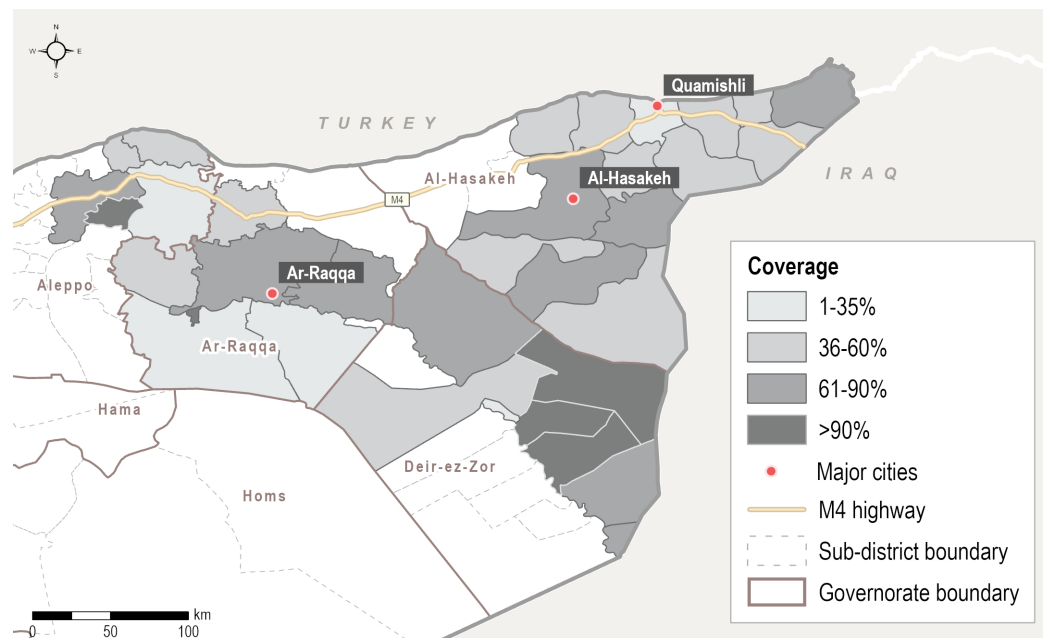


Introduction and Methodology

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, and the security and protection situation in Northeast Syria (NES). **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 five 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 **1,323 communities** across Aleppo¹ (252 communities), Ar-Raqqa (261 communities), Al-Hasakeh (705 communities), and Deir-ez-Zor (105 communities). **Data was collected between 1-16 February 2023 from 4,782 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

The two earthquakes of magnitude 7.7 and 7.6 which devastated southern Türkiye and Northwest Syria on 6 February 2023 also impacted Northeast Syria, resulting in damage to several buildings and infrastructure.^a In addition, the region faced critical water scarcity despite the winter months.

♦ **The earthquake emphasized the need to rehabilitate education facilities.** The earthquakes led to the temporary closure of schools in NES until 20 February.^b The quakes damaged some education facilities which required rehabilitation.^c Poor infrastructure constitutes an unsuitable environment for children to learn and may further reduce the already low attendance rates in the region. KIs in 25% and 49% of assessed communities reported that half or less of the school-aged host community and internally displaced persons (IDP) children were accessing schools, respectively. When accessing education facilities, the unsuitable environment at school was the most frequently reported challenge faced by children, reported in 90% of assessed communities. Unsuitable environment includes damaged facilities, insufficient electricity, water, toilets, etc. Correspondingly, the priority education need for both host community (reported by KIs in 74% of communities) and IDP (61%) households was to improve the suitability of the school environment.

♦ **Households continued to have limited access to water, especially in Deir-ez-Zor governorate.** Across NES, KIs in 64% of assessed communities reported that most households (81 to 100%) had access to sufficient water. The situation is particularly concerning in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, where the percentage of assessed communities in which KIs reported that most households were able to access sufficient water fell from 75% of communities in February 2022 to 38% in 2023, reflecting the reduction of water access within a year period. The most frequently reported barriers to accessing water in Deir-ez-Zor were the high prices of water trucking (reported by KIs in 88% of communities) and the partially or completely non-functional water network (52%). The limited access to water in NES may be related to the low water levels in the Euphrates River, which is a key source of water for the area. Water levels have been extremely low over the past two years, related to an ongoing drought in the region.^{d,e}

♦ **Rainfall shortages persisted during the winter months, increasing the vulnerability of the NES population.** The end of 2022 and start of 2023 witnessed unusually low rainfall levels,^f putting the upcoming agricultural season at risk. This is particularly concerning as NES highly relies on agriculture as a key source of livelihoods, with KIs indicating in 66% and 51% of assessed communities, that cash crop production and livestock products were two of the most common livelihoods sources for households. Shortages in rainfall directly affect crop production and limit the surface of grazing lands and fodder production for cattle in NES.^h Hence, the lack of water was cited as a challenge to accessing livelihoods related to agriculture in 51% 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}

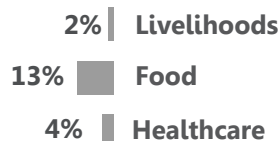
	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	78%
2	Food	Healthcare	Healthcare	Food	49%
3	WASH [▲]	WASH	Food	Healthcare	48%

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



Yes: 22%
No: 78%

% 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	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	Livelihoods	77%
2	Livelihoods	Healthcare	Food	Food	62%
3	WASH	Food	Healthcare	Healthcare	46%

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



Yes: 44%
No: 56%

% 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 in need	69%	1	94%
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	53%	2	3%
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	50%	3	3%

No humanitarian assistance was available
Not aware if assistance was available
Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance

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 in need	67%	1	96%
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	62%	2	4%
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	54%	3	

No humanitarian assistance was available
Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance



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}
Northeast Syria	20,000 SYP	75,000 SYP	10,000 SYP
Aleppo	15,000 SYP	45,000 SYP	11,000 SYP
Al-Hasakeh	30,000 SYP	100,000 SYP	8,000 SYP
Ar-Raqqa	2,000 SYP	75,000 SYP	11,000 SYP
Deir-ez-Zor	43,500 SYP	50,000 SYP	8,500 SYP

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

Residents		IDPs
73%	High operational costs	30%
68%	Lack of resources for agriculture	32%
65%	Seasonality of production	28%
65%	Lack of agricultural inputs	28%

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

Livelihood source	Residents	IDPs
Food crop production	38%	28%
Cash crop production	66%	13%
Livestock products	50%	21%
Sale of livestock	46%	19%

76% and 92%

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

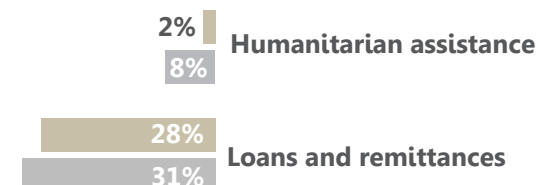
78 days

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

93% and 62%

% of assessed 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 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



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



KIs in **22%** of assessed communities cited that **rent** was unaffordable for the majority of people



KIs in **62%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **fuel for generators** as a common challenge



KIs in **74%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **solar panels** as a common challenge



KIs in **43%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **water trucking** as a common challenge



KIs in **84%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **food** as a common challenge ⁸



KIs in **86%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **health services** as a common challenge



Living Conditions

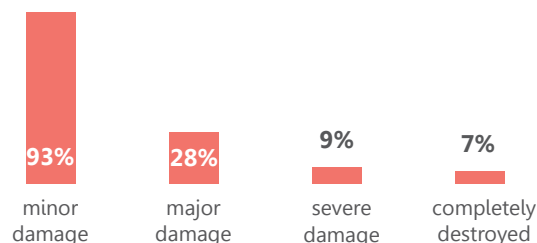
In **93%** of assessed communities at least **80%** of the resident population reportedly owned their shelter

In **68%** of assessed communities reportedly none of the IDP households owned their shelter

In **8%** of assessed communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in unfinished or abandoned residential buildings

In **5%** of assessed communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in tents

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 92% of assessed communities) ⁴



A lack of toilets was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **20%** of assessed communities



A lack of bathing facilities was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **14%** of assessed communities



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



Water tasting bad was the most commonly reported problem with drinking water (reported by KIs in 25% of assessed communities)

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

Rodents and/or pests are frequently visible

13%

Solid waste in the streets

22%

Sewage system pollutes public areas

9%

Stagnant water

13%

Flooding in the streets

8%



98%

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



In **16%** 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

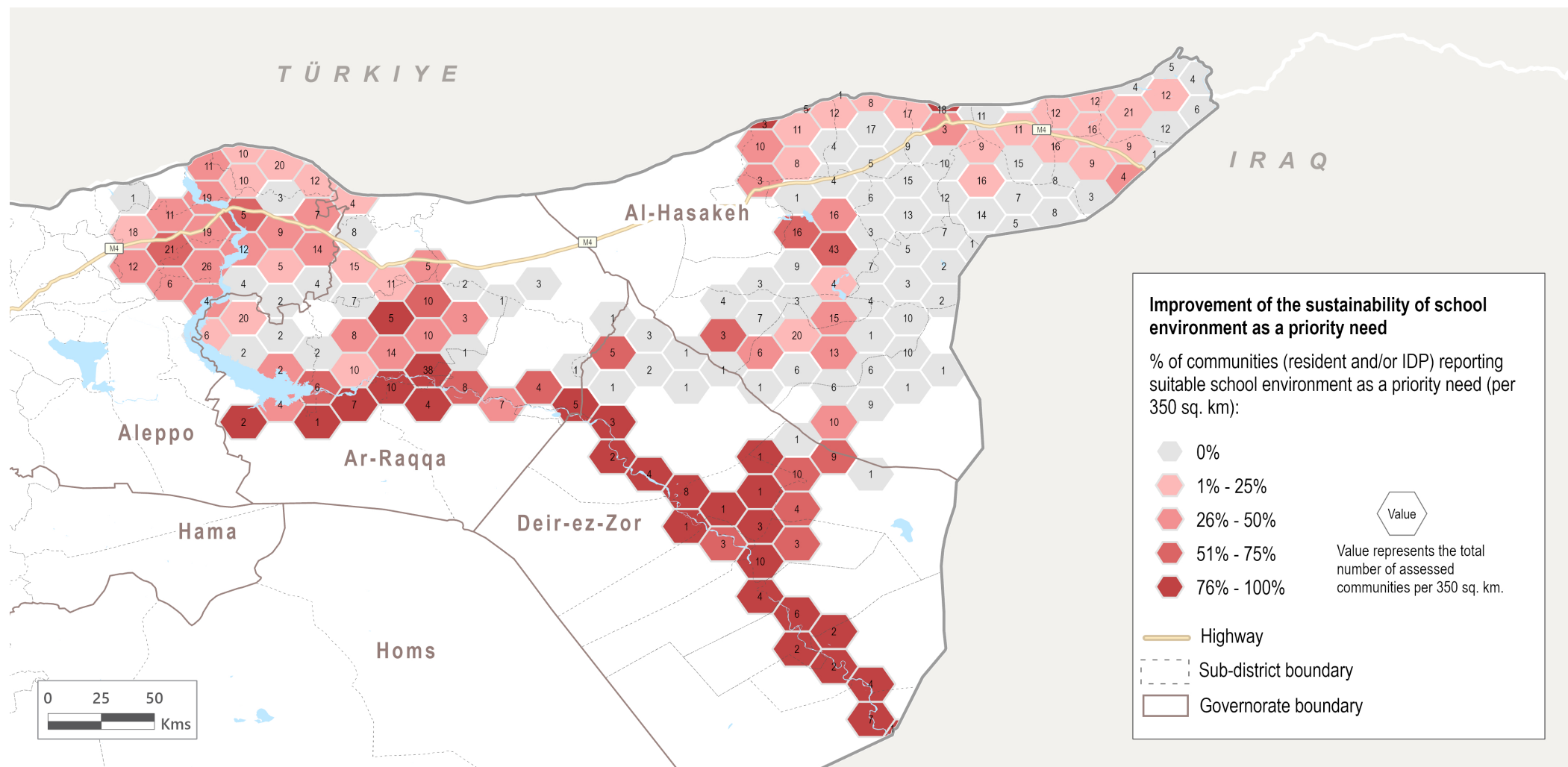
- 1 Relying on less preferred food / lower food quality **84%**
- 2 Borrowing money to buy food **84%**
- 3 Buying food with money usually used for other things **66%**



High price of suitable foods formula was the most commonly reported challenge to feeding young children (reported by KIs in 97% of assessed communities) ^{4,11}

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

- 1 Relying on food stored previously **41%**
- 2 Own production or farming **38%**
- 3 Food gifts from friends and family **5%**



Sustainability of school environment as a priority Education need

Note on the map

This map shows the percentage of communities in which KIs reported that the improvement of the sustainability of school environment was a priority education need. Sustainability of school environment includes repairs, rehabilitation of heating system, electricity, toilets, ventilation, etc.. The figure displayed in the centre of each hexagon corresponds to the number of communities assessed in an area of 350 sq.km.



Access to Basic Services



Access to Electricity

2-4 hrs per day

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

Main network

was the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 72% of assessed communities)

82%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported **local authorities rationing electricity** as a barrier for electricity access



Access to Water

66%

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



7 days
5-6 days
3-4 days
1-2 days
0 days

Days per week where water from the network was available (by % of 824 communities connected to a water network)

Piped water network

was the most commonly reported source of drinking water (reported by KIs in 34% of assessed communities)



Access to Sanitation

79%

% 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)

39%

Waste burnt

35%

Free public waste collection

19%

Waste disposed of by household to a dumping location

24%

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



Access to Markets

33%

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

People lack financial means to open shop/market

was the most commonly reported **reason for why markets were not functioning** (reported by KIs in 83% of assessed communities where markets were not functioning)

78%

% 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

72%

% 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

62%

Medicines and other commodities

55%

Treatment for chronic diseases

49%

Paediatric consultations

Going to the pharmacy instead of a clinic

was the most commonly reported coping strategy for a lack of healthcare (reported by KIs in 98% of assessed communities)



Access to Education Services

25%
49%

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

89%

Functioning

11%

Not functioning

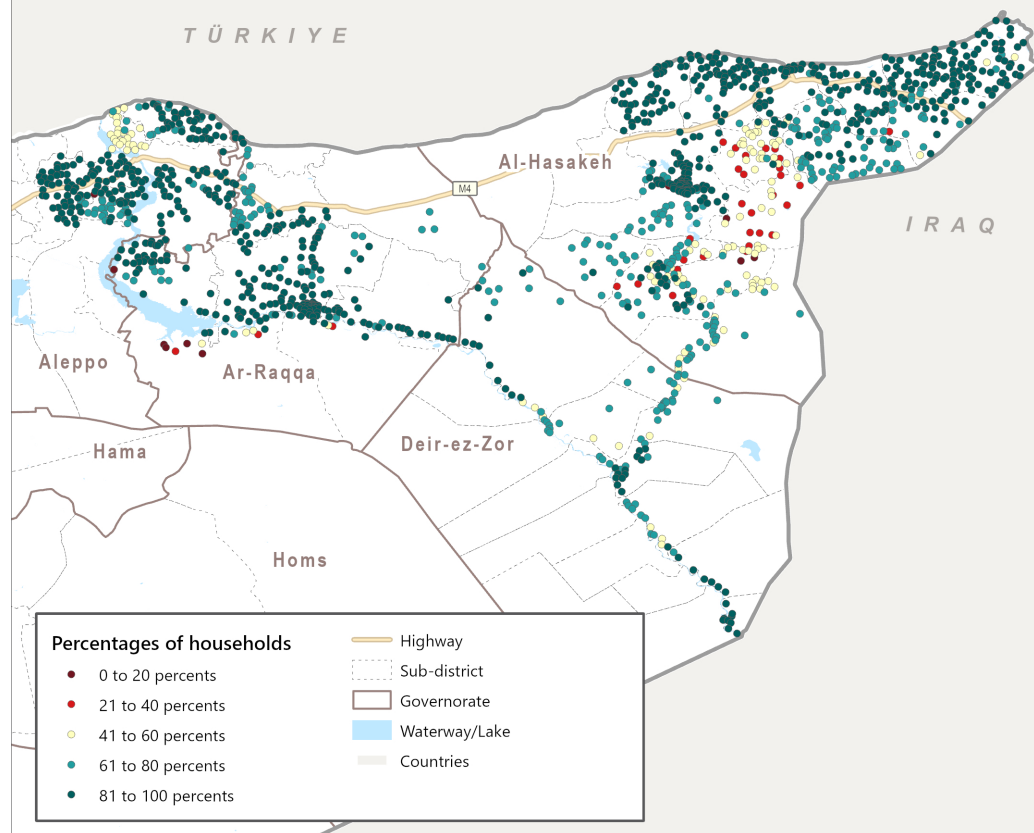
% of assessed communities where KIs reported on the functioning of education services in the assessed location ⁴

71%

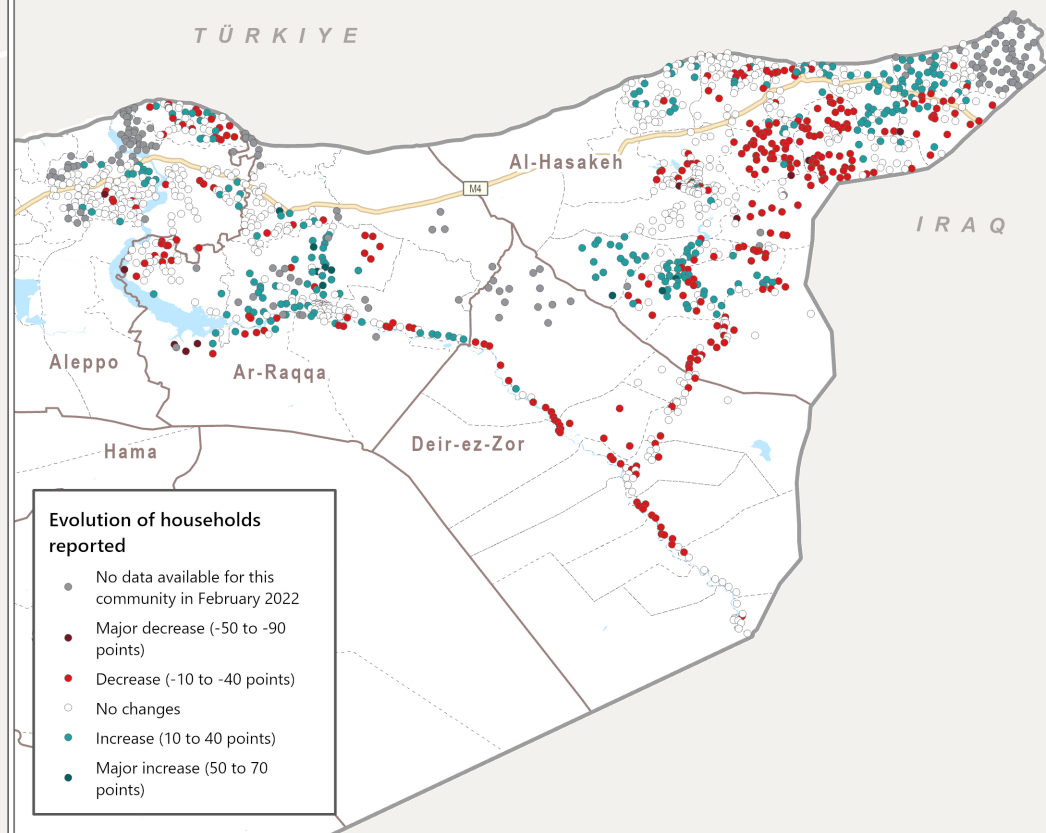
% of assessed communities where KIs reported that **families could not afford prioritising school and sent children to work** ⁸



Percentages of households reported accessing sufficient water in February 2023



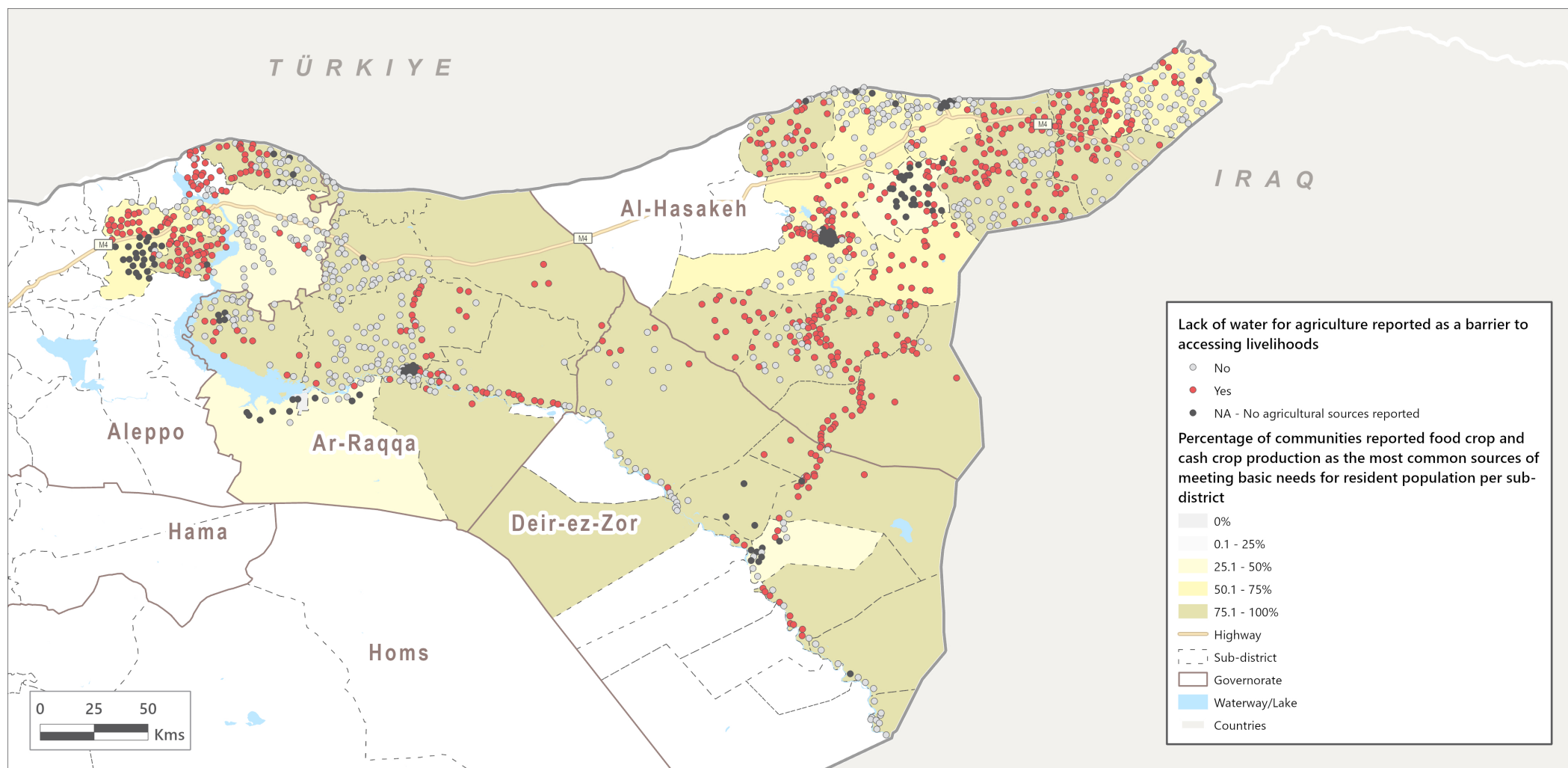
Evolution of households reported accessing sufficient water from February 2022 to February 2023



Households' access to sufficient water

Note on the map

The map on the left shows the reported percentage of households accessing sufficient water (drinking and non-drinking) by community. The map on the right compares percentages of households accessing sufficient water to the same period last year (February 2022). KIs in communities across Deir-ez-Zor governorate, as well as Tal Hmis, Be-r AL-Hulo AL-Wardeyyeh, Hole, and Markada sub-districts in Hasakeh governorate reported a declining access to sufficient water in a year-period.



Lack of water for agriculture

Note on the map

This map shows in red the communities in which KIs reported the lack of water for agriculture was a barrier to access livelihoods. The sub-districts are represented according to the percentage of communities reporting food crop and cash crop production as the most common source of meeting the population's basic needs. Communities located in sub-districts highly reliant on agricultural production and in which KIs reported lack of water for agriculture to be hindering the access to livelihood may be particularly vulnerable to the ongoing drought.



Security and Protection

Intersectoral findings on security



General safety and security concerns restricting movement to markets was a reported barrier to market access in **53** communities

General safety and security concerns at markets was a reported barrier to market access in **11** communities

Movement restrictions was reported as a protection risk in **20** communities⁸



Tribal disputes were reported as a protection risk in **33** communities⁸

Threat from shelling was reported as a protection risk in **81** communities⁸

Fear from imminent conflict was reported as a protection risk in **139** communities⁸



The inability to lock homes securely was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **44%** of assessed communities⁸

Lack of privacy inside the shelter was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **57%** 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 **6%** of assessed communities



Safety and security concerns travelling to health facilities was reported as a barrier to healthcare in **22** communities

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

- 78%** Special assistance for vulnerable groups
- 47%** Specialised child protection services
- 29%** Psychosocial support



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

- 18%** Lack or loss of civil documentation as a protection risk
- 23%**
- 1%** Some people did not have the necessary personal documents as a barrier to accessing humanitarian assistance⁴
- 1%**
- 1%** Lack of personal documentation required to enrol in school as a barrier to education access
- 2%**

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

Residents

- 10%** Early marriage
- 2%** Forced marriage
- 6%** High risk work
- 2%** Sending family members to beg
- 50%** Sending children (15 or below) to work

IDPs

- 10%**
- 5%**
- 7%**
- 6%**
- 54%**

Age, Gender, and Diversity

KIs in **33%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for women** as a barrier to meeting basic needs⁸

KIs in **20%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for persons with a disability** as a barrier to meeting basic needs⁸

KIs in **12%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of privacy for women and girls at health facilities** as a barrier to healthcare access

KIs in **19%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of market access for people with restricted mobility**

KIs in **4%** 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 **11%** of assessed communities⁸

Hazardous child labour was reported as a protection risk in **34** communities⁸

Endnotes

1. Aleppo governorate includes Menbij and Ain Al Arab districts.
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. 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 [Joint Market Monitoring Initiative \(JMMI\)](#) exchange rate was used to calculate the amount in SYP. According to the REACH Market Monitoring January 2023, 1 USD = 6,070 SYP; 1TRY= 350 SYP.
7. According to the NES [JMMI](#) February 2023, 1 USD = 6,070 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 [JMMI](#) February 2023, the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) = 784,790 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.

Sources

- a. GFDRR, World Bank. (5 March 2023). Global Rapid Post-Disaster Damage Estimation (GRADE) Report, Mw 7.8 Türkiye-Syria Earthquake – Assessment of the Impact on Syria: (Results as of February 20, 2023). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>
- b. AANES. (20 February 2023). Retrieved from [link](#)

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- d. WASH Working Group Northeast Syria (2023). Euphrates Water Levels [Dashboard](#)
- e. Reuters. (1 March 2023). Low water levels force halt to north Syria hydropower. Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com>
- f. European Commission - Copernicus Emergency Management Service. (2023). GDO - Global Drought Observatory: Compare Monthly Maps. Retrieved from <https://edo.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>
- h. Al Monitor. (18 February 2023). Double blow: Syria braces for historic drought after earthquake. Retrieved from <https://www.al-monitor.com/>

♦ **By number of communities where KIs reported the relevant indicator (accesss/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	1318	Barriers to assistance access (IDPs)	255
IDPs	460	Barriers to accessing sufficient food (merge)	1295
Challenges to assistance access (resident)	270	Days when water is available from network	822
Barriers to assistance access (resident)	1023	Barriers to markets functioning	443
Challenges to assistance access (IDPs)	190		

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.