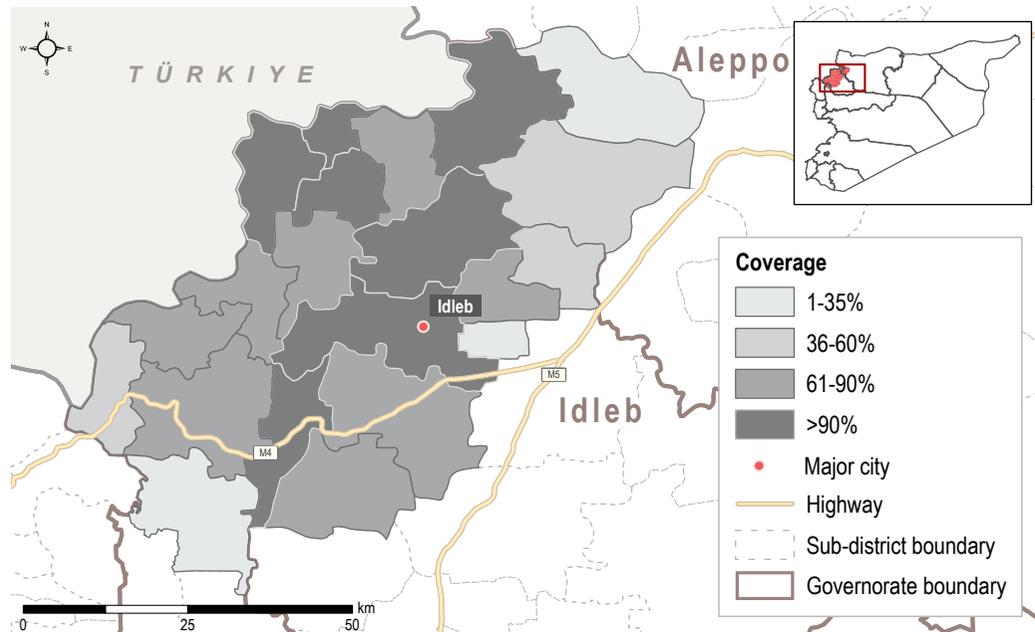


Introduction and Methodology

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 the security and protection situation in the Greater Idleb area in Northwest Syria (NWS). **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 **371 communities** across the greater Idleb area.¹ **Data was collected between 7-18 August 2022 from 1,242 KIs** (8% 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 cost of rented accommodation continued to increase this year. This mostly affected internally displaced persons (IDPs), who more frequently relied on renting than host communities did. Hence, cash for rent was the most reported priority shelter need for IDPs. The cost of water trucking similarly increased. This is concerning as water trucking was the main water source for households and as severe heat waves have affected the area this summer.

- **Rent prices increased in the past year, with cash for rent having been the most frequently reported shelter priority for IDPs in host communities.** Looking at the median rent prices reported by KIs in assessed locations, the rent for a two-bedroom apartment was 400 Turkish Lira (TRY) in August. This is a 7% increase month on month and a 167% increase compared to September 2021. The continued rise in rent prices is especially concerning as households were already struggling to pay rent. Specifically, households in around two-thirds of assessed communities in Idleb governorate reported that they could only continue paying rent for six months at most. Furthermore, IDPs are strongly affected – in around half of assessed communities, KIs reported that more than 50% of IDPs rented their accommodation. Correspondingly, cash for rent was the most reported priority shelter need for IDPs, reported by KIs in 65% of assessed communities. By contrast, there were no reports of more than 30% of residents in the community renting. Priority needs of host communities therefore differed; doors and doorframes (47%), and windows and window frames (46%) were most frequently reported, with cash for rent being less prevalent (11%). In addition to high rent prices, reports also suggest that tenants often receive short-term rental agreements with relatively high costs of changing accommodations.^{a,b,c}

- **As household expenditures on water increase, the main barrier to accessing sufficient water is the high cost of water trucking.** The cost of water trucking has increased by 17% between January and August 2022.^d This strongly impacted households as water trucking was the main water source in Greater Idleb (private water trucking and a combination of water trucking and piped network were reported sources in 47% and 26% of communities, respectively). Correspondingly, KIs more frequently noted the high cost of water trucking as a barrier to water access (reported in 51% of communities in August). This, in addition to heatwaves that affected the area during this summer,^e may then explain the increase in reported household water expenditures. The median expenditure reported by KIs for a household of six people was 90 TRY in August, up from 85 TRY in July and 70 TRY in January. This is around 2.6 times the median daily wage for unskilled labour reported by KIs.

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}

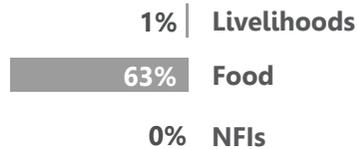
	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	OVERALL	
1	Food	Livelihoods	NFIs▲	Livelihoods	70%
2	Livelihoods	Summer items▶	Livelihoods	Food	53%
3	WASH▲	NFIs	Summer items	NFIs	49%

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



Yes: **87%**
No: **13%**

% 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	WASH	Livelihoods	Food	58%
2	Shelter	Summer items	Summer items	Livelihoods	51%
3	Livelihoods	NFIs	NFIs	Shelter	50%

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



Yes: **91%**
No: **9%**

% 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

- Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need **67%** **1**
- Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs **55%** **2**
- Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient **44%** **3**

In communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

- No humanitarian assistance was available **96%**
- Distribution points were too far or the routes were inaccessible **4%**

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

- Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need **69%** **1**
- Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs **53%** **2**
- Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient **45%** **3**

In communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

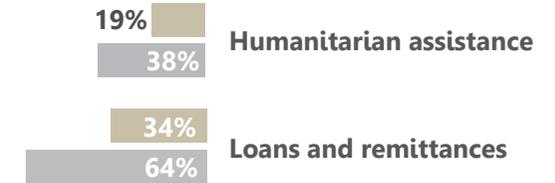
- No humanitarian assistance was available **97%**
- Distribution points were too far or the routes were inaccessible **3%**



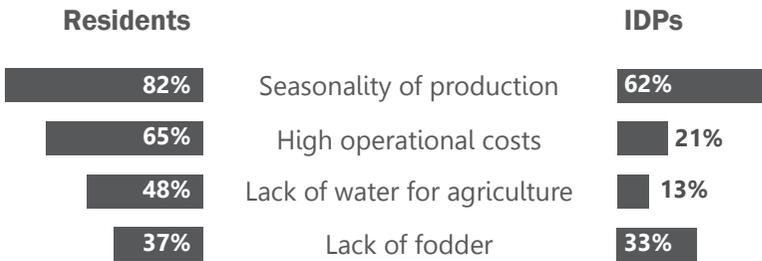
Economic Conditions

Region	Median estimated monthly household expense for water for a household of six ^{5,6}			Median estimated monthly rent price for a two bed-room apartment ^{5,6}			Median estimated daily wage for unskilled labour ^{5,7,8}		
	90 TRY			400 TRY			35 TRY		
% of assessed communities where indicator was reported in following currencies [*]	SYP	TRY [▲]	USD	SYP	TRY	USD	SYP	TRY	USD
		0%	100%	0%	0%	61%	39%	0%	100%

% 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



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



90% and 90%

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

76 days

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

94% and 52%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the insufficient income of households and general lack of employment opportunities as barriers to meeting basic needs ⁸

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

Livelihood source	Residents	IDPs
Food crop production	65%	16%
Cash crop production	70%	8%
Livestock products	66%	58%
Sale of livestock	12%	20%

Intersectoral findings on unaffordability hindering access to goods and services

- KIs in 73% of assessed communities cited that rent was unaffordable for the majority of people
- KIs in 44% of assessed communities cited the high cost of fuel for generators as a common challenge
- KIs in 85% of assessed communities cited the high cost of solar panels as a common challenge
- KIs in 51% of assessed communities cited the high cost of water trucking as a common challenge
- KIs in 90% of assessed communities cited the high cost of food as a common challenge ⁸
- KIs in 66% of assessed communities cited the high cost of health services as a common challenge



Living Conditions

In **96%** of assessed communities at least **80%** of the resident population reportedly **owned their shelter**

In **62%** of assessed communities reportedly **none** of the IDP households owned their shelter

In **24%** of assessed communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly **lived in unfinished or abandoned residential buildings**

In **19%** of assessed communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly **lived in tents**



A lack of toilets was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **2%** of assessed communities



A lack of bathing facilities was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **5%** of assessed communities

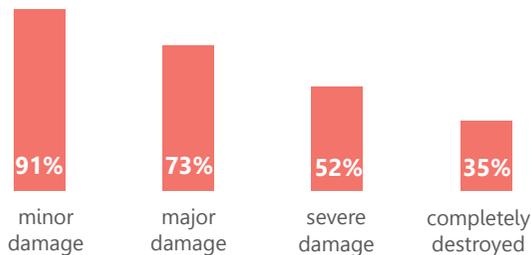


Problems with the drinking water were reported in **48%** of assessed communities



Water being calcareous was the most commonly reported problem with drinking water (reported by KIs in 48% of assessed communities)

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 89% of assessed communities)⁴

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

Rodents and/or pests are frequently visible



Solid waste in the streets



Sewage system pollutes public areas



Stagnant water



Flooding in the streets



99%

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



In **20%** 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

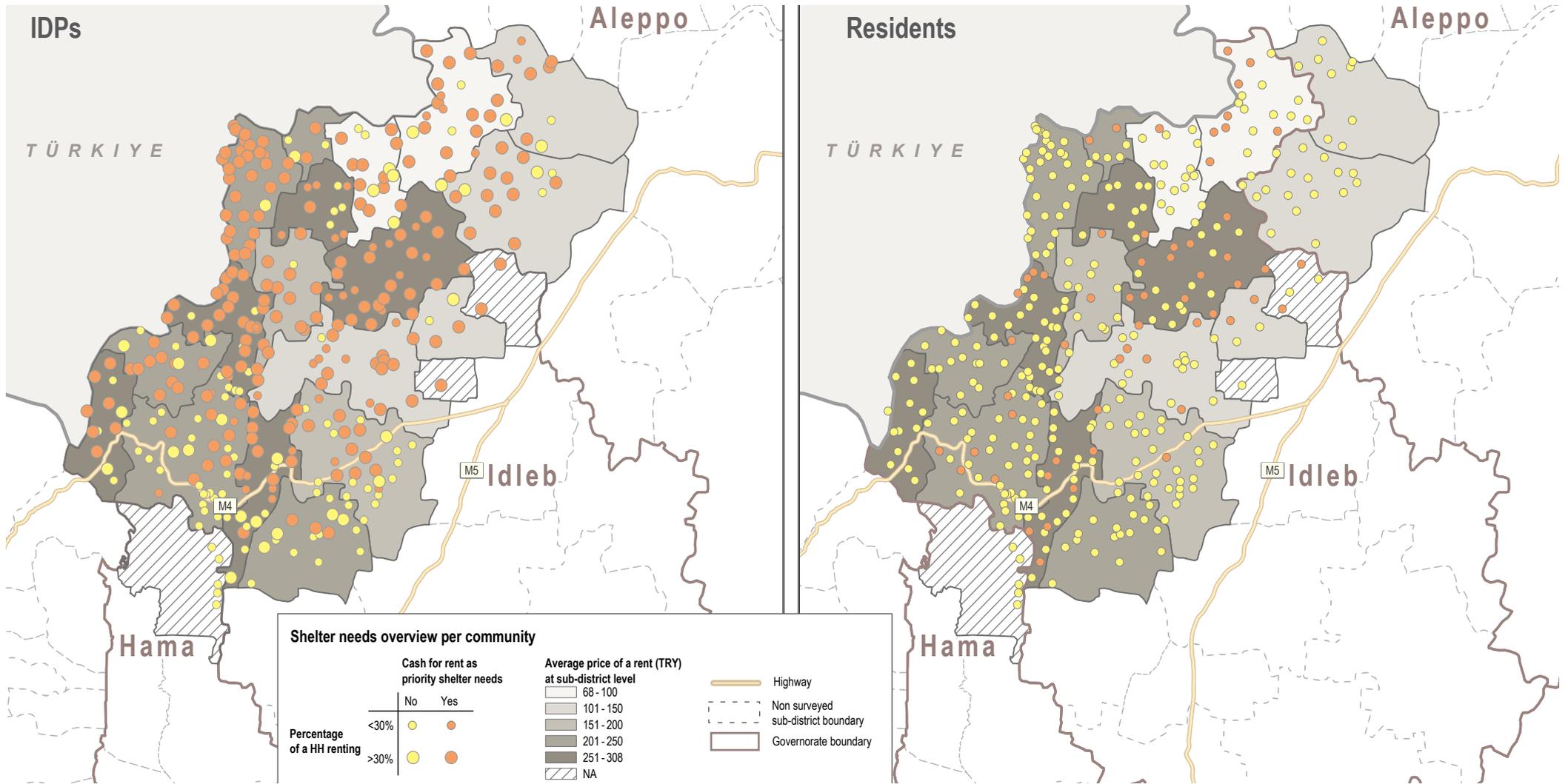
- 1 Relying on less preferred food / lower **87%**
- 2 Borrowing money to buy food **85%**
- 3 Buying food with money usually used for other things **65%**



High price of suitable foods formula was the most commonly reported challenge to feeding young children (reported by KIs in 98% of assessed communities) ^{4,11}

Commonly reported **sources of food** for house-holds other than markets (by % of assessed communities) ⁴

- 1 Own production or farming **79%**
- 2 Assistance from local council or NGOs **19%**
- 3 Relying on food stored previously **18%**



Shelter needs

Note on the map

This map shows an overview of shelter needs per community in greater Idleb: the percentage of IDP and resident households renting vs cash for rent as a priority shelter need, and the average price of rent in TRY at the sub-district level. In around half of assessed communities, KIs reported that more than 50% of IDPs rented their accommodation. Cash for rent was the most reported priority shelter need for IDPs, reported by KIs in 65% of assessed communities. By contrast, there were no reports of more than 30% of residents in the community renting.



Access to Basic Services



Access to Electricity

7-8 hrs per day

was the most commonly reported range for hours of electricity accessible to households (reported by KIs in 27% of assessed communities)

Solar panels

was the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 63% of assessed communities)

46%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the main network is partially or completely not functioning as a barrier for electricity access ♦



Access to Water

55%

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



7 days	10%
5-6 days	13%
3-4 days	19%
1-2 days	8%
0 days	50%

Days per week where water from the network was available (by % of 326 communities connected to a water network) ♦

Private water trucking

was the most commonly reported source of drinking water (reported by KIs in 44% of assessed communities)



Access to Sanitation

38%

% 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%

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



Access to Markets

8%

% of assessed 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 86% 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

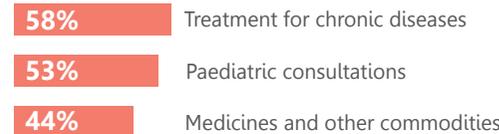


Access to Health Services

35%

% 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



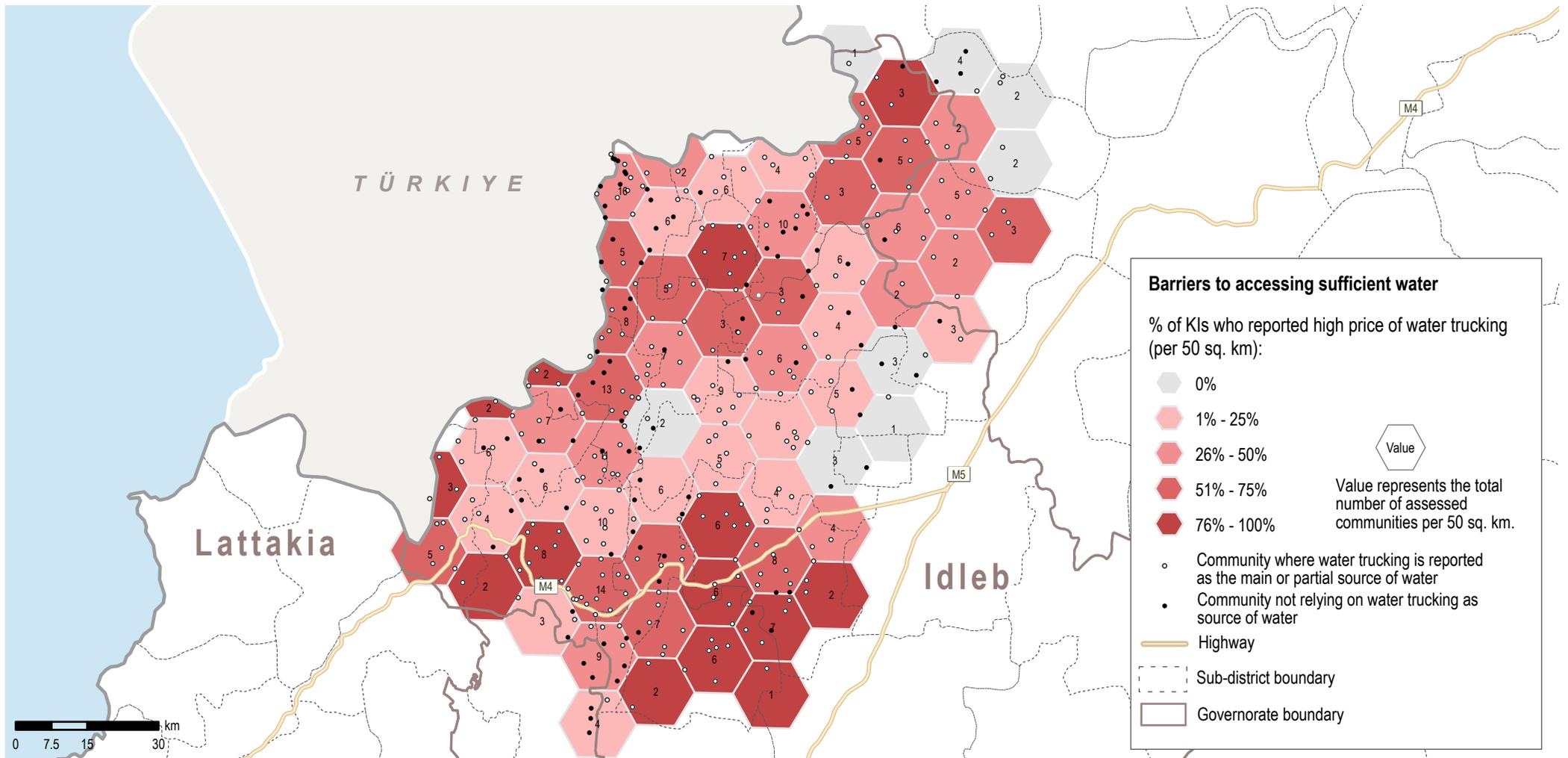
Going to the pharmacy instead of a clinic

was the most commonly reported coping strategy for a lack of healthcare (reported by KIs in 82% of assessed communities)



Access to Education Services

Due to summer holidays, no information on education was collected. Information on access to education services will be displayed again in October.



WASH barriers

Note on the map

This map shows the percentage of KIs reporting the high price of water trucking as a barrier to accessing sufficient water.



COVID-19

Effects of COVID-19 on livelihoods sectors in the community (by % of assessed communities)



None of the available livelihood sectors were affected **91%**
At least one of the available livelihood sectors was partially or totally affected **9%**

% of assessed communities where COVID-19 risk indicators were reported by KIs



Overcrowding reported as a shelter inadequacy ⁸

49%

Health facilities are overcrowded reported as a barrier to healthcare access

58%



Lack of necessary protective equipment or supplies at health facilities reported as a barrier to healthcare access

8%



Washing hands less frequently reported as a coping strategy for a lack of water

5%



Shortage of health workers reported as a barrier to healthcare access

8%

Lack of medicines or medical equipment at the health facility reported as a barrier to healthcare access

59%

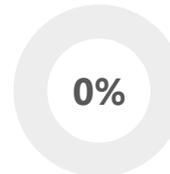
Most commonly reported sectors affected by COVID-19 (by % of assessed communities)

- 6%** Trading
- 4%** Agriculture
- 3%** Manufacturing

Reported hygiene item availability and affordability (by % of assessed communities) ¹²



% of assessed communities where COVID-19 related barriers to access services were reported



Access to markets was reportedly hindered because markets reduced opening hours or days because of COVID-19



Security and Protection

Intersectoral findings on security



General safety and security concerns restricting movement to markets was a reported barrier to market access in **1%** of assessed communities

General safety and security concerns at markets was a reported barrier to market access in **3%** of assessed communities

Markets not opening because of security issues was a reported barrier to markets not functioning in **0%** of assessed communities



Threat from airstrikes was reported as a protection risk in **23** communities ⁸

Threat from shelling, snipers or gunfire was reported as a protection risk in **44** communities ⁸

Threat from improvised explosive devices (IEDs), mines or unexploded ordnances was reported as a protection risk in **5** communities ⁸

Fear from imminent conflict was reported as a protection risk in **94** communities ⁸



The inability to lock homes securely was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **33%** of assessed communities ⁸

Lack of lighting around the shelter was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **89%** of assessed communities ⁸

The security situation was reported as a barrier to shelter repairs in **14%** of assessed communities



General safety and security concerns at the health facility was reported as a barrier to healthcare in **1%** of assessed communities

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

- 1 **81%** Special assistance for vulnerable groups
- 2 **69%** Specialised child protection services
- 3 **42%** Psychosocial support



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

- 48%** Lack or loss of civil documentation as a protection risk
- 51%** Some people did not have the necessary personal documents as a barrier to accessing humanitarian
- 6%**
- 6%**

% of assessed communities where extreme coping strategies used by residents and IDPs to meet basic needs were reported ⁴

Residents

- 41%** Early marriage
- 1%** Forced marriage
- 3%** High risk work
- 1%** Sending family members to beg
- 86%** Sending children (15 or below) to work

IDPs

- 47%**
- 0%**
- 7%**
- 2%**
- 90%**

Age, Gender, and Diversity

KIs in **43%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for women** as a barrier to meeting basic needs ⁸

KIs in **39%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for persons with a disability** as a barrier to meeting basic needs ⁸

KIs in **20%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of privacy for women and girls at health facilities** as a barrier to healthcare access

KIs in **42%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of market access for people with restricted mobility**

KIs in **7%** 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 **21%** of assessed communities ⁸

Hazardous child labour was reported as a protection risk in **6%** of assessed communities ⁸

Endnotes

1. The greater Idleb area includes Idlib governorate, parts of Aleppo western countryside, and parts of Hama northwestern countryside controlled by armed opposition groups (AOGs).
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 Idleb Governorate Market Monitoring exchange rate was used to calculate the amount in SYP. According to the [Joint Market Monitoring Initiative \(JMMI\)](#) August 2022, 1 USD = 4,200 SYP; 1TRY= 233 SYP.
7. According to the Idleb Governorate JMMI August 2022, 1 USD = 4,200 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 Idleb Governorate JMMI August 2022, the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) = 616,749 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.
12. Adult hygiene items include: shampoo, toothbrush, and toothpaste. Household cleaning items include: washing powder, liquid, and dish detergent.

◆ By number of communities where KIs reported the relevant indicator 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	366	Currency used for paying water	346
IDPs	361	Currency used for paying rent	289
Challenges to assistance access (resident)	314	Currency in which wages are paid (merge)	328
Barriers to assistance access (resident)	46	Barriers to accessing sufficient food (merge)	367
Challenges to assistance access (IDPs)	324	Days when water is available from network	326
Barriers to assistance access (IDPs)	31	Barriers to markets functioning	29

Sources

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- b. Mauvais, L., Alrahman, R. A. (December 2021). Constant uprooting: Idlib’s long housing crisis. Syria Direct. Retrieved from <https://syriadirect.org>
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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.