

Al Hasakeh Governorate, December 2017

Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

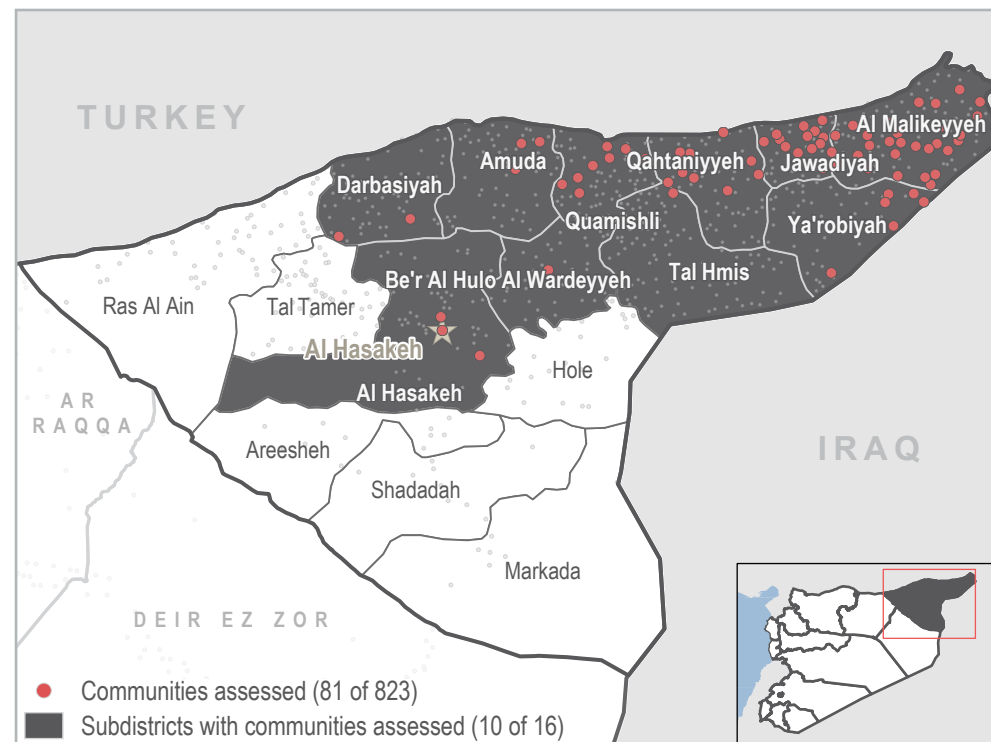
OVERALL FINDINGS¹

Bordering Ar-Raqqa and Deir ez-Zor governorates, Syria's northern governorate of Al Hasakeh has faced high numbers of IDP arrivals as a result of its geographic proximity to conflict-affected areas. From June through October, the offensives to expel the group known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) from Ar-Raqqa and Deir ez-Zor led to a rapid increase in IDPs, many of whom live in camps around Al Hasakeh City and Al Malikeyyeh City. The findings presented in this factsheet refer only to the humanitarian situation in the 81 assessed communities and cannot be generalised to camps in the governorate. For information on some of Al Hasakeh's major camps, please refer to the following camp profiles: [Areesheh Camp](#); [Al Hol Camp](#); [Mabruka Camp](#); [Roj Camp](#) and [Newroz Camp](#).

Among the 81 communities assessed in Al Hasakeh in December, **six** witnessed spontaneous refugee returns from Iraq². Family reunification, employment opportunities in the community of origin, and a lack of economic opportunity in the host country were the most commonly cited reasons for return. Of the communities assessed, **25%** reported the presence of IDPs. The largest reported number of IDPs, approximately **11,500**, lived in Al Malikeyyeh City, comprising just less than half of the city's estimated population of 26,900. The most common type of shelter lived in by IDPs in **90%** of assessed communities reporting an IDP presence was independent houses/apartments. Out of the 81 assessed communities, **77** reported barriers to accessing healthcare and **66** reported a lack of health facilities in their area. Reports of a lack of medical facilities were not concentrated in a particular area or subdistrict, but distributed across the entire governorate. Moreover, of the communities assessed, **57** reported that none of the assessed medical items were available in their community and **10** communities reported that women were unable to give birth in formal health facilities. **Two** communities, Bayandur and Khsheiniyeh, reported that residents were using non-medical items for treatment to cope with the lack of available medical supplies.

Over 70% of assessed communities reported challenges to accessing sufficient amounts of food, a vast majority of which are located in Al Malikeyyeh subdistrict, which is likely because of the high numbers of IDPs and overstretched public services and resources in the area. The most commonly reported challenges were the high prices of some food items and a lack of resources to buy available food. Although stable employment was a common source of income in **83%** of assessed communities, **60%** also reported that remittances were one of the main sources of income for residents in their community. Out of the 81 assessed communities, **55** reported the use of strategies to deal with insufficient income. The average reported food basket price was **25-50%** of the average household income and some children in **29%** of communities were reportedly being sent to work or beg. Primary schools were functioning in **all but two** communities: Tal Aswad Amudeh and Big Dankhiyeh. Of the **12** communities that reported barriers to accessing education, Al-Malikeyyeh City was the only one reporting that children who were unable to attend school in their community were not attending educational facilities in nearby areas³.

Coverage



Top 3 reported priority needs

1. Food security
2. Healthcare
3. Education

Demographics*

1,107,159 people in need

600,080 **507,079**

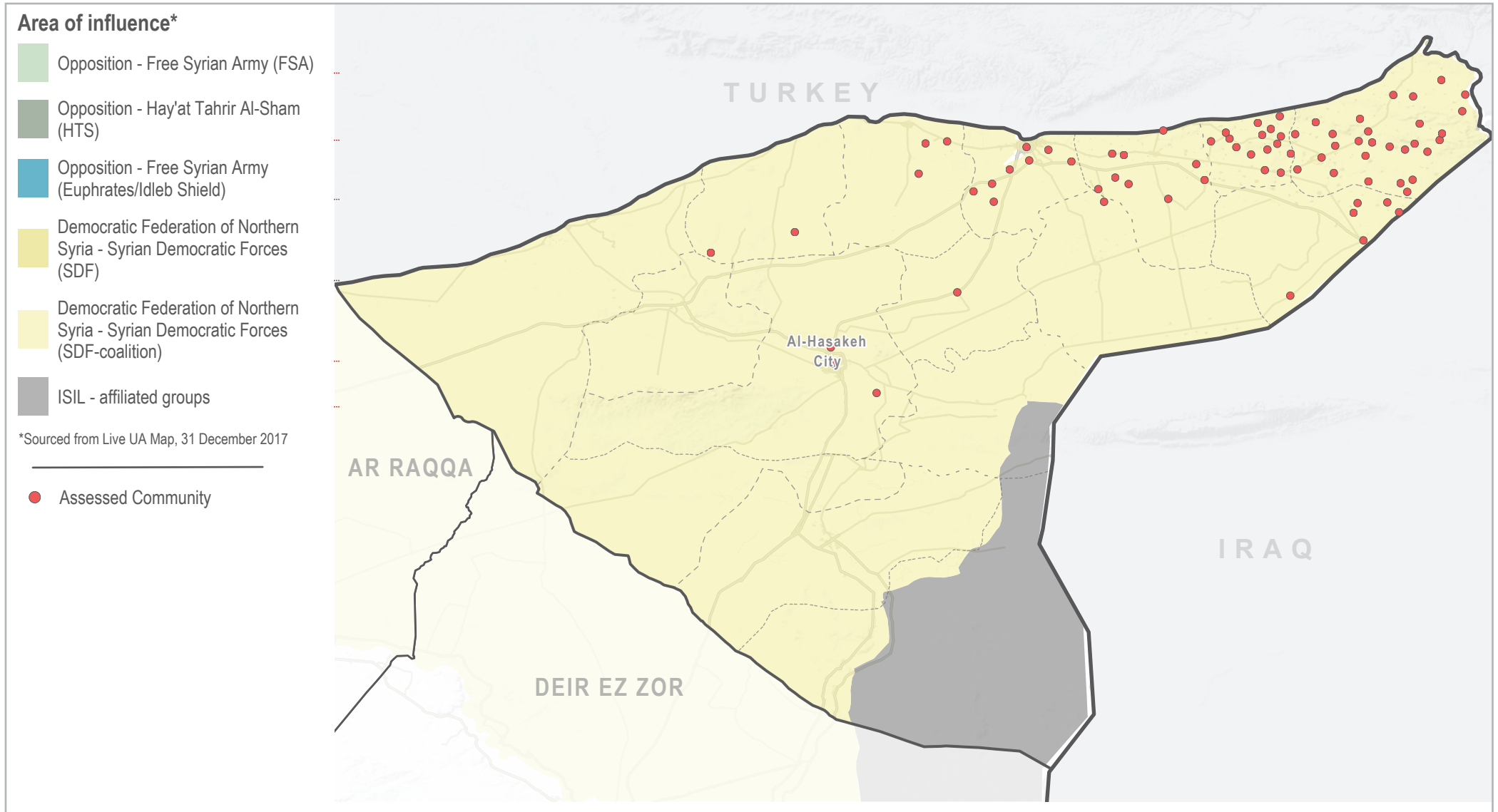
* Figures based on HNO 2018 population data for the entire governorate.

KEY EVENTS

Offensive to capture Ar-Raqqa City begins, triggering large-scale displacement to Al Hasakeh ⁴ .	Authorities shut down private schools operating outside of the Kurdish language curriculum ⁵ .	Forces advance on ISIL in Deir ez-Zor, triggering large-scale displacement to Al Hasakeh ⁶ .	First local election in Kurdish-held territories in Syria ⁷ .	5,000 IDPs from Deir ez-Zor gather to cross Abu Fas checkpoint into Al Hasakeh ⁸ .	Conditions worsen in Sidd Camp (Al Hasakeh subdistrict): severe lack of medical supplies and adequate shelter ⁹ .
6 June	7 August	September	22 September	12 October	November

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Governorate areas of influence:



DISPLACEMENT

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

70 - 80 Estimated number of IDP arrivals in assessed communities in December.

101 - 129 Estimated number of spontaneous returns in assessed communities in December².

Communities with the largest estimated number of IDP arrivals:

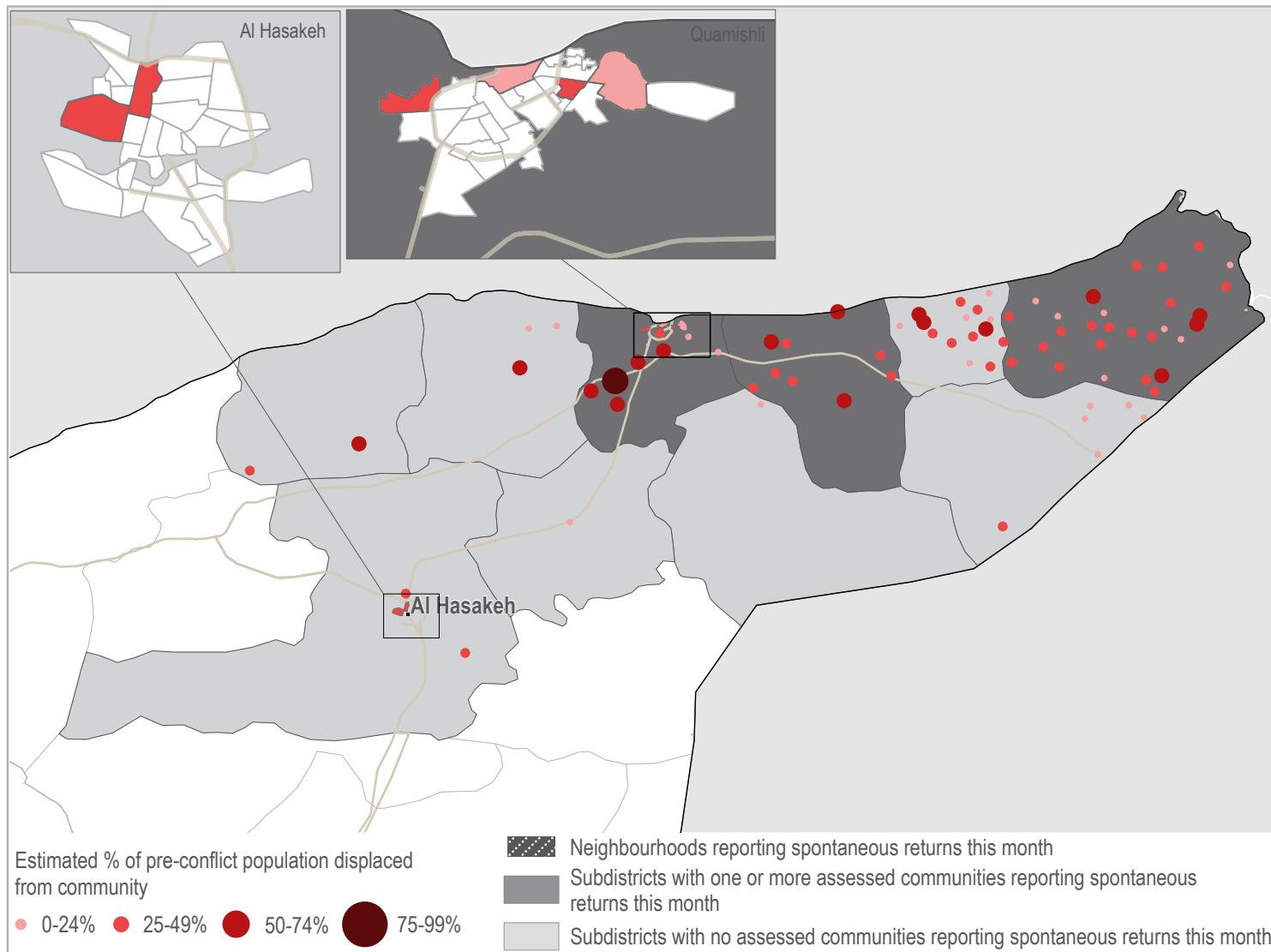
Qdurbik **70 - 80**
No further IDP arrivals reported

Top 3 subdistricts of origin of most IDPs arrivals^{3,4}:

Ar-Raqqa (Ar-Raqqa)	70%
No information	30%

80 communities reported no PCP departures. Top 3 reasons for PCP displacement in the remaining 1 assessed community^{3,4}:

Reduced access to basic services	100%
No further PCP departures reported	



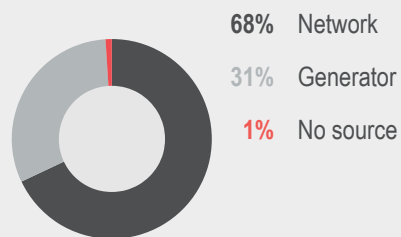
³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

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SHELTER AND NFI

Primary source of electricity reported:⁴



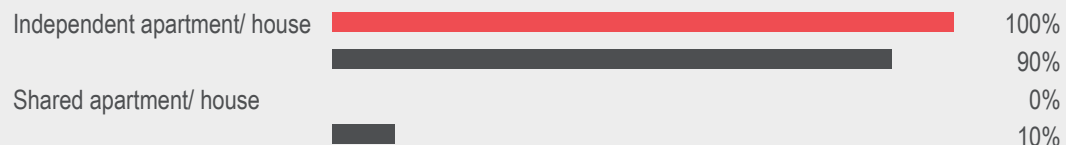
61 communities reported no lack of fuel. Most common strategies to cope with a lack of fuel in the remaining **20** assessed communities^{3,4}:



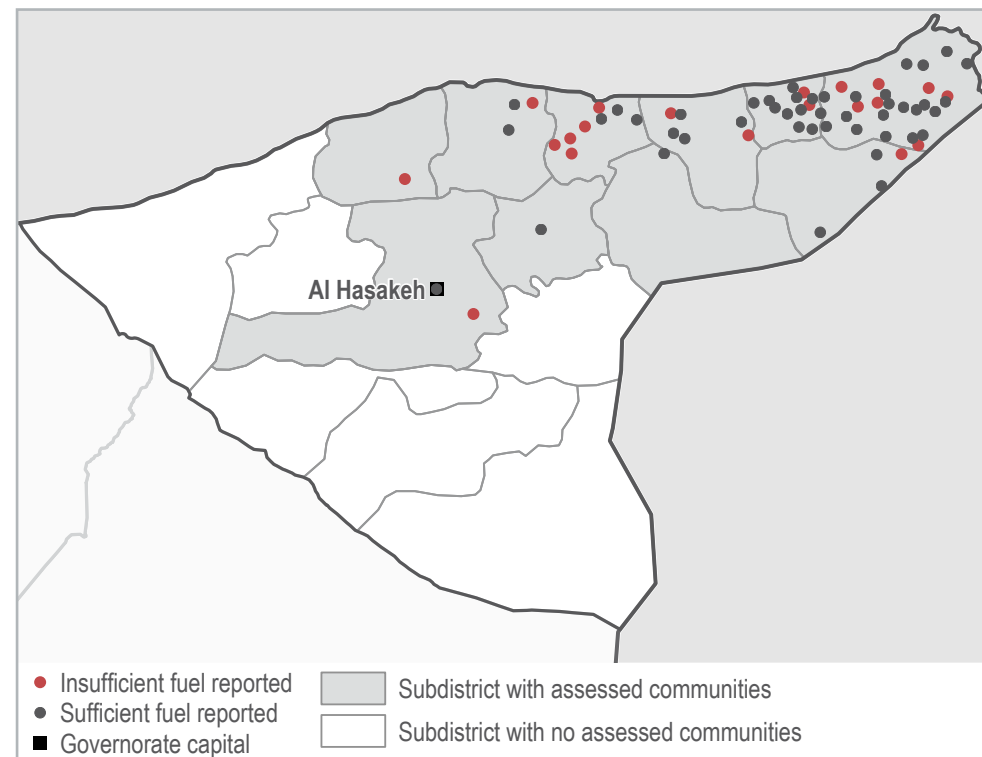
6,058 SYP Governorate average reported rent price in Syrian Pounds (SYP) across assessed communities.⁵

6,882 SYP Syrian average reported rent price in SYP across assessed communities.⁵

Most commonly reported shelter type for PCP (in red) and IDP (in grey) households⁴:



Fuel sufficiency:



Reported fuel prices (in SYP)⁵:

Fuel type:	Governorate average price in December:	Governorate average price in November:	Syrian average price in December:
Coal (1 kilogram)	699	692	337
Diesel (1 litre)	65	66	472
Butane (1 canister)	2,294	2,319	6,125
Firewood (1 tonne)	27,000	30,500	84,744

³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

⁵ 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 December 2017)

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HEALTH

57 Communities reported that no medical items were available in their community.

10 Communities reported that the majority of women did not have access to formal health facilities to give birth.

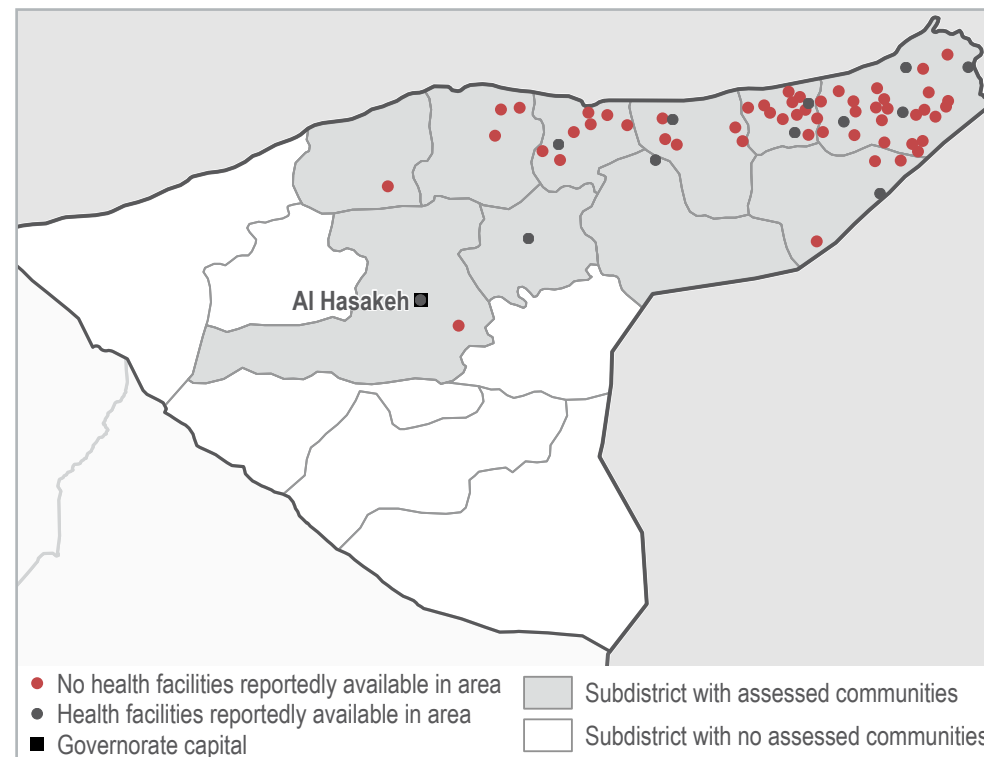
4 communities reported that residents experienced no barriers to accessing healthcare services. The barriers in the remaining **77** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



79 communities reported that residents were not using coping strategies to deal with a lack of medical supplies. The coping strategies used in the remaining **2** communities were^{3,4}:



Presence of health facilities in assessed communities:



Top 3 most needed healthcare services reported^{3,4}:

Medicine	93%
Chronic disease support	44%
Psychosocial care	43%

Top 3 most common health problems reported^{3,4}:

Chronic diseases	69%
Severe diseases affecting those younger than 5	47%
Acute respiratory infections	36%

³ Multiple choices allowed.

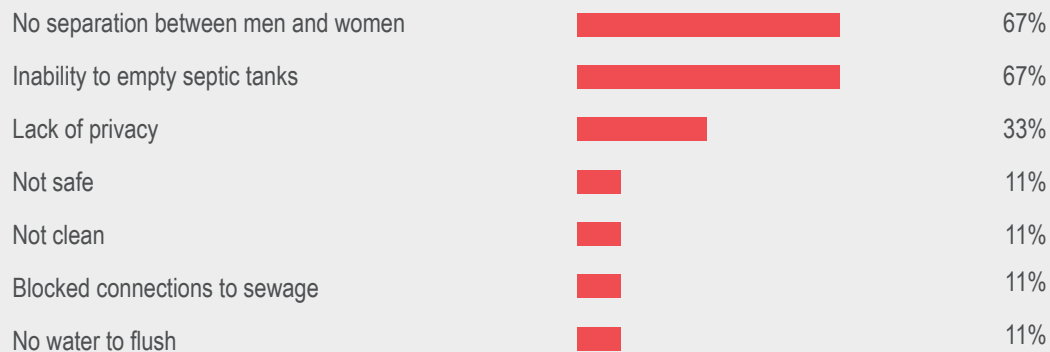
⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

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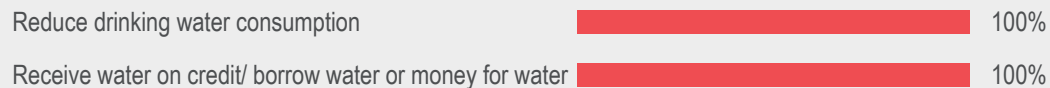


- 2** Communities reported that water from their primary source tasted and/or smelled bad.
- 0** Communities reported that drinking water from their primary source made people sick.

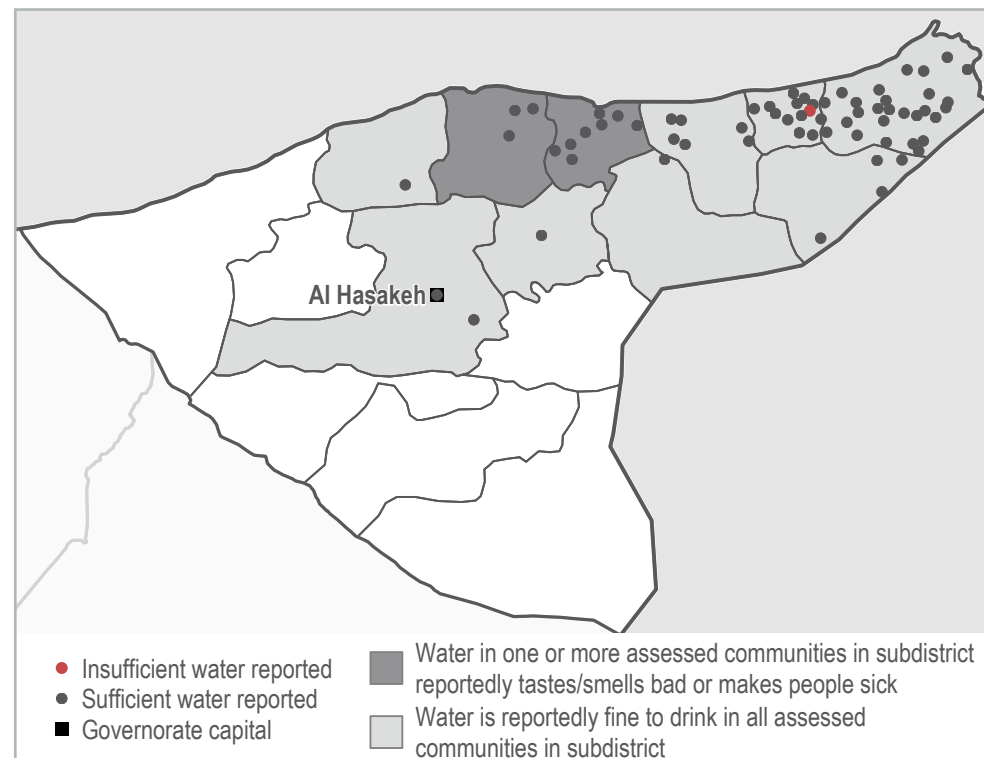
72 communities reported that they had no problems with latrines. The most prevalent problems with latrines in the remaining 9 assessed communities were^{3,4}:



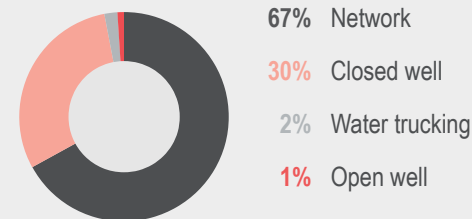
80 communities reported that they had sufficient amounts of water to meet household needs. The most common coping strategies to deal with a lack of water in the remaining 1 assessed community were^{3,4}:



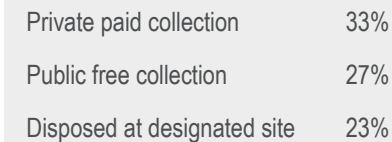
Water sufficiency for household needs:



Primary drinking water source reported⁴:



Top 3 reported methods of garbage disposal^{3,4}:



³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

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FOOD SECURITY

- 37** Communities reported not having received a food distribution in the last 12 months.
- 1** Community reported that residents were unable to purchase food at shops and markets.

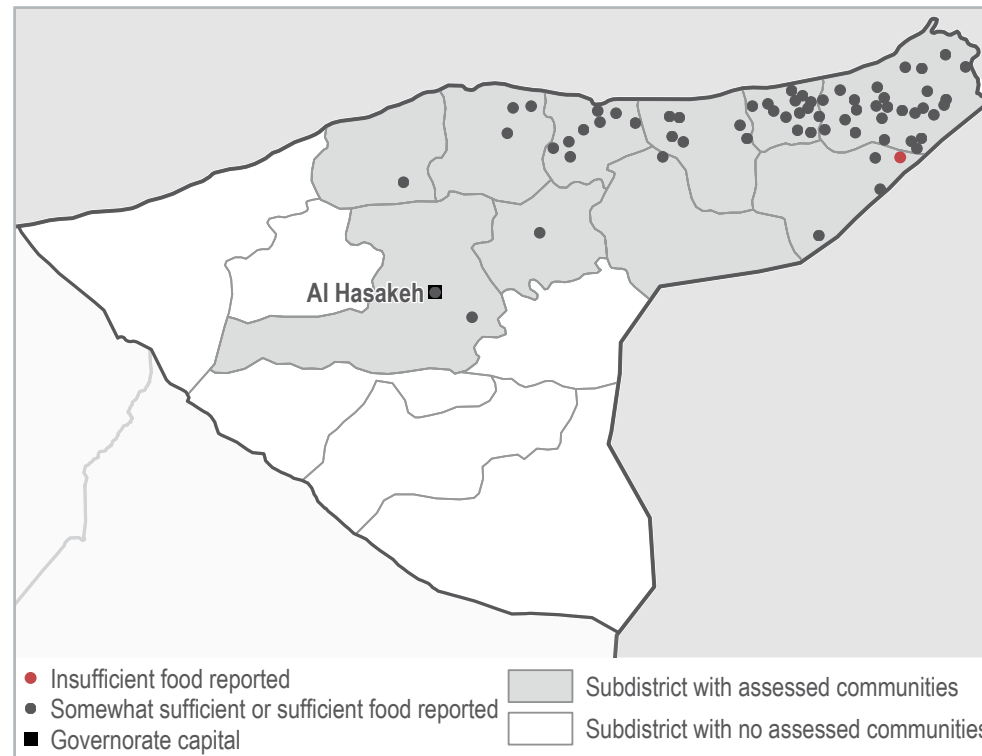
21 communities reported that residents experienced no challenges in accessing food. The most common difficulties experienced in the remaining **60** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



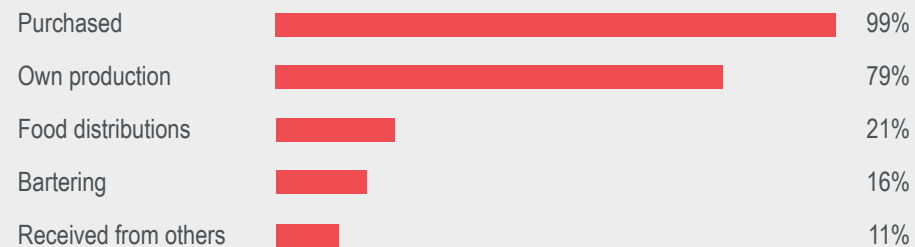
Core food item prices reported (in SYP)⁵:

Food item:	Governorate average price in December:	Governorate average price in November:	Syrian average price in December:
Bread public bakery (1 loaf)	102	95	114
Rice (1 kilogram)	508	521	565
Lentils (1 kilogram)	396	392	472
Sugar (1 kilogram)	380	397	410
Cooking oil (1 litre)	530	558	697

Food sufficiency:



Most common ways of obtaining food reported^{3,4}:



³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

⁵ 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 December 2017)

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LIVELIHOODS

From 50,000 - 100,000 SYP Most commonly reported household income range⁵.

27,244 SYP Governorate average food basket price^{5,6}.

2 Communities reported that residents used extreme food-based coping strategies to deal with insufficient income⁷.

26 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 **55** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



Most commonly reported main sources of income^{3,4}:



³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

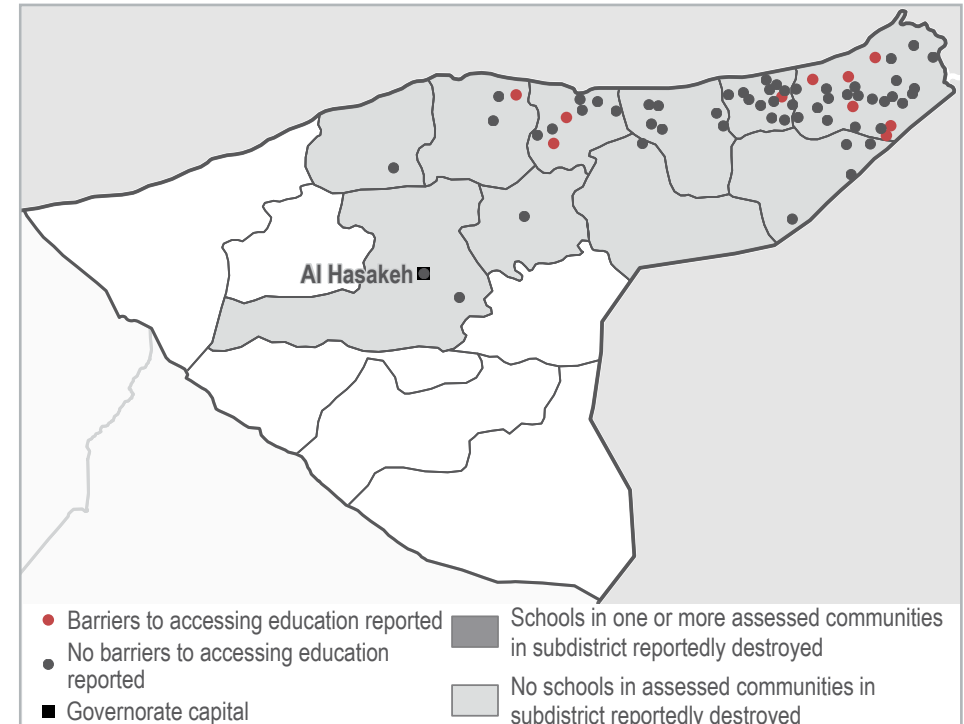
⁵ 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 December 2017)

⁶ Calculation of the average price of a food basket is based on the World Food Programme's standard basket of dry goods. The food basket includes 37 kg of bread, 19 kg of rice, 19 kg of lentils, 5 kg of sugar, and 7 kg of vegetable oil, and provides 1,930 kcal a day for a family of five for a month.

⁷ Extreme food-based strategies: Eating food waste; eating non-edible plants and spending days without eating.

EDUCATION

Barriers to accessing education services:



69 communities reported that most children were able to access education. The most commonly reported barriers to education in the remaining **12** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



METHODOLOGY

The HSOS project, formerly known as the AoO (Area of Origin) project, is a monthly assessment that aims to provide comprehensive, multi-sectoral information about the humanitarian situation inside Syria. This factsheet presents information gathered in 81 communities in January 2018, referring to the situation in Al Hasakeh Governorate in December 2017. It presents key indicators, rather than the entire range of indicators gathered in the HSOS questionnaire. For community-level data on assessed subdistricts in Al Hasakeh, Dar'a, Idleb, Rural Damascus and Quneitra, please refer to the monthly subdistrict factsheets, available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#). The complete HSOS dataset is disseminated monthly via the REACH Syria mailing list.

Wherever possible, information was collected through an enumerator network. REACH enumerators are based inside Syria and interview Key Informants (KIs) directly in the community they report about. Where access and security constraints rendered direct data collection unfeasible, KI interviews were conducted indirectly through participants identified in camps and settlements in neighbouring countries by REACH field teams. Participants contact KIs in their community in Syria to collect information about their community. KIs were asked to report at the community level.

A minimum of three KIs were interviewed per community to enhance data accuracy. 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 disagreed on a certain piece of information, enumerators triangulated the data with secondary sources or selected the response provided by the KI with the more relevant sector-specific background. For each question asked, confidence levels were 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 were triangulated through secondary sources, including news monitoring and humanitarian reports. Where necessary, follow-up was conducted with enumerators and participants. Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalised across the governorate.

ENDNOTES

¹ All information and figures reported in HSOS factsheets refer to the situation in assessed communities and cannot be generalised to other non-assessed communities of the governorate.

² Returns are not necessarily voluntary, safe, or sustainable.

³ 'Children' includes all persons below the age of 18.

⁴ Aljazeera. (6 June 2017). SDF launch major offensive to capture ISIL-held Raqqa. Retrieved from <http://www.aljazeera.com>.

⁵ Nassar, Ibrahim and Edwards. (9 August 2017). Why are Kurdish authorities shutting down dozens of private schools in northeast Syria? Retrieved from <http://syriadirect.org>.

⁶ Oliver and Osseiran. (26 September 2017). Mapping the Battle Against ISIS in Deir Ezzor. Syria Deeply. Retrieved from <http://www.newsdeeply.com>.

⁷ Ibrahim, Ali and Edelman. (21 September 2017). First-ever local elections to begin in Kurdish-held territories. Retrieved from <http://syriadirect.org>.

⁸ UNHCR. (15 October 2017). UNHCR strongly condemns latest attack on civilians in northeastern Syria. Retrieved from <http://www.unhcr.org>.

⁹ Ibrahim and Nelson. (28 November 2017). Displaced people from Raqqa, Deir e-Zor strain limited resources in northern camps. Retrieved from <http://syriadirect.org>.

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. You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org and follow us on Twitter: [@REACH_info](https://twitter.com/REACH_info).