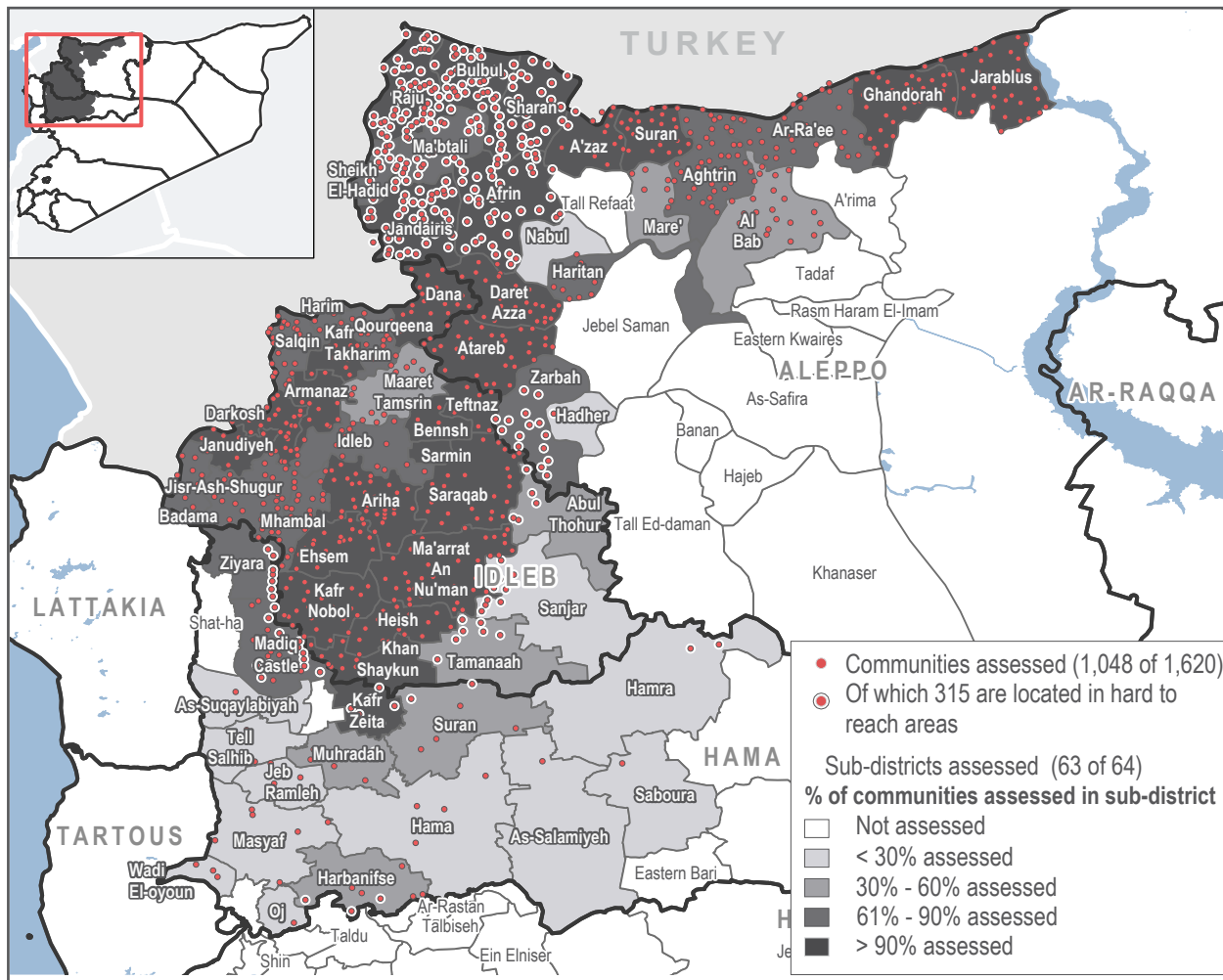


# Northwest Syria, January 2019

## Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

### Coverage



### Introduction

HSOS is a monthly assessment that aims to provide comprehensive, multi-sectoral information about the humanitarian situation inside Syria. The assessment is conducted at the community level, covering [displacement, shelter and non-food items \(SNFI\)](#), [health, water, sanitation and hygiene \(WASH\)](#), [food security and livelihoods \(FSL\)](#), and [education](#) needs and conditions.

The factsheet presents information gathered in 1,048 communities across Hama (89 communities), Idlib (426 communities), northern Aleppo (452 communities), and western Aleppo\* (81 communities) governorates. Data was collected during the month of February 2019, and refers to the situation in the northwest region in January 2019. Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalised across the region.

For community-level data, datasets are available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#), [the Humanitarian Data Exchange](#), and are also distributed through partners across the humanitarian community.

\*The northern and western parts of Aleppo, where humanitarian response and coordination is conducted from the northwest rather than the northeast.

### Top 3 reported priority needs in assessed communities:

- 1 Healthcare
- 2 Food Security
- 3 Livelihoods

### People in Need (PiN)\* in assessed communities:

**2,623,124** PiN **1,459,851** People in Acute Need

### Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB):<sup>1,2</sup>

Average price in **January 2019** **59,710 Syrian pound (SYP)**  
 One month change: **+4%**  
 Six month change: **+12%**

\* PiN refers to people whose physical security, basic rights, dignity, living conditions or livelihoods are threatened or have been disrupted, and whose current level of access to basic services, goods and protection is inadequate to re-establish normal living conditions within their accustomed means without assistance.

People in Acute Need refers to those facing more severe forms of deprivation in terms of their security, basic rights and living conditions and face life-threatening needs requiring urgent humanitarian assistance ([HNO 2019](#)). The calculated PiN numbers are indicative as they are calculated using the OCHA dataset and coverage varies slightly.

### Key events impacting the humanitarian situation in Northwest Syria (NWS)

Operation "Olive Branch" commences in Afrin. <sup>a</sup>	212,724 individuals spontaneously return to 287 communities in rural Aleppo governorate and 354,682 individuals return to Aleppo city. <sup>b</sup>	Approximately 1.9 million IDPs reside in Idlib, western Aleppo, northern Hama and eastern Latakia according to UNHCR. <sup>c</sup>	Announcement of a demilitarised zone in NWS that bars the presence of heavy weaponry and certain armed opposition groups. <sup>d</sup>	Cold temperatures, heavy rainfall, and flooding lead to deterioration of the humanitarian situation in IDP camps in Idlib and Aleppo governorates. <sup>e</sup>	Conflict within the area considered part of the announced demilitarised zone in Idlib and surrounding areas led to further displacement. <sup>f,g</sup>
January 2018	February 2018	End of August 2018	17 September 2018	December 2018 - January 2019	December 2018 - Ongoing

## CONTEXT

In January 2019, airstrikes and shelling resulted in civilian casualties, injuries, and displacement throughout Hama and Idlib governorates.<sup>h</sup> Additionally, adverse winter weather led to flooding in Idlib and Aleppo, affecting thousands of people.<sup>i</sup> The flooding occurred in Idlib and Aleppo governorates, damaging critical infrastructure, such as roads and further exacerbating pre-existing conditions and needs.<sup>j</sup> For further context information on NWS, please see the [ISMI Overview of IDP Movements in Northern Syria](#) and the [Northwest Syria Market Monitoring Exercise](#), published in January 2019.

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS<sup>3</sup>

### Women in Idlib governorate facing challenges accessing maternal healthcare and gender-sensitive WASH facilities

The most commonly reported healthcare service needed in January in Idlib governorate was antenatal care, as reported by key informants (KIs) in 260 (61%) of the 426 assessed communities in Idlib governorate. Furthermore, KIs in 106 (25%) assessed communities reported that women experienced more barriers to accessing healthcare, while KIs in 69 (16%) assessed communities reported that children faced more barriers to healthcare than other population groups (e.g. IDPs, elderly, men, women). In addition, KIs in Idlib governorate reported the highest proportion of communities using coping strategies to deal with a lack of medical services and items, reported in 84 (20%) assessed communities, in contrast to other assessed areas in NWS, reported in 11 (2%) of 622 assessed communities. The main reported coping strategies were recycling medical items, using less than the recommended dose of medication, and using non-medical items for treatment. Lastly, KIs in 67 (16%) of 426 assessed communities reported that one of the most prevalent problems with the latrines/toilets in January was that there was no separation between women and men's facilities. This stresses a need for gender-sensitive WASH facilities.

### Hostilities lead to protection concerns and reduced access to healthcare in Hama governorate

Protection concerns were reported as a priority need by KIs in 41 (46%) of the 89 assessed communities in Hama governorate, likely related to the ongoing hostilities.<sup>h</sup> In addition, KIs in 22 (25%) assessed communities reported security concerns during their journey to a health facility, indicating that the ongoing hostilities impacted access to healthcare. Notably, KIs in 10 (11%) assessed communities in Hama governorate reported injuries to be a health problem in their community - the highest amongst all governorates in NWS, highlighting a significant need for specialized healthcare. For more information please see the [Rapids Needs Assessment - Southern Idlib and Northern Hama February 2019](#).

### Floods affecting IDPs residing in tents

KIs in 101 (10%) of the 1,048 assessed communities in NWS reported that IDPs were residing in tents. The majority of these assessed communities, 55 (54%), were located in the flood-affected sub-districts of Afrin, A'zaz and Jebel Saman in Aleppo governorate and Harim sub-district in Idlib governorate. Considering the damage reported on these shelter types in the [North-west Syria: Inter-Sector Rapid Needs Assessment - Flood Impact January 2019](#) it is important to continue monitoring the situation.



## Displacement<sup>4</sup>

- Across NWS, the most commonly reported reason why pre-conflict population (PCP) left in January 2019 was due to escalation of conflict, KIs in 49 (5%) of 1,048 assessed communities reported. However, this was most commonly reported in Hama governorate, in 37 (42%) of 89 assessed communities.
- Similarly, across NWS, KIs in 19 (2%) of 1,048 assessed communities reported PCP leaving due to protection concerns, and KIs in 14 (16%) of 89 assessed communities in Hama governorate reported PCP leaving due to protection concerns. This reflects the volatile security situation in Hama governorate.
- KIs reported the presence of IDPs in 903 (86%) of 1,048 assessed communities across NWS. In Hama governorate however, KIs reported the presence of IDPs in 37 (42%) of 89 assessed communities, likely due to the ongoing hostilities in Hama governorate.



## Food Security & Livelihoods

- Among assessed communities in NWS, KIs in 955 (91%) of 1,048 assessed communities reported that their communities were able to access bread every day. However, in Hama governorate, KIs in only 67 (75%) of 89 assessed communities reported that their communities were accessing bread every day.
- Food insufficiency was reported in Idlib governorate, by KIs in 67 (16%) of 426 assessed communities, clustered in Ariha, Jisr-ash-Shugur, Mhambal, Janudiyeh, Badama sub-districts. For reference see the [food security map](#).



## Education

- Across NWS, KIs in 439 (42%) of 1,048 assessed communities reported school-aged children not accessing education. This was reportedly a more common issue in Idlib governorate where KIs in 217 (51%) of 426 assessed communities reported that school-aged children were not accessing education. The most commonly reported barrier was that the distance to services was too far, as reported by KIs in 120 (28%) assessed communities.
- In Hama governorate, KIs in 48 (54%) of 89 assessed communities reported that school-aged children were not accessing education. The most commonly reported barriers to accessing education were a lack of school supplies, reported in 25 (28%) assessed communities, and a lack of teaching staff, reported in 21 (24%) assessed communities.



## WASH

- Of the 1,048 assessed communities in NWS, KIs in 319 (30%) assessed communities reportedly had insufficient water. Areas that reported the highest percentage of water insufficiency were located in Afrin (northern Aleppo governorate), Badama and Kafr Takharim (Idlib governorate) sub-districts, where KIs reported in 80% or more of assessed communities that water was insufficient.



## Health

- In January, similar to previous months, healthcare was reported as a top priority need by KIs in 728 (69%) of 1,048 assessed communities, and especially reported by KIs in 366 (81%) of 452 assessed communities in northern Aleppo governorate.
- Across 1,048 assessed communities in NWS, KIs reported that the most common health problems were severe diseases affecting children aged under five, reported in 735 (70%) assessed communities, acute respiratory infections, reported in 631 (60%) assessed communities, and chronic diseases without access to medicine, reported in 557 (53%) assessed communities.

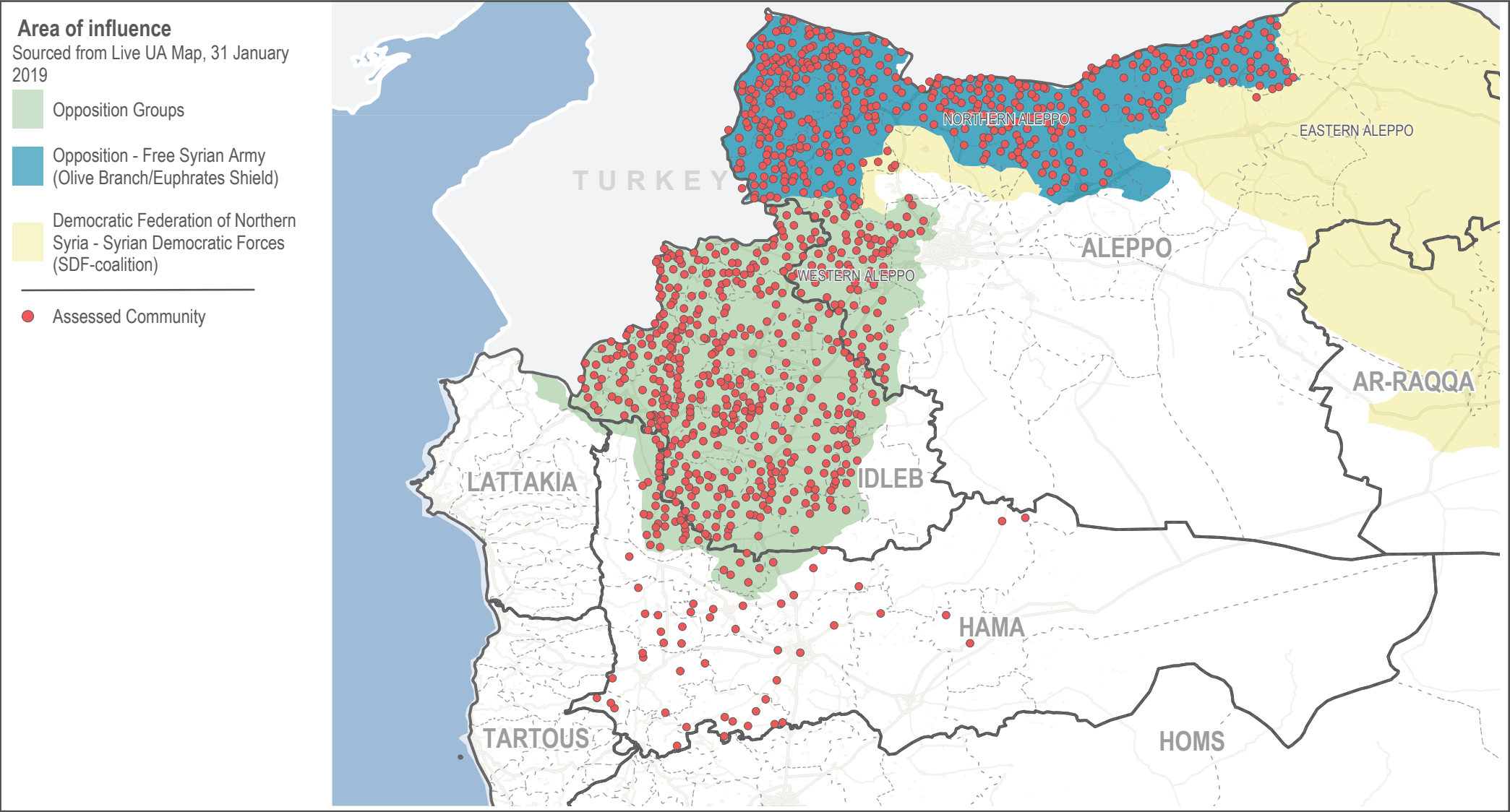


## Shelter and NFI

- A lack of fuel was reported across NWS. However, in Dana sub-district (Idlib governorate), KIs in 20 (100%) of 20 communities, and in A'zaz sub-district (Northern Aleppo governorate) KIs in 87 (100%) of 87 assessed communities reported no fuel insufficiencies, which could indicate a difference in access throughout NWS. For reference see the [fuel sufficiency map](#).

# Northwest Syria, January 2019

## Regional areas of influence:



# Northwest Syria, January 2019

## DISPLACEMENT<sup>4</sup>

**9,730 - 11,580** Estimated number of IDP arrivals in assessed communities in January 2019.

**2,880 - 3,430** Estimated number of spontaneous returns in assessed communities in January 2019.<sup>5</sup>

### Communities\* with the largest estimated number of IDP arrivals:

Idleb (Idleb, Idleb)	<b>1,200 - 1,300</b>
Kafr Omeim - (Saraqab (Idleb, Idleb)	<b>850 - 900</b>
Dana (Dana, Idleb)	<b>500 - 750</b>

\*Reported as community, (sub-district and governorate)

### Top 3 reported sub-districts\* of origin for IDP arrivals:<sup>6,7</sup>

- Heish (Idleb)
- Manbij (Aleppo)
- Ma'arrat An Nu'man (Idleb)

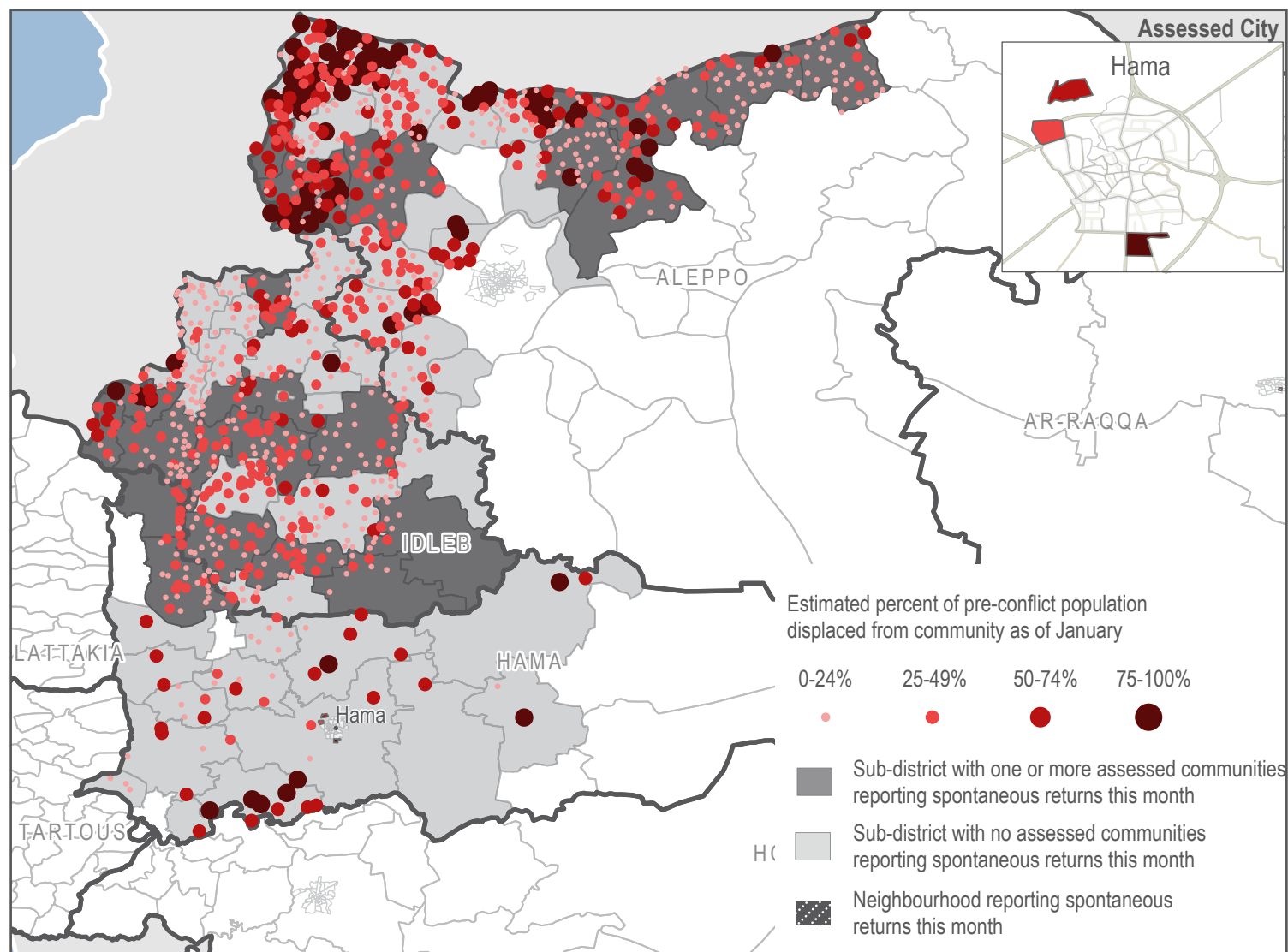
\*Reported as sub-district (governorate)

**950 communities reported no PCP departures.<sup>8</sup>**

**Top 3 reasons for PCP departures in the remaining 98 assessed communities:<sup>6,7,9</sup>**

Escalation of Conflict	50%
Loss of income	36%
Reduced access to basic services	32%

Estimated proportion of pre-conflict population (PCP) displaced from community:



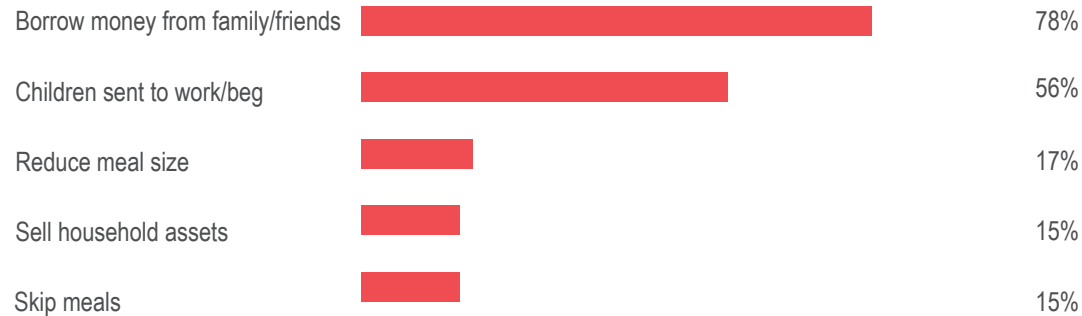
# Northwest Syria, January 2019



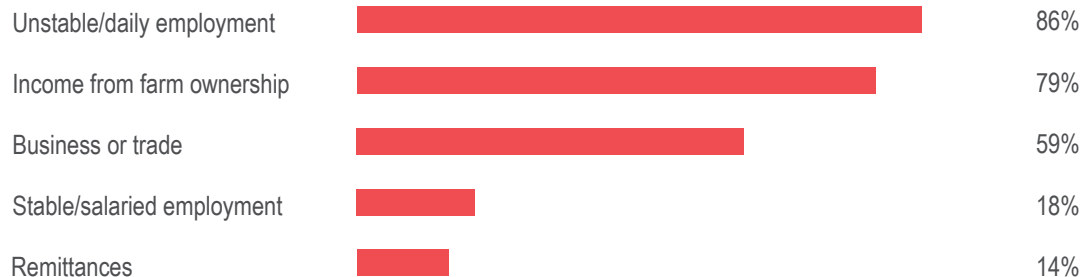
## FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

- 210/1,048** Communities reported having received food distributions in the last month.
- 254/1,048** Communities reported that residents were unable to access shops and markets.
- 0** Communities reported that residents used extreme food-based coping strategies to deal with insufficient income.<sup>10</sup>
- Less than 50,000 SYP SYP** Most commonly reported household monthly income range.<sup>1</sup>

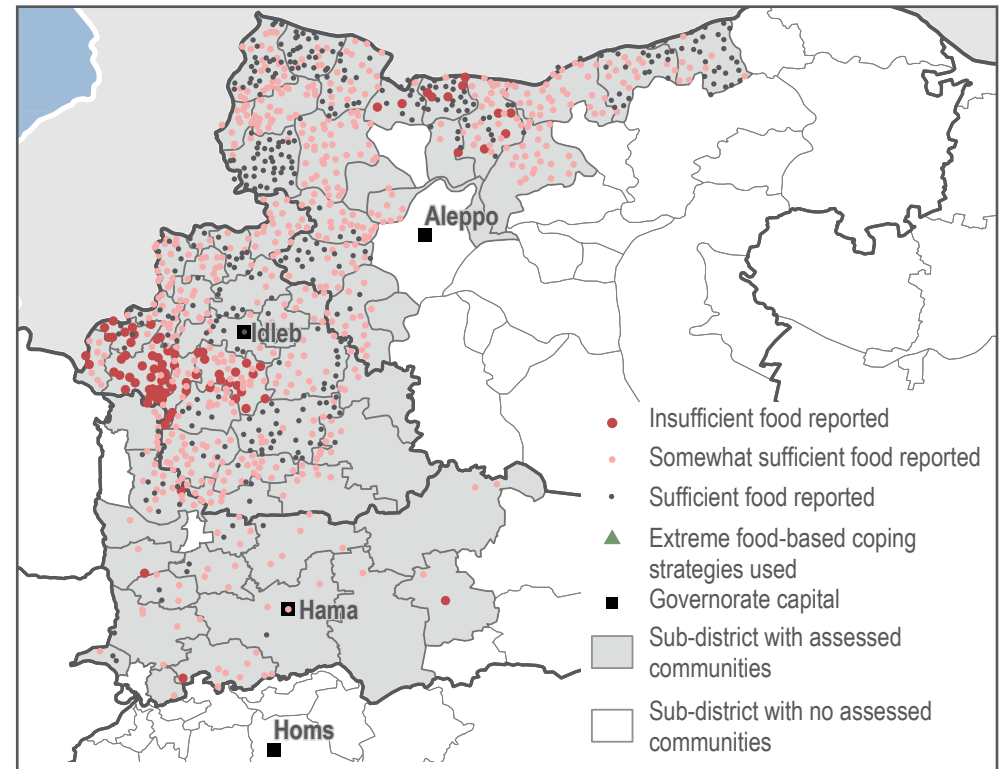
**158 communities** reported that residents had enough income to cover household needs. The most commonly reported coping strategies to deal with a lack of income in the remaining **886 assessed communities** were:<sup>6,7,9</sup>



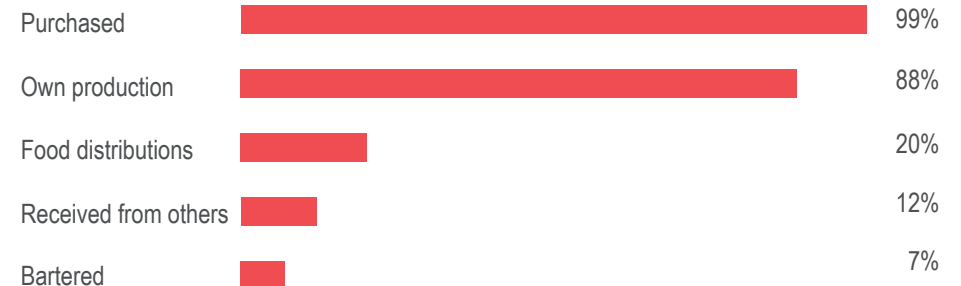
### Most commonly reported main sources of income:<sup>6,7</sup>



### Communities that reported having an insufficient quantity of food:<sup>11</sup>



### Most commonly reported ways of obtaining food:<sup>6,7</sup>



# Northwest Syria, January 2019



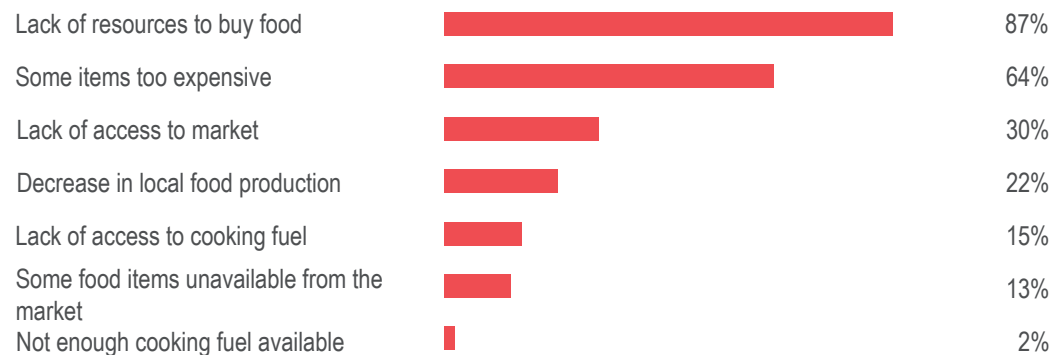
## FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

Core food item prices reported (in SYP):<sup>1,12</sup>

Food item:	Regional average price in January 2019:	One month change:	Six month change:
Bread (8 pieces)	150	0%	+13%
Rice (1 kilogram)	300	0%	0%
Lentils (1 kilogram)	275	+8%	+22%
Sugar (1 kilogram)	230	+2%	-13%
Cooking oil (1 litre)*	3,609	+1%	+3%

\*includes the combined vegetable oil and ghee prices

205 communities reported that residents experienced no challenges in accessing food. The most common difficulties experienced in the remaining 843 assessed communities were:<sup>6,7,9</sup>



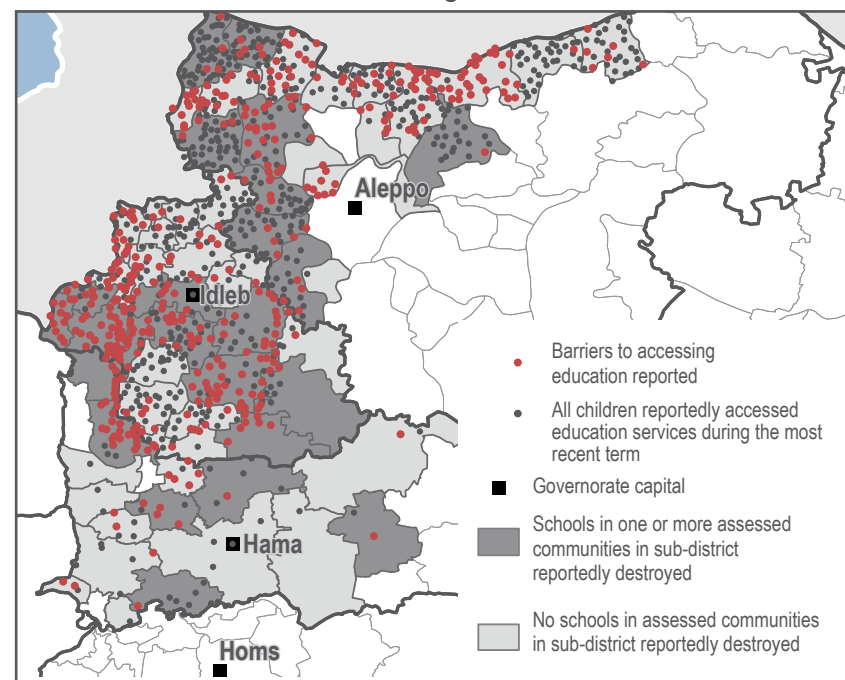
## EDUCATION

984/1,048 communities reported having functioning primary education facilities, while 495 communities reported having functioning secondary education facilities.<sup>13</sup>

609 communities reported that all children were able to access education. The most commonly reported barriers to education in the remaining 439 assessed communities were:<sup>6,7,9</sup>



Prevalence of barriers to accessing education services:



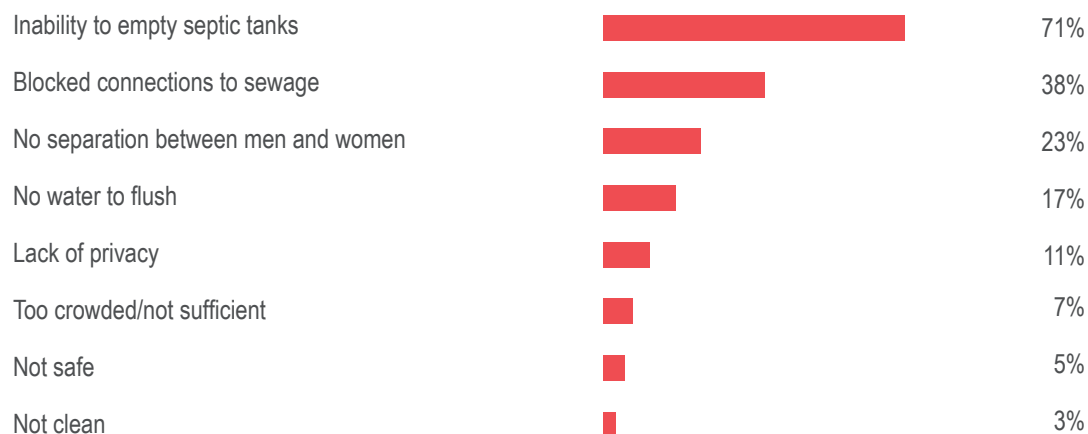
# Northwest Syria, January 2019



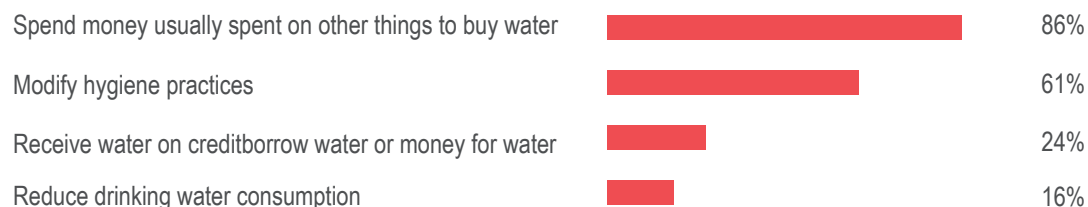
**14/1,048** Communities reported that water from their primary source tasted and/or smelled bad.

**1/1,048** Community Qubbet Elsheikh (Al Bab district, Northern Aleppo governorate) reported that drinking water from their primary source made people sick.

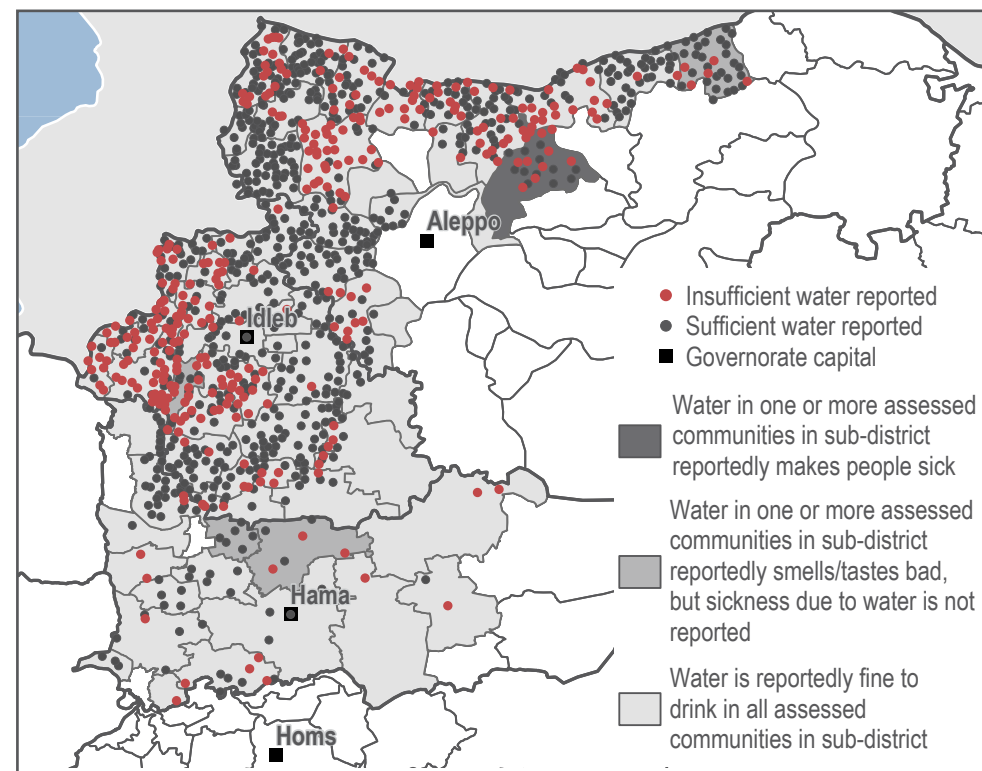
**642** communities reported that residents had no problems with latrines. The most commonly reported problems with latrines in the remaining **406** assessed communities were:<sup>5,7,9</sup>



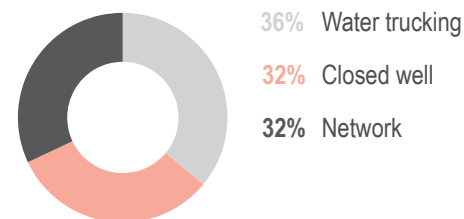
**729** communities reported that they had sufficient amounts of water to meet household needs. The most common coping strategies to deal with a lack of water in the remaining **319** assessed communities were:<sup>6,7,9</sup>



Communities that reported insufficient amounts of water to meet household needs:<sup>11</sup>



Primary drinking water source reported:<sup>7</sup>



Primary method of garbage disposal reported:<sup>6,7</sup>



# Northwest Syria, January 2019

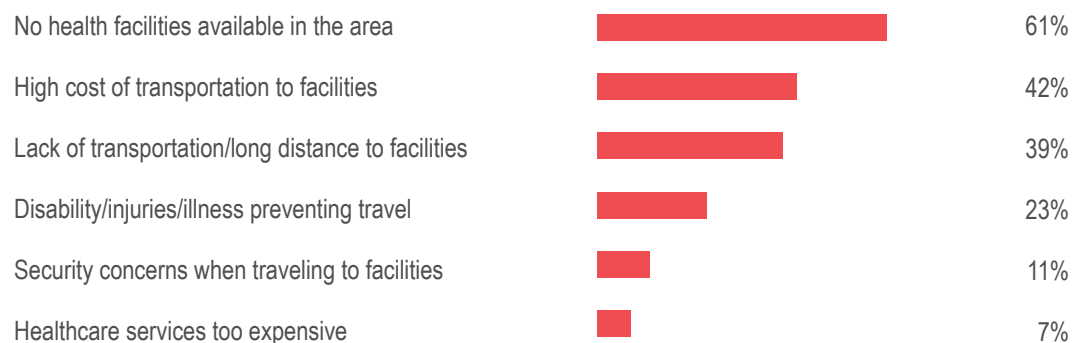
## HEALTH

**209/1,048** Communities reported that no assessed medical items were available in their community.<sup>14</sup>

**137/1,048** Communities reported that the majority of women did not give birth in a formal health facility.

**3/577** Communities, Ghandorah (Northern Aleppo governorate), Western Sarja (Idleb governorate) and Rujum Qitt (Idleb governorate) reported that some individuals had been diagnosed with SAM (Severe Acute Malnutrition).<sup>15</sup>

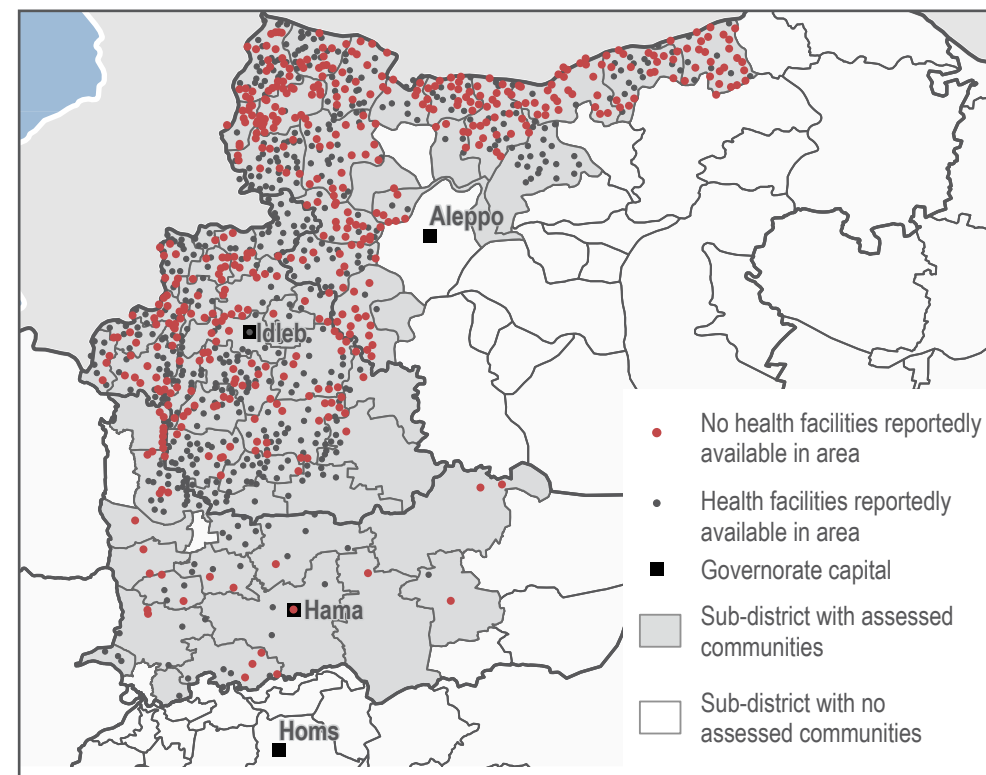
**270 communities reported that residents experienced no barriers to accessing healthcare services. The most commonly reported barriers in the remaining 778 assessed communities were:**<sup>6,7,9</sup>



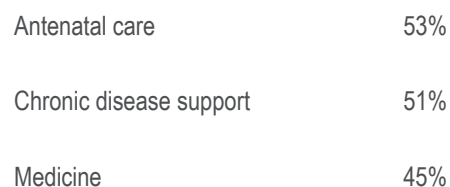
**953 communities reported that residents were not using coping strategies to deal with a lack of medical services and items. The coping strategies used in the remaining 95 communities were:**<sup>6,7,9</sup>



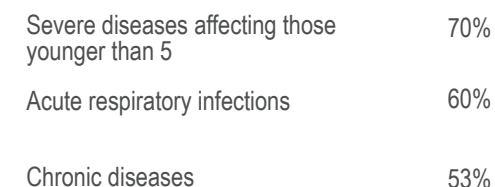
### Presence of medical facilities in assessed communities:



### Top 3 most needed healthcare services reported:

<sup>6,7</sup>


### Top 3 most common health problems reported:

<sup>6,7</sup>


# Northwest Syria, January 2019

## SHELTER AND NFI

**5,550 SYP** Regional average monthly reported rent price in SYP across assessed communities.<sup>1</sup>

**5,920 SYP** Northern Syria average monthly reported rent price in SYP across assessed communities.<sup>1,16</sup>

### Most commonly reported shelter type for PCP households:<sup>7</sup>



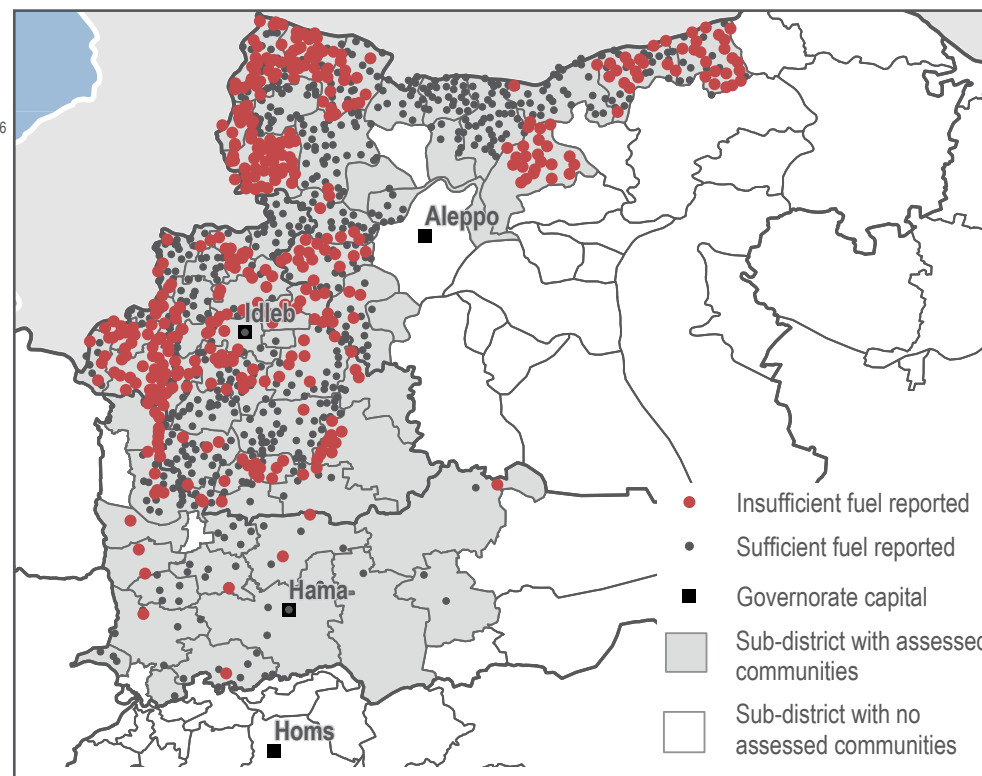
### Most commonly reported shelter type for IDP households:<sup>7</sup>



### Reported fuel prices (in SYP):<sup>1,2</sup>

Fuel type (1L):	Regional average price in January 2019:	One month change:	Six month change:
GoS petrol	400	0%	-6%
GoS diesel	370	-1%	+6%
Manually refined petrol	300	+11%	+20%
Manually refined diesel	250	+6%	+28%
Cooking fuel	7,500	+9%	+20%

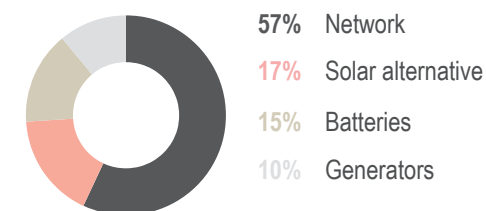
### Communities that reported insufficient amounts of fuel to meet household needs:<sup>11</sup>



**640** communities reported no lack of fuel. Most common strategies to cope with lack of fuel in the remaining **408** assessed communities:<sup>6,7,9</sup>

Burning plastics	63%
Cutting trees to burn	51%
Burning clothes	39%
Burning productive assets	38%
Burning furniture not in use	30%

### Primary source of electricity reported:<sup>7</sup>



## METHODOLOGY

HSOS data collection is conducted through an enumerator network in accessible locations throughout Idlib, Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, and Al-Hasakeh governorates. REACH enumerators are based inside Syria and interview Key Informants (KIs) directly in the community about which they are reporting. Where access and security constraints renders direct data collection unfeasible, some KI interviews are conducted remotely through participants identified in camps and settlements in neighbouring countries by REACH field teams. Participants contact multiple KIs in their community in Syria to collect information about their community. KIs are asked to report at the community level.

KIs generally included local council members, Syrian NGO workers, medical professionals, teachers, shop owners and farmers, among others, and were chosen based on their community-level or sector specific knowledge. In cases where KIs disagree on a certain piece of information, enumerators triangulate the data with secondary sources or select the response provided by the KI with the more relevant sector-specific background. For each question asked, confidence levels are assigned based on the KIs area of expertise and knowledge of the sector-specific situation. The confidence levels associated with each question are presented in the [final dataset](#). The full confidence matrix used to assign confidence levels is available upon request.

Findings are triangulated through secondary sources, including news monitoring and humanitarian reports. Where necessary, follow-up is conducted with enumerators and participants. Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalised across the region.

## About REACH

REACH is a joint initiative of two international non-governmental organisations - ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives - and the UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT). REACH aims to strengthen evidence-based decision making by aid actors through efficient data collection, management and analysis before, during and after an emergency. By doing so, REACH contributes to ensuring that communities affected by emergencies receive the support they need. All REACH activities are conducted in support to, and within the framework of, inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information, please visit our website: [www.reach-initiative.org](http://www.reach-initiative.org). You can contact us directly at: [geneva@reach-initiative.org](mailto:geneva@reach-initiative.org) and follow us on Twitter: [@REACH\\_info](https://twitter.com/REACH_info).

## ENDNOTES

### KEY EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

- <sup>a</sup> Ibrahim and Edelman (26 February 2018). Turkish-backed offensive on Afrin leaves 50,000 students out of school. Retrieved from <https://syriadirect.org>.
- <sup>b</sup> World Health Organisation (1 March 2018). Health Cluster Weekly Situation Report: Whole of Syria, Week 9 (23 February - 1 March 2018). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.
- <sup>c</sup> UN High Commissioner for Refugees. (31. August 2018). Cross-Border Humanitarian Response Fact Sheet - Northwest Syria - August 2018. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.
- <sup>d</sup> France 24 (17 September 2018). Russia and Turkey agree to demilitarised zone around Syria's Idlib. Retrieved from <https://www.france24.com>.
- <sup>e</sup> Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations. (27 December 2018). Record Rainfall Devastates IDP Camps in Northern Syria. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.
- <sup>f</sup> Syrian Network for Human Rights. (1 January 2019). Documenting the Death of 6,964 Civilians in Syria in 2018. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.
- <sup>g</sup> World Food Programme. (31 December 2018). WFP Syria Situation Report #12, December 2018. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.
- <sup>h</sup> UN Secretary-General. (21 January 2019). Highlights of the noon briefing by Stephane Dujarric. Retrieved from <https://un.org>.
- <sup>i</sup> International Organization for Migration. (5 February 2019). Over 80,000 People Affected by Recent Floods in Northern Syria Receive Relief. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.
- <sup>j</sup> REACH (January 2019). North-west Syria: Inter-Sector Rapid Needs Assessment - Flood Impact. Retrieved from <https://reachresourcecentre.info>.

### MAIN TEXT

- <sup>1</sup> 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 31 December 2018)
- <sup>2</sup> 18 items comprise the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), which represents the minimum culturally adjusted items required to support a 6-person household for a month. SMEB items: Bread, bulgur, chicken, eggs, fresh vegetables, ghee/vegetable oil, red lentils, rice, salt, sugar, tomato paste, bathing soap, laundry/dish soap, sanitary pads, toothpaste, cooking fuel, water trucking, smartphone data, float (other costs).
- <sup>3</sup> All information and figures reported in HSOS factsheets refer to the situation in assessed communities and

## MAIN TEXT

cannot be generalised to other non-assessed communities of the region.

<sup>4</sup> For population numbers, KIs were asked to provide the number of resident and IDPs present in the community as of 30 November 2018. A minimum of three KIs were interviewed in each assessed community. Where discrepancies in the information provided by KIs was deemed too large further triangulation with additional KIs and local organizations was conducted. Estimated individual figures in this report are rounded to the nearest tenth.

Discrepancies with other available population data may be the result of any of the following: differences in assessment coverage dates; differences in definitions of population sub-groups (IDPs and residents); differences in geographic scope of assessed locations (e.g. included/excluded nearby camps and sites); differences in KI types interviewed; and differences in average household sizes used to calculate individual numbers, among others.

The definition of IDPs used by enumerators for this assessment was 'Individuals or groups of people who have been forced to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights, or natural or man-made disasters, and who have not crossed an international border'.

<sup>5</sup> Spontaneous returns refers to IDPs or refugees who return to their community of origin that they left due to conflict but not necessarily to their places of habitual residence (their former homes); who intend to remain in the community for an undetermined period; and who do not meet the IASC framework on durable solutions (IASC framework includes "not necessarily voluntary, safe or sustainable" elements).

<sup>6</sup> Assessed using select multiple questions.

<sup>7</sup> By percentage of communities reporting.

<sup>8</sup> The definition of resident (pre-conflict) population (PCP), was 'Individuals or groups of people who currently reside in their communities of origin, or communities of permanent residence prior to the Syrian conflict. This includes populations that were never displaced as well as previously displaced populations that have returned to their communities of origin'.

<sup>9</sup> Not all surveys have answers for every question, in these scenarios the KI or participant will input no answer. When the dataset has no answer for a particular question the reported number of assessed communities will not add up to the total number of communities assessed and percentages will be calculated based on submitted responses.

<sup>10</sup> Extreme food-based strategies: eating food waste; eating non-edible plants and spending days without eating.

<sup>11</sup> Based on KI perception of sufficiency.

<sup>12</sup> Bread, rice, lentils, sugar, and cooking oil are considered core food items used in food baskets across Syria. For further information on all SMEB items please see the [Syria Market Monitoring report](#).

<sup>13</sup> Reported numbers indicate the number of communities with functioning primary and secondary education facilities during the data collection period. It is important to note that simply having a functioning facility is not indicative of students being able to attend said facility. In addition, in some cases KIs reported that children attend schools in a neighbouring community.

<sup>14</sup> Assessed HSOS medical items; anti-anxiety medication, contraception, clean bandages, blood transfusion bags, diabetes medicine, anaesthetics, blood pressure medicine, antibiotics, burn treatment.

<sup>15</sup> This information was derived from medical professionals (KIs). The number of total communities refers to all communities that had a KI as medical professional available.

<sup>16</sup> Includes HSOS data for Idlib, Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh governorates.