ain Al-Arab reported that every sector was totally impacted.



Security and Protection

Intersectoral findings on security



General safety and security concerns restricting movement to markets was reported as barrier to market access in **68** communities

General safety and security concerns at markets was a reported barrier to market access in **27** communities

Movement restrictions was reported as a protection risk in **41** communities ⁸



Tribal disputes were reported as a protection risk in **24** communities ⁸

Threat from shelling was reported as a protection risk in **7** communities ⁸

Fear from imminent conflict was reported as a protection risk in **21** communities ⁸



The inability to lock homes securely was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **30%** of communities ^{8, *}

Lack of lighting around the shelter was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **67%** of communities ^{8, *}

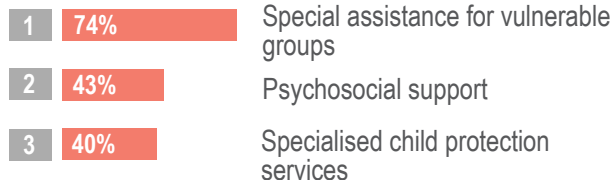
The security situation was reported as a barrier to shelter repairs in **5%** of communities ^{*}

Housing, land, and property issues were reported as a protection risk in **6%** of communities ^{8, *}

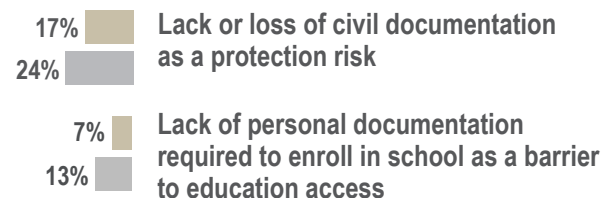


General safety and security concerns at the health facilities was reported as a barrier to healthcare in **17** communities

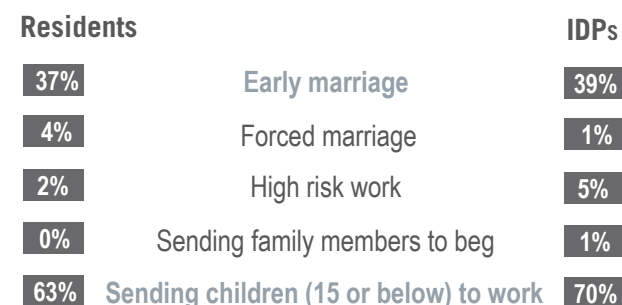
Most commonly reported protection priority needs ^{3,8, *}



Findings on the reported lack of civil documentation for residents and IDPs ^{*}



Reported extreme coping strategies used by residents and IDPs to meet basic needs ^{4, *}



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 **29%** of communities reported a lack of employment opportunities for persons with a disability as a barrier to meeting basic needs ^{8, *}

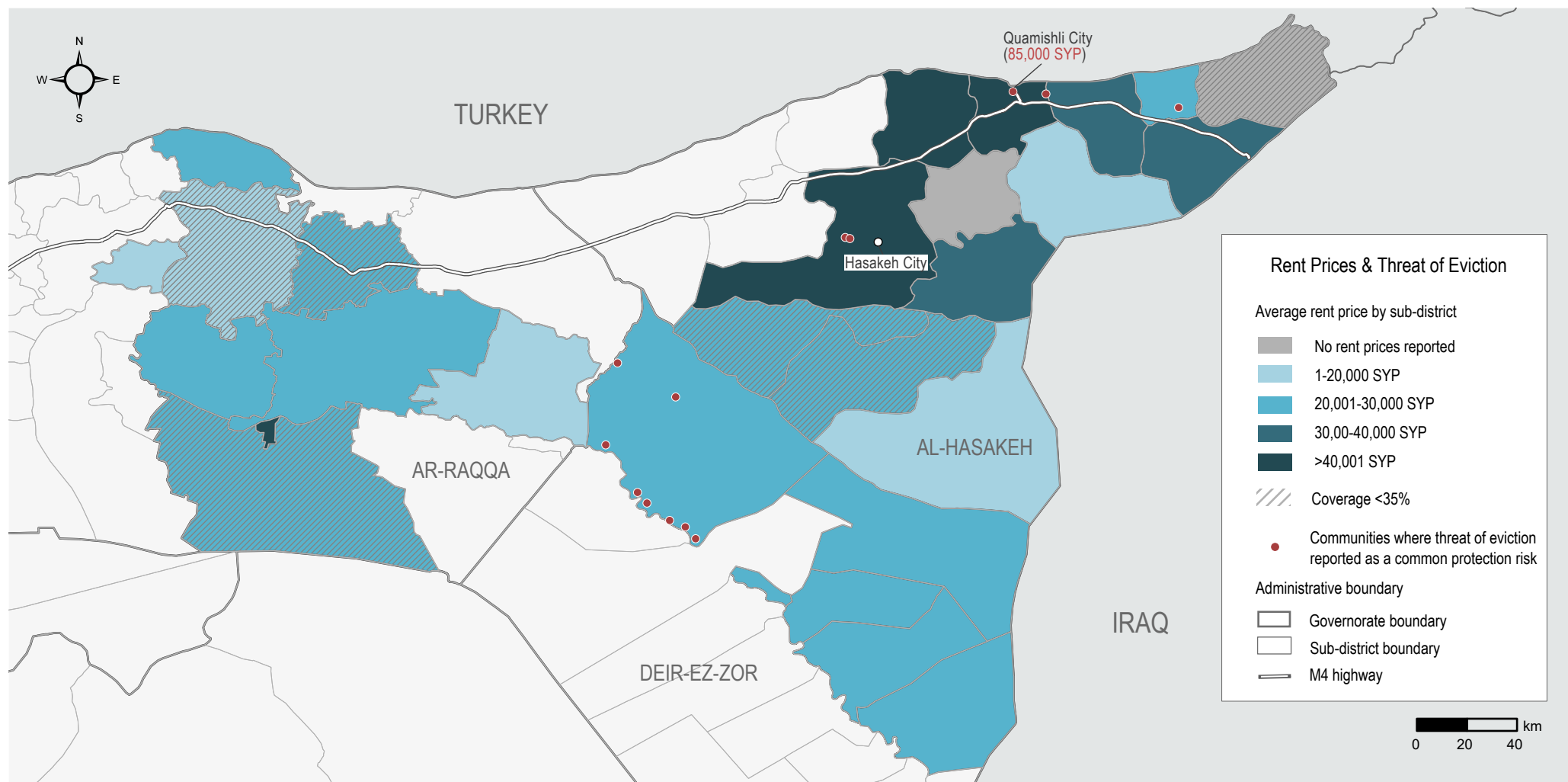
KIs in **10%** of communities reported a lack of privacy for women and girls at health facilities as a barrier to healthcare access ^{*}

KIs in **26%** 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 **61%** and **25%** of communities ^{8, *}

Children below the age of 12 were reported as a group affected by child labour in **29%** of communities ^{8, *}

Hazardous child labour was reported as a protection risk in **2** communities ^{8, *}



Average Rent Prices and Threat of Eviction

Note on the map

This map shows the average rent price by sub-district, along with communities where threat of eviction was reported as a protection risk. To accurately represent findings, a hash pattern is placed over sub-districts where fewer than 35% of communities were assessed. The map suggests some relationship between threat of eviction and higher rent prices, especially in northern Al-Hasakeh governorate.

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 November 2020, 1 USD = 2,470; 1TRY= 292.5
 7. According to the NES **REACH Market Monitoring** November 2020, 1 USD = 2,470 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** November 2020, the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) = 216,469.5 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.
- a. Information provided by REACH field teams

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

Indicator N.o of communities reporting on:	Subset	Indicator N.o of communities reporting on:	Subset
Residents	855	Coping strategies for a lack of food	849
IDPs	407	Coping strategies for a lack of healthcare	855
Barriers to accessing healthcare	855	Coping strategies for a lack of water	495
Barriers to accessing sufficient food	848	Groups affected by child labour	593
Barriers to accessing sufficient water	495	Health priority needs (merged)	854
Barriers to education access (IDPs)	359	Main protection risks (IDPs)	368
Barriers to education access (merged)	655	Main protection risks (merged)	753
Barriers to education access (residents)	655	Main protection risks (residents)	748
Barriers to education quality (merged)	663	Protection priority needs (merged)	803
Barriers to feeding young children	832	Reasons education services not funct.	222
Barriers to assistance access (IDPs)	132	Shelter damages	847
Barriers to assistance access (resident)	186	Shelter issues/inadequacies (IDPs)	393
Barriers to markets functioning	312	Shelter issues/inadequacies (merged)	821
Barriers to physically accessing markets	824	Shelter issues/inadequacies (resident)	778
Barriers to shelter repairs	802	Tents (IDPs)	69
Challenges for renting shelters	216	Unfinished or abandoned buildings (IDPs)	65
Cop. strategies to meet basic needs (IDPs)	407	WASH priority needs (merged)	854
Cop. strategies to meet basic needs (res)	854		

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.