

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OVERVIEW OF SYRIA (HSOS)

November 2023 | Northwest Syria

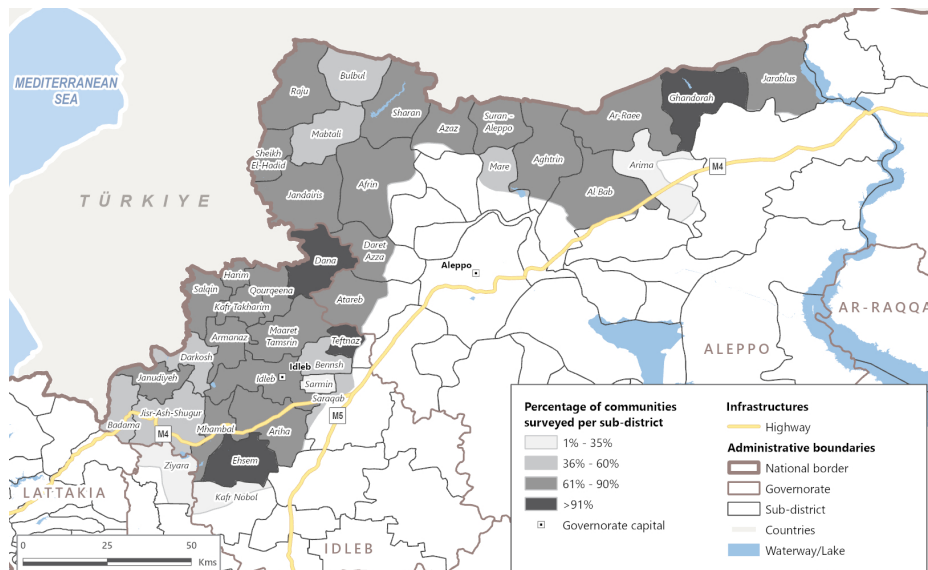
SITUATION OVERVIEW

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, public health, and the security and protection situation in Northwest Syria (NWS). HSOS focuses on host community and internally displaced persons (IDP) households residing in communities. **This assessment does not provide information on camps and informal settlements.**

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 generalised across the population and region. The complete monthly HSOS dataset is available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#).

The assessment is conducted using a key informant (KI) methodology at the community level. REACH enumerators in Greater Idleb, and partner enumerators in Northern Aleppo, interview three to six KIs per assessed location, either directly or remotely. KIs are chosen based on their community-level and sector-specific knowledge. This factsheet presents information gathered in **668 communities** across Greater Idleb¹ and Northern Aleppo areas. Data was collected **between 8-15 November 2023** from **2,357 KIs** (5% female).



KEY MESSAGES

- The **October conflict escalation** impacted on the provision of education services in Northwest Syria. The percentage of communities where KIs reported that schools were regularly operational dropped from 81% in the HSOS October round (covering September-October) to 56% in the HSOS November round (covering October-November). In Greater Idleb, KIs in 74% of assessed communities explained this irregular provision of education services by the escalation of violence that made schools or travel to schools unsafe, compared to 2% in the previous round.
- Inhabitants of numerous communities across NWS live in precarious shelters, exposing them to difficult weather conditions at the outset of winter. KIs in 67% of assessed communities reported unfinished or abandoned residential buildings as a common type of shelter, while KIs in 39% of assessed communities indicated that IDPs commonly used tents as shelters.
- While **winter items** were reportedly available in most assessed communities (87%), they remained **unaffordable for the majority of people** in 77% of assessed communities. Among winter items, **heating fuel** was most frequently reported as a priority winter need (in 71% of assessed communities).
- Road repairs were the most commonly reported infrastructure need in the covered communities, whether inside communities (reported as a need in 83% of assessed communities) or between communities (71%). The general lack of maintenance, combined with over a decade of conflict resulted in **extensive damage to the NWS road network**. Poor roads conditions may also impact access to basic services and livelihoods.
- Inadequate sanitation conditions prevailed in NWS with 51% of assessed communities reportedly not connected to a sewage system. Additionally, KIs in 62% of communities cited **unsafe soak pits among the main sanitation issues** in their community. Unsafe soak pits can lead to sludge accumulation or contamination of ground water sources, which may foster the propagation of infectious disease such as **cholera**.

HSOS Dashboards

The interactive [HSOS Sectoral Dashboard](#) provides a monthly thematic overview of key indicators disaggregated at different administrative levels. The [Humanitarian Trends Dashboard](#) uses HSOS data to visualise how the humanitarian situation in northern Syria has been changing over time.

PRIORITY NEEDS AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



Most commonly reported **overall** priority needs for host community households (by % of assessed communities) ²

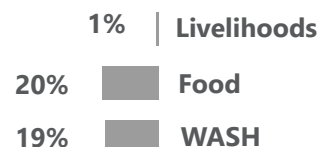
| | | |
|---|-------------------|-----|
| 1 | Livelihoods | 59% |
| 2 | Food | 58% |
| 3 | WASH [▲] | 48% |

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



Yes: **51%**
No: **49%**

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance for host community households** ³



Most commonly reported barriers that host community households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of assessed communities reporting barriers) ³

Communities where access to humanitarian assistance was reported

Communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

| | | | | |
|--|------------|----------|------------|--|
| Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need | 69% | 1 | 95% | No humanitarian assistance was available |
| Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient | 57% | 2 | 2% | Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance |
| Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs | 43% | 3 | 1% | Distribution points were too far or the routes were inaccessible |



Most commonly reported **overall** priority needs for IDP households (by % of assessed communities) ²

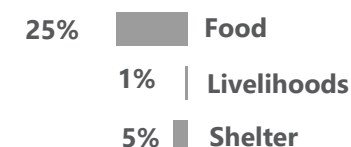
| | | |
|---|-------------|-----|
| 1 | Food | 64% |
| 2 | Livelihoods | 54% |
| 3 | Shelter | 41% |

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



Yes: **53%**
No: **47%**

% of assessed communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance for IDP households** ³

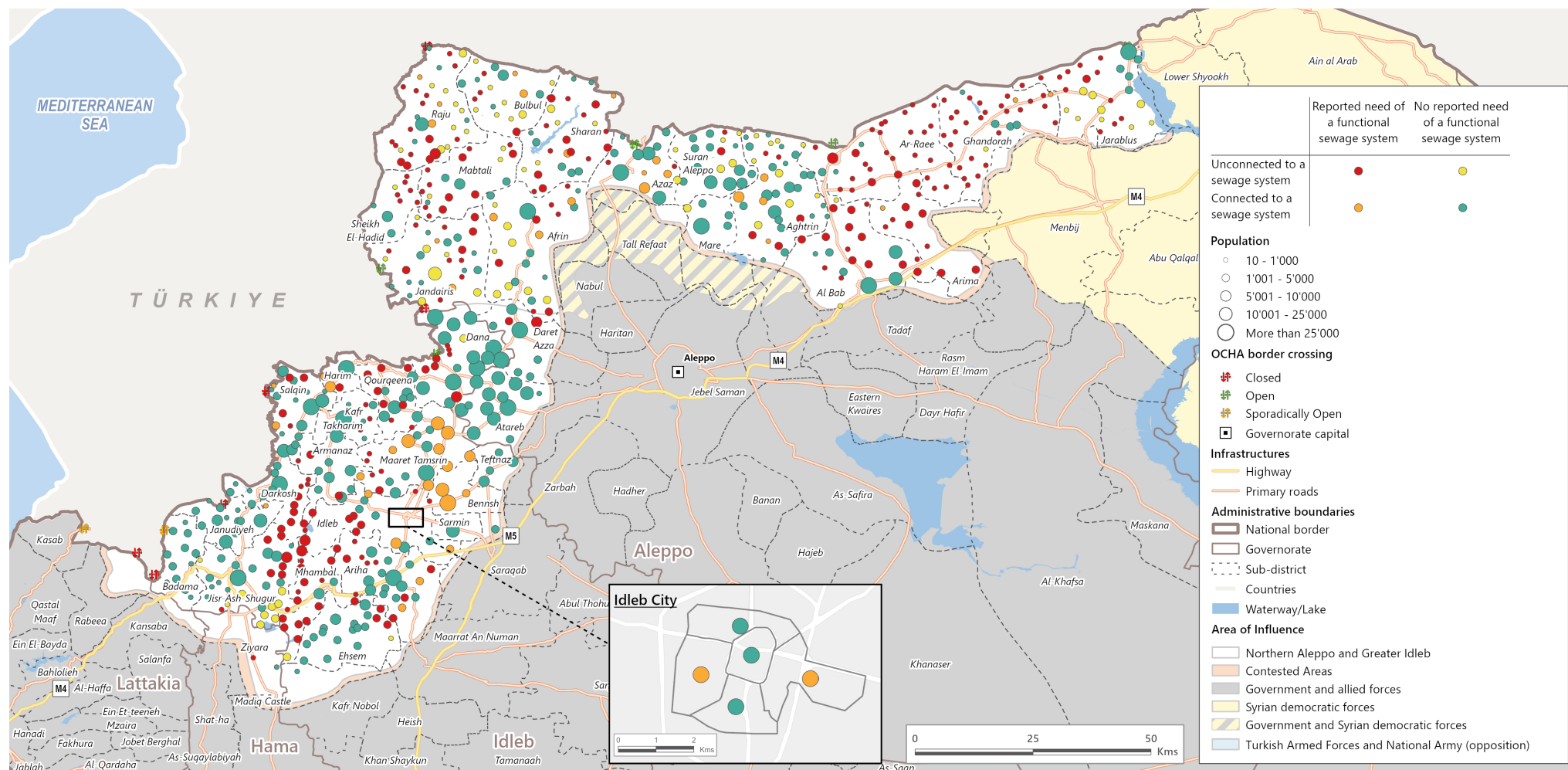


Most commonly reported barriers that IDP households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of assessed communities reporting barriers) ³

Communities where access to humanitarian assistance was reported

Communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

| | | | | |
|--|------------|----------|------------|--|
| Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need | 69% | 1 | 94% | No humanitarian assistance was available |
| Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient | 55% | 2 | 3% | Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance |
| Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs | 44% | 3 | 2% | Distribution points were too far or the routes were inaccessible |



NWS Sewage system connection and need

Note on the map

This map aims at identifying communities connected or not to a sewage system and whether KIs reported a functional sewage system as a top sanitation need in the location. The most vulnerable communities appear in red, as these are the ones not connected to a sewage network, and where KIs expressed a need to acquire a functional sewage network. This scenario was especially prevalent in the eastern part of Northern Aleppo.

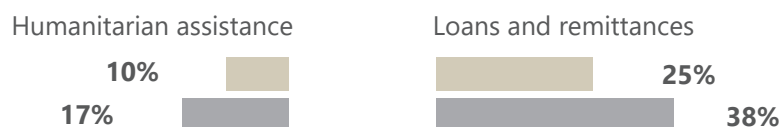
ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

| Region | Median estimated monthly household expense for water for a household of six ^{4,5} | | | Median estimated monthly rent price for a two bed-room apartment ^{4,5} | | | Median estimated daily wage for unskilled labour ^{4,6,7} | | |
|--|--|------|-----|---|-----|-----|---|------|-----|
| Northwest Syria | 250 TRY | | | 557 TRY | | | 80 TRY | | |
| % of assessed communities where indicator was reported in following currencies | SYP | TRY | USD | SYP | TRY | USD | SYP | TRY | USD |
| | 0% | 100% | 0% | 0% | 49% | 51% | 0% | 100% | 0% |

Most common sources of meeting basic needs for households (by % of assessed communities) ^{3,7}



Presence of **host community** and **IDP** households relying on non-productive sources of livelihoods to meet their basic needs (by % of assessed communities) ³



Intersectoral findings on **unaffordability** hindering access to goods and services ⁷



KIs in **50%** of assessed communities cited **rent** was unaffordable for the majority of people



KIs in **67%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **solar panels** as a common challenge



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



KIs in **18%** of assessed communities cited high cost of **fuel for generators** as a common challenge

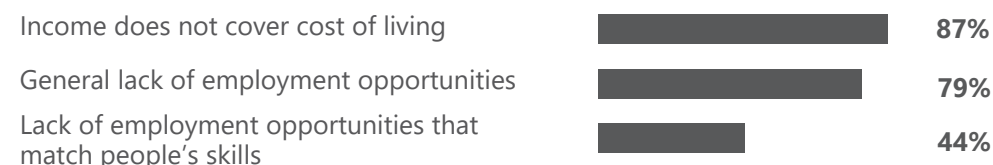


KIs in **35%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **water trucking** as a common challenge

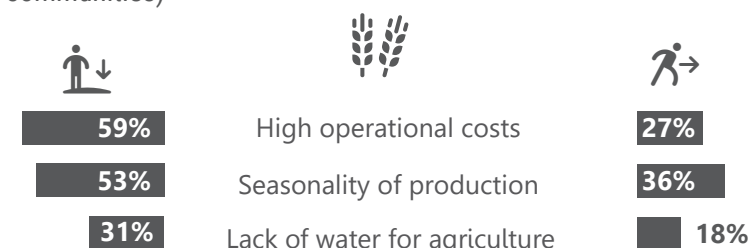


KIs in **41%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **health services** as a common challenge

Most commonly reported barriers to accessing livelihoods (by % of assessed communities) ^{3,7}



Most commonly reported barriers to accessing livelihoods related to agriculture (by % of assessed communities) ³



% of assessed communities where livelihood sources from agriculture were reported ³

| Livelihood source | Host community households | IDP households |
|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Food crop production | 71% | 22% |
| Cash crop production | 59% | 6% |
| Livestock products | 54% | 37% |
| Sale of livestock | 18% | 15% |



Host community households



IDP households

BASIC NEEDS OVERVIEW

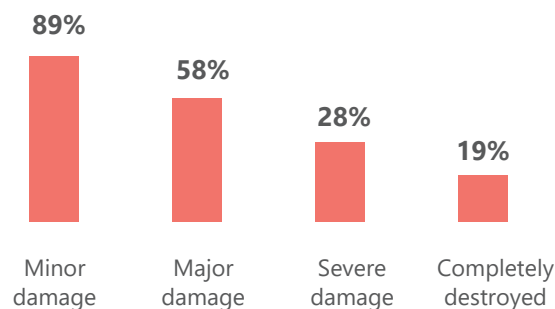
In **84%** of assessed communities, at least **80%** of the host community households reportedly **owned their shelter**

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

In **27%** of assessed communities, at least **one fifth** of the IDP population reportedly lived in **unfinished or abandoned residential buildings**

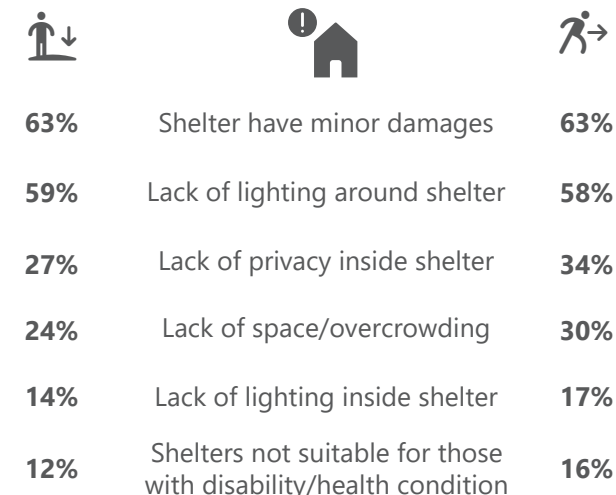
In **15%** of assessed communities, at least **one fifth** of the IDP population reportedly lived in **tents**

Reported presence of occupied shelters with damage (by % of assessed communities)^{4, 8}



Shelter and repair materials being too expensive was the most commonly reported challenge for households to repair their shelter (reported by KIs in 86% of assessed communities)

Most commonly reported shelter inadequacies (by % of assessed communities)³



90%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that **households experienced barriers to accessing sufficient food**⁷

Commonly reported barriers to accessing sufficient food (by % of communities)^{3, 7}

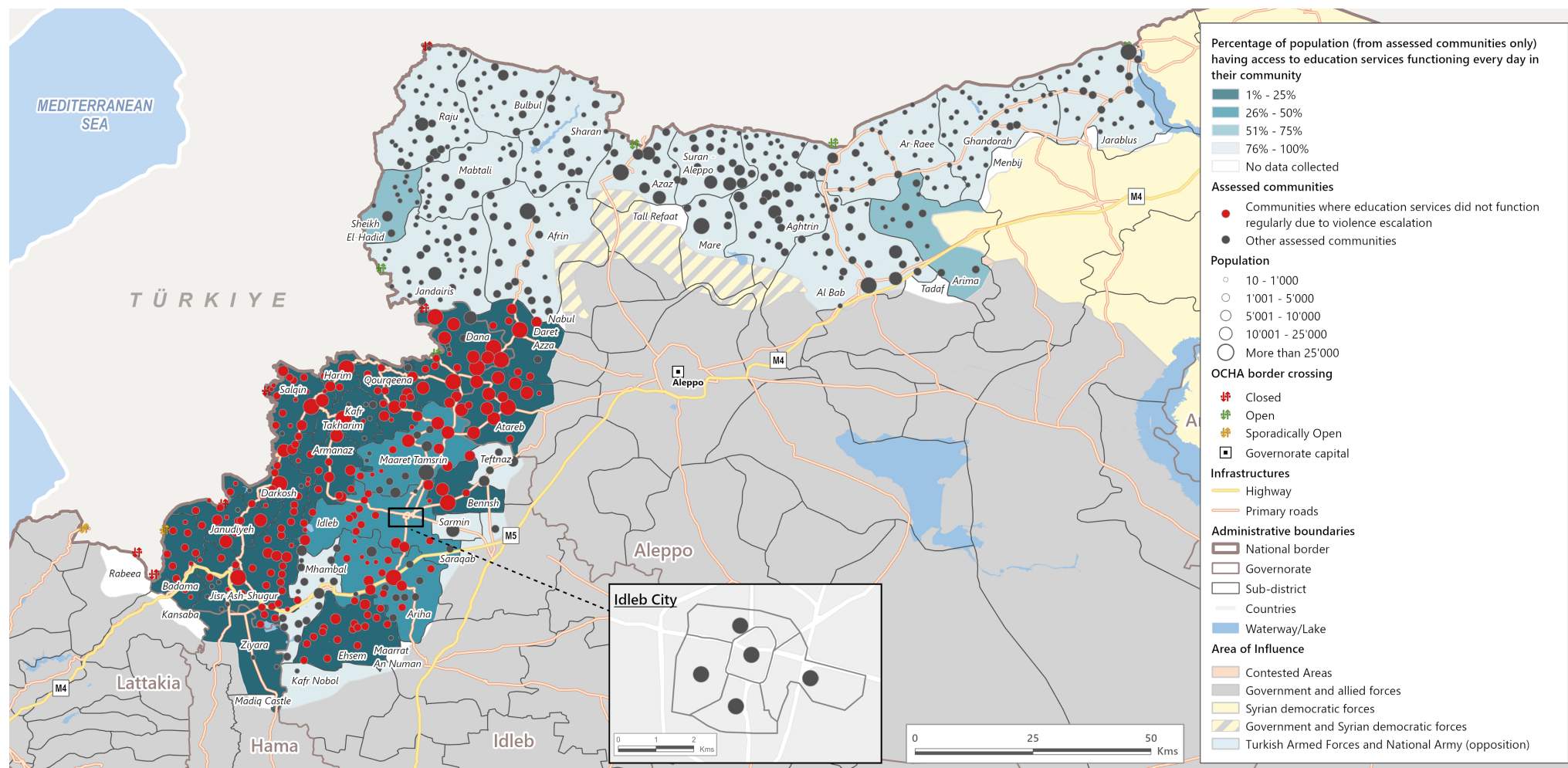
| | | |
|---|---|-----|
| 1 | Markets exist and food is available but households cannot afford essential food items | 74% |
| 2 | Markets exist but not all essential food items are available | 16% |
| 3 | Households are not able to store food or cook food | 15% |



High price of suitable foods formula was the most commonly reported challenge to feeding young children (reported by KIs in 90% of assessed communities)^{7, 9}

Commonly reported **source of food** for households **other than markets** (by % of assessed communities)^{10, 7}

| | | |
|---|--|-----|
| 1 | Own production or farming | 59% |
| 2 | Relying on food stored previously | 34% |
| 3 | Assistance from local councils, NGOs or other groups | 9% |



Operational education services in NWS (October-November 2023)

Note on the map

On this map, darker shaded sub-districts indicate areas where a low percentage of the population (of assessed communities only) had access to fully operational education services. Red dots correspond to communities in which KIs reported that the education services did not fully operate because of a violence escalation. The map shows that Greater Idlib was particularly affected by limited education services provided due to violence escalation.

ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES



Access to Electricity

>12
hrs/day

was the most commonly reported range of hours of electricity accessible to households (reported by KIs in 44% of assessed communities)

Solar panels

was the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 58% of assessed communities)

67%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported **Solar panels too expensive** as the most frequently reported barrier to electricity access



Access to Water

52%

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



7 days 4%
5-6 days 5%
3-4 days 14%
1-2 days 31%
0 days 46%

Days per week where water from the network was available (by % of 519 communities connected to a water network)

Private water trucking

was the most commonly reported source of water for all purposes (reported by KIs in 46% of assessed communities)



Access to Sanitation

51%

% 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)

42%

Free public waste collection

37%

Paid private waste collection

11%

Waste disposed of by household to a dumping location

25%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported **waste removal services** as a WASH priority need ⁷



Access to Markets

24%

% 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 75% of assessed communities where markets were not functioning)

59%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported **lack of transportation to markets** was a barrier to physically accessing food markets



Access to Health Services

56%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that **households did not have access to health services** in the assessed location

Most commonly reported health priority needs (by % of assessed communities)^{7, 10}

63%

Medicines and other commodities

50%

First aid or emergency care

43%

Treatment for chronic diseases

High cost of transportation to health facilities

was the most commonly reported **barrier to accessing healthcare** (reported by KIs in 63% of assessed communities)



Access to Education Services

21%
30%

% of assessed communities in which only half or less of the school aged-children accessed school in the last 30 days for **host community** and **IDP** households

Reported functionality of education services in the assessed location

95%

Functioning

5%




Not functioning

66%

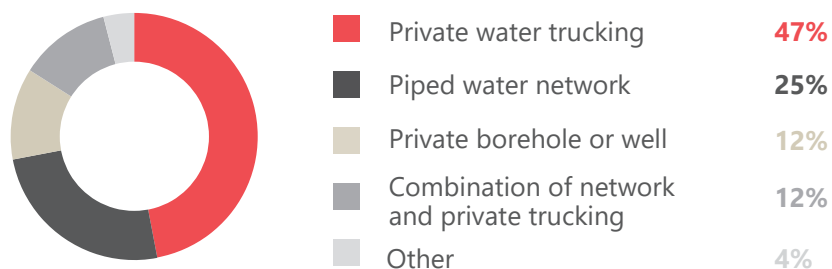
% of assessed communities where KIs reported that **families cannot afford to prioritize school and children must work** ⁷

PUBLIC HEALTH

Most commonly reported sanitation issues (by % of assessed communities)³

| | | |
|--|---|-----|
| Unsafe soak pit |  | 62% |
| Sewage network does not reach all households |  | 33% |
| Sewage system needs repair/cleaning |  | 25% |

Primary sources of drinking water (by % of assessed communities)



49%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that households **faced problems with drinking water**.

66%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported that households **did not use any methods** to make water safer to drink.

Methods used by households to make water safer to drink (by % of assessed communities in which KIs reported methods being used)³

| | | |
|---|------------------|-----|
| 1 | Chlorine tablets | 43% |
| 2 | Sedimentation | 36% |
| 3 | Boiling | 20% |

Reported challenges related to quantity, quality and diversity of food for babies and young children (less than 2 years old)^{3, 9}

Limited variety of food reported in **24%** of assessed communities

Not enough food reported in **16%** of assessed communities





Poor quality of food reported in **5%** of assessed communities

32%










% of assessed communities where KIs reported that **no paediatric services** were available either in the assessed community or nearby locations

Reported barriers to accessing healthcare (by % of assessed communities)^{3, 12}

| | | |
|---|---|-----|
| Lack of medicines/medical equipment at the health facility |  | 41% |
| Health facilities are overcrowded |  | 34% |
| Absence of health facilities present/functioning in assessed location |  | 28% |
| Specialised services are not available |  | 10% |

Essential health services available either in the assessed community or in nearby locations (by % of communities where households could access health services)¹³

| |  No |  Yes | |
|---|--|---|-----|
| General and or specialist surgical services | 49% |  | 51% |
| Treatment for parasitic infections | 46% |  | 54% |
| Skilled care during childbirth (General obstetric care - normal deliveries) | 29% |  | 71% |
| Vaccination | 24% |  | 76% |
| First aid/emergency care (accident and injuries) | 8% |  | 92% |

SECURITY AND PROTECTION

Intersectoral findings on security



General safety and security concerns restricting movement to markets was a reported barrier to market access in 21 assessed communities

General safety and security concerns at markets was a reported barrier to market access in 34 assessed communities

Movement restrictions was reported as a protection risk in 0 assessed communities ⁷



Theft was reported as a protection risk in 15% of assessed communities ⁷

Fear from imminent conflict was reported as a protection risk in 18% of assessed communities ⁷

Threat from shelling was reported as a protection risk in 18% of assessed communities ⁷

Threat from airstrikes were reported as a protection risk in 97 assessed communities ⁷



The security situation was reported as a barrier to shelter repairs in 54 assessed communities ⁷



Safety and security concerns travelling to health facilities was reported as a barrier to healthcare in 20 assessed communities



Lack of safety while travelling to or from school was reported as a barrier preventing access to education in 56 assessed communities ⁷

Most commonly reported protection priority needs (by % of assessed communities) ^{7, 10}

- 1** Special assistance for vulnerable groups **68%**
- 2** Specialised child protection services **46%**
- 3** Psychosocial support **44%**



% of assessed communities where the lack of civil documentation for **host community** and IDP households was reported

- 21%** Lack or loss of civil documentation as a protection risk
- 23%**
- 7%** Lack of personal documentation required to enrol in school as a barrier to education access
- 8%**

54%

% of assessed communities where **child labour** was reported as a protection risk for **host**

56%

community and IDP households

Gender and diversity

KIs in **28%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for women** as a barrier to accessing livelihoods ⁷

KIs in **24%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for persons with a disability** as a barrier to accessing livelihoods ⁷

KIs in **4%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of privacy for women and girls at health facilities** as a barrier to healthcare access

KIs in **30%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of market access for people with restricted mobility**

KIs in **3%** of assessed communities reported that **women and girls feel unsafe when traveling to markets**

KIs in **13%** of assessed communities reported **challenges specific to girls** as a barrier preventing access to education ^{7, 14}

ENDNOTES

¹ The Greater Idlib area includes Idlib governorate, parts of Aleppo governorate (Atareb and Daret Azza sub-districts), and parts of Hama governorate controlled by armed opposition groups (Ziyara sub-district). The Northern Aleppo area includes 16 sub-districts located across Afrin, A'az, Al Bab and Jarablus districts.

² KIs were asked to select a first, second, and third highest priority needs in their communities. 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 multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.

⁴ KIs were asked about the situation at the time of data collection, instead of the last 30 days.

⁵ 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 NWS Market Monitoring exchange rate was used to calculate the amount in SYP. According to the [Joint Market Monitoring Initiative \(JMMI\)](#) October 2023, 1 USD = 13,863 SYP; 1 TRY = 490 SYP.

⁶ According to the NWS [JMMI](#) October 2023, 1 USD = 13,863 SYP.

⁷ 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).

⁸ 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).

⁹ KIs were asked about the situation in the last two months, instead of the last 30 days.

¹⁰ KIs could select three answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.

¹¹ This section provides a visualisation of three types of problems with drinking water. These problems were not selected based on how commonly they were reported, but rather on their potential negative impact on health.

¹² This section only focuses on barriers related to the health facilities and excludes financial barriers as well as obstacles linked to transportation to health facilities.

¹³ This section provides a visualisation of the availability of five essential types of health services reported in the assessed communities or in nearby locations. The displayed services were not selected based on how commonly they were reported.

¹⁴ Challenges specific to girls include the following: Families not allowing attendance or continuation of education, fear of harassment on the way to or inside education facilities, and the lack of privacy in toilets.

| N,o of communities reporting on: | Subset | N,o of communities reporting on: | Subset |
|--|--------|---|--------|
| Host community households | 632 | Currency used for paying rent | 423 |
| IDP households | 663 | Currency in which wages are paid (merged) | 532 |
| Challenges to assistance access (host community) | 284 | Days when water is available from network | 519 |
| Barriers to assistance access (host community) | 307 | Barriers to markets functioning | 162 |
| Challenges to assistance access (IDP) | 307 | Methods to make water safer (merged) | 228 |
| Barriers to assistance access (host community) | 309 | Problems with drinking water (merged) | 328 |
| Currency used for paying water | 576 | | |

ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative 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).