

# Idleb Governorate, November 2017

## Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

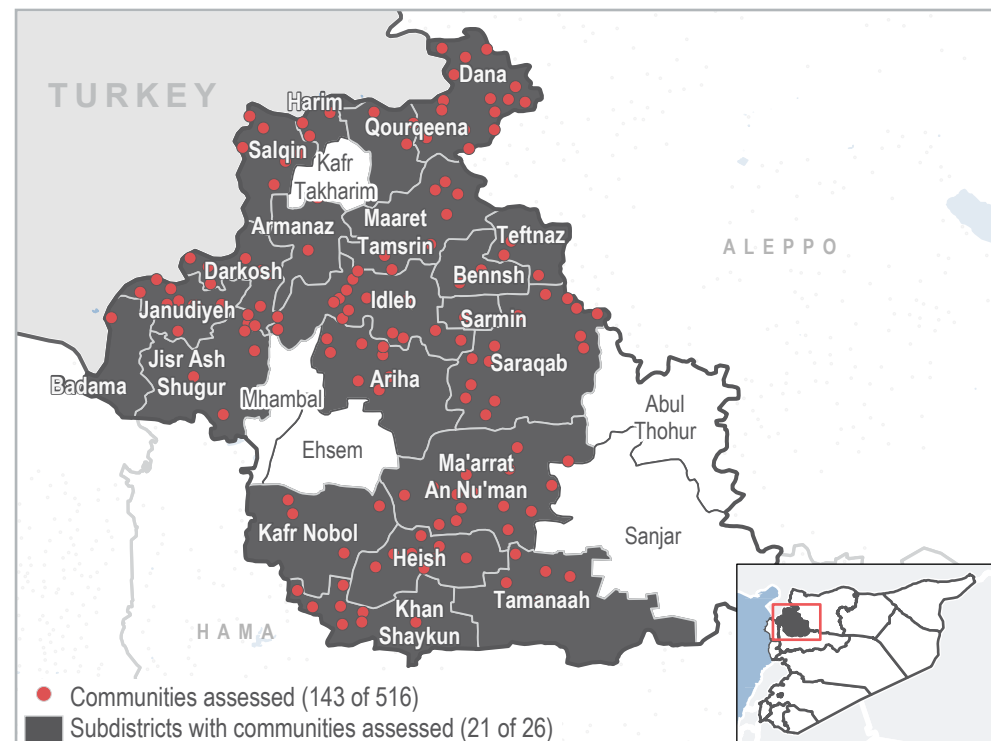
### OVERALL FINDINGS<sup>1</sup>

Syria's north-western Idleb hosts the second largest IDP population after Rural Damascus. **Three** of the communities assessed in Idleb had no pre-conflict population remaining on the last day of November: Um Elkhalayel (Tamanaah sub-district), Nasra (Janudiyeh sub-district) and Jamiliya (Darkosh sub-district). These communities have not been assessed for a majority of indicators displayed in these factsheets. Members of the pre-conflict population left Um Elkhalayel and Um Jalal due to an escalation of conflict, and Big Khwein due to protection concerns. All three communities are located in the south-eastern sub-district of Tamanaah. Conversely, **four** communities witnessed spontaneous returns in November, with family reunification reported as one of the main reasons for return. In the **three** communities to which refugees returned, all returnees were reportedly returning from Turkey. In Kafraziba (Ariha sub-district), IDPs returned from Harim sub-district within Idleb governorate<sup>2</sup>. IDPs were present in **141** out of the 143 assessed communities, with **10** communities reporting the presence of over 10,000 IDPs. Dana (70,000), Idleb (39,500) and Ma'arrat Tamasrin (34,500) reported the largest estimated IDP numbers, and all **10** communities with the exception of Idleb city reported new arrivals in November. Despite large IDP numbers within Idleb, **all but one** community reported that IDPs lived in independent or shared houses/apartments. For more detailed information about displacement patterns in Idleb governorate in November, please refer to the [REACH Syria IDP Situation Monitoring Initiative](#).

Of the communities assessed in November, **43** reported that no health facilities were available in their area, and **three** communities (Almokblah and Thaheriya in Ariha sub-district and Aqrabat in Idleb sub-district) reported that IDPs had less access to healthcare than other parts of the population. Of the communities assessed, **21** reported that garbage was either buried, burned or left in the public areas. **Twelve** of these communities reported that acute respiratory infections were common health concerns in their community.

In assessed communities in Idleb, **34%** reported that residents experienced challenges in accessing sufficient amounts of food. In all **49** communities, residents reportedly either lacked sufficient funds to purchase available food or were unable to buy food due to the high cost of some items. IDPs in Thaheriya (Ariha sub-district) reportedly had less access to food than some other parts of the population. The most common sources of income in these 49 communities were agriculture, business or trade and unstable, daily employment. **Close to half** of the assessed communities reported that children were sent to work or beg to supplement insufficient household incomes<sup>3</sup>. In Big Khwein this reportedly affected 1 - 5-year old's, while **14** other communities reported that some 5-9-year old children were working or begging in November. Big Khwein was also the only community to report the use of extreme food-based coping strategies, such as spending days without eating and eating non-edible plants. Nonetheless, most children in **90%** of assessed communities accessed education in November.

### Coverage



### Top 3 reported priority needs

1. Food security
2. Healthcare
3. Water security

### Demographics\*

**2,086,051** people in need

1,024,251 1,061,800

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

### KEY EVENTS

Armed Opposition Group assumes control of Idleb city and Bab al-Hawa border crossing, which was subsequently closed <sup>4</sup> .	Interagency convoy delivers humanitarian aid to people in opposition besieged Foah and Kafraya towns <sup>5</sup> .	10,311 displaced from Oqeirbat in northern Hama to southern Idleb following an escalation in conflict <sup>6</sup> .	Wave of attacks on hospitals in opposition-held areas <sup>7</sup> .	Turkey launches an armed intervention into Idleb <sup>8</sup> .	Ankara reopens Bab al-Hawa crossing, allowing commercial vehicles to access opposition-held areas <sup>9</sup> .
20-23 July	7 September	Early September	September	12 October	18 October

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## DISPLACEMENT

**13,968 - 19,575** Estimated number of IDP arrivals in assessed communities in November.

**57 - 83** Estimated number of spontaneous returnee arrivals in assessed communities in November<sup>2</sup>.

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

Ma'arrat An Nu'man	<b>2,500 - 3,000</b>
Ariha	<b>1,200 - 1400</b>
Dana	<b>700 - 1,000</b>

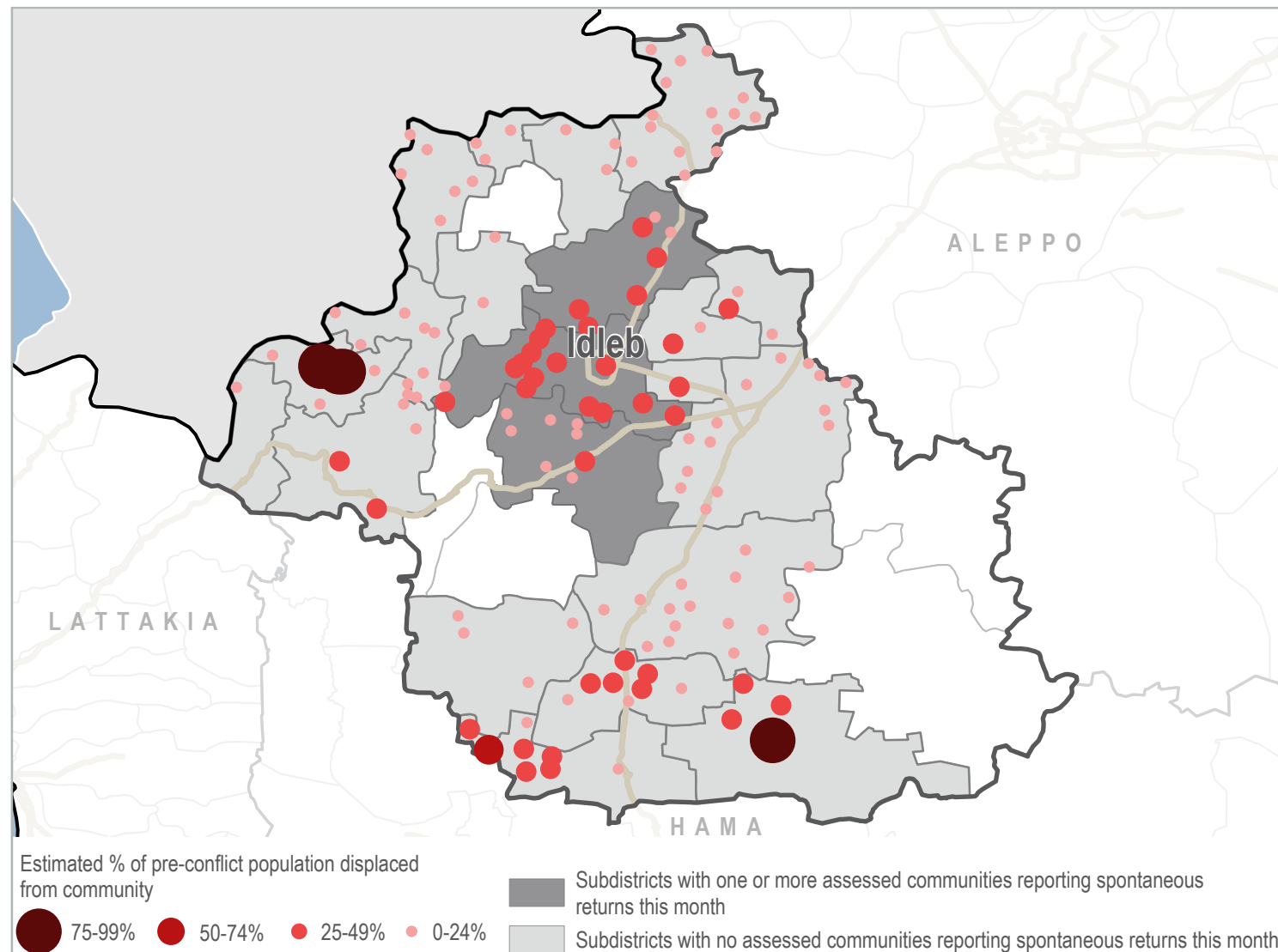
### Top 3 sub-districts of origin of most IDPs arrivals<sup>3,4</sup>:

Abu Kamal (Deir ez-Zor)	36%
Oqeirbat (Hama)	17%
As-Saan (Hama)	15%

### 138 communities reported no PCP departures. Top 3 reasons for PCP displacement in the remaining 5 assessed communities<sup>3,4</sup>:

Escalation of conflict	40%
Loss of income	20%
Protection concerns	20%

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

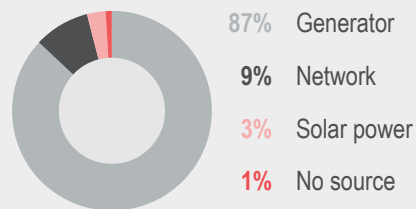


<sup>3</sup> Multiple choices allowed.

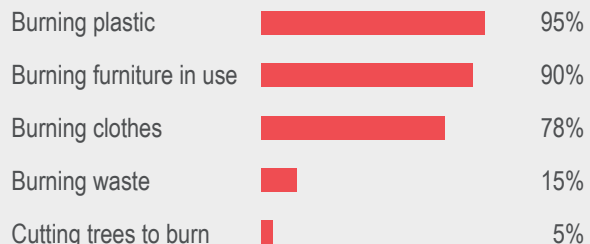
<sup>4</sup> By percent of communities reporting.

## SHELTER AND NFI

Primary source of electricity reported:<sup>4</sup>



**101** communities reported no lack of fuel. Most common strategies to cope with a lack of fuel in the remaining **41** assessed communities<sup>3,4</sup>:



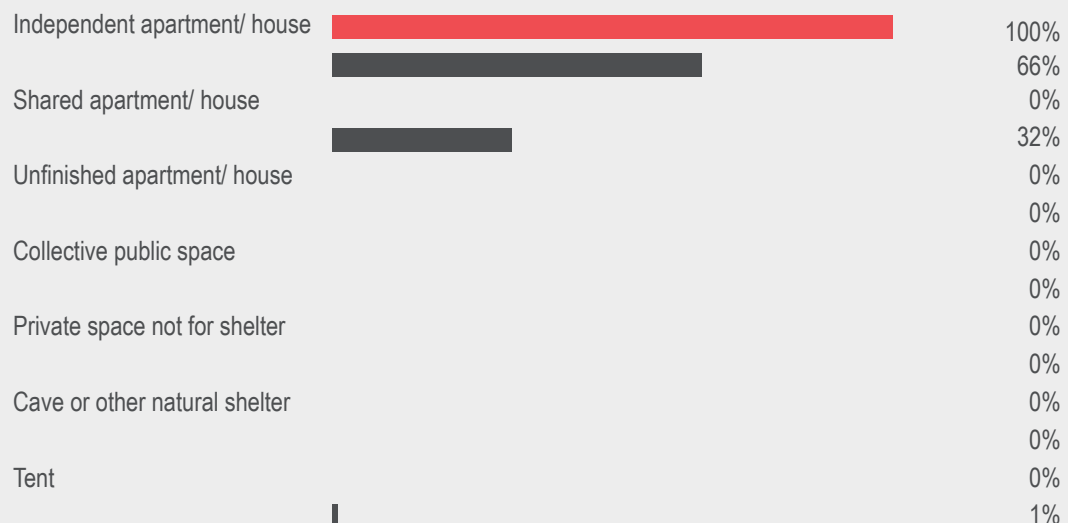
**5,001 SYP**

Governorate average reported rent price in Syrian Pounds (SYP) across assessed communities.<sup>5</sup>

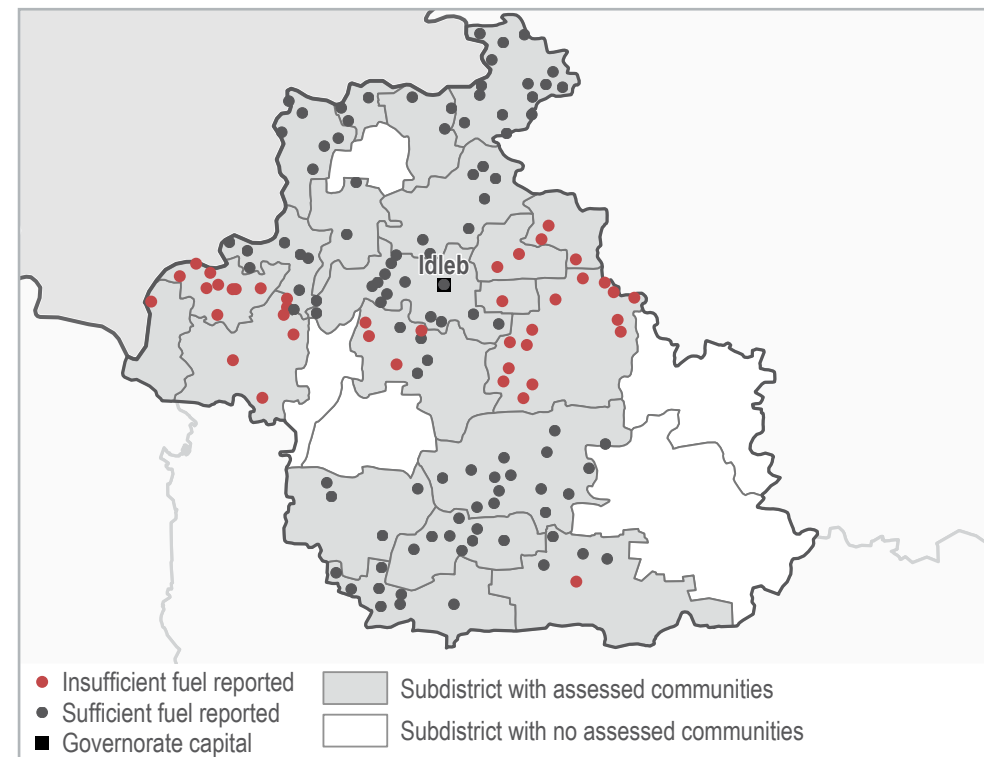
**6,815 SYP**

Syrian average reported rent price in SYP across assessed communities.<sup>5</sup>

Most commonly reported shelter type for PCP (in red) and IDP (in grey) households<sup>4</sup>:



Fuel sufficiency:



Reported fuel prices (in SYP)<sup>5</sup>:

Fuel type:	Governorate average price in November:	Governorate average price in October:	Syrian average price in November:
Coal (1 kilogram)	170	171	332
Diesel (1 litre)	242	264	496
Butane (1 canister)	6,998	7,036	6,275
Firewood (1 tonne)	66,492	67,668	85,004

<sup>3</sup> Multiple choices allowed.

<sup>4</sup> By percent of communities reporting.

<sup>5</sup> 1 USD = 508 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 November 2017)

## HEALTH

- 6** Communities reported that no medical items were available in their community.
- 4** Communities reported that the majority of women did not have access to formal health facilities to give birth.

**91 communities reported that residents experienced no barriers to accessing healthcare services. The barriers in the remaining 51 assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:**

No health facilities available in the area	84%
Lack of transportation to facilities	35%
High cost of transportation to facilities	31%
Disability/injuries/illness preventing travel	2%
Healthcare services too expensive	2%
Family not permitting travel to health facilities	2%

**Communities reporting that residents used one of the following medical coping strategies:**

**Using non-medical items for treatment:**

None

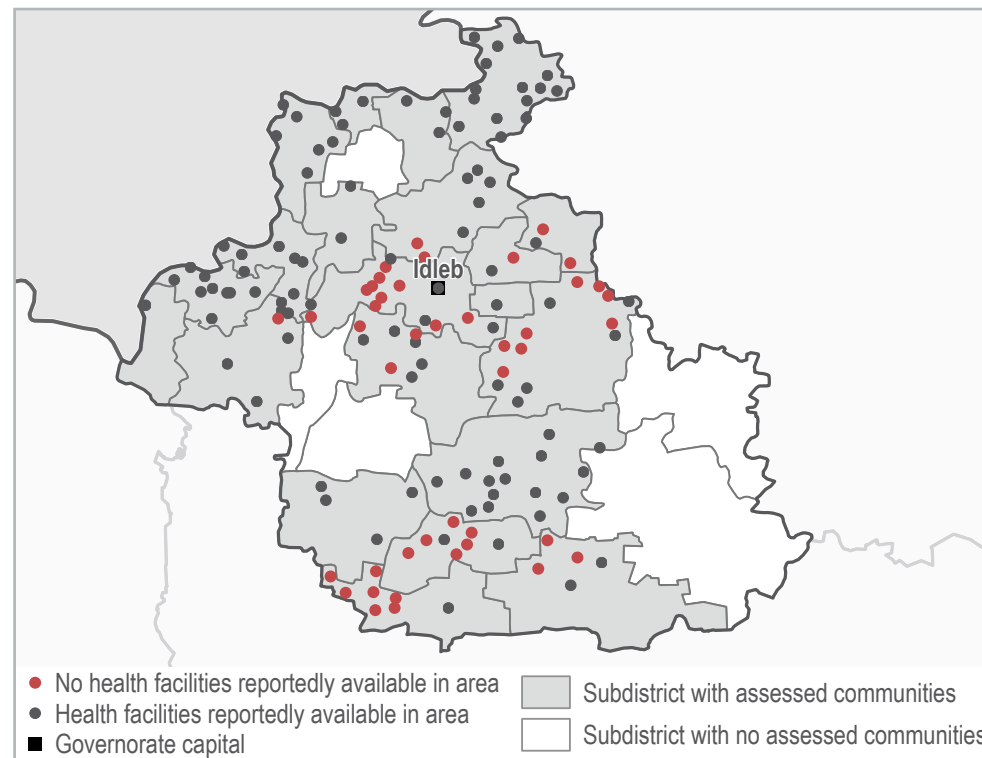
**Recycling medical items:**

Big Khwein

**Carrying out operations without anaesthesia:**

None

**Presence of health facilities in assessed communities:**



**Top 3 most needed healthcare services reported<sup>3,4</sup>:**

Medicine	42%
Antenatal care	42%
Assistive devices	36%

**Top 3 most common health problems reported<sup>3,4</sup>:**

Severe diseases affecting those younger than 5	65%
Acute respiratory infections	50%
Pregnancy related diseases	46%

<sup>3</sup> Multiple choices allowed.

<sup>4</sup> By percent of communities reporting.

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- 0 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.

**120 communities reported that they had no problems with latrines. The most prevalent problems with latrines in the remaining 22 assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:**

Inability to empty septic tanks  100%

**108 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 34 assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:**

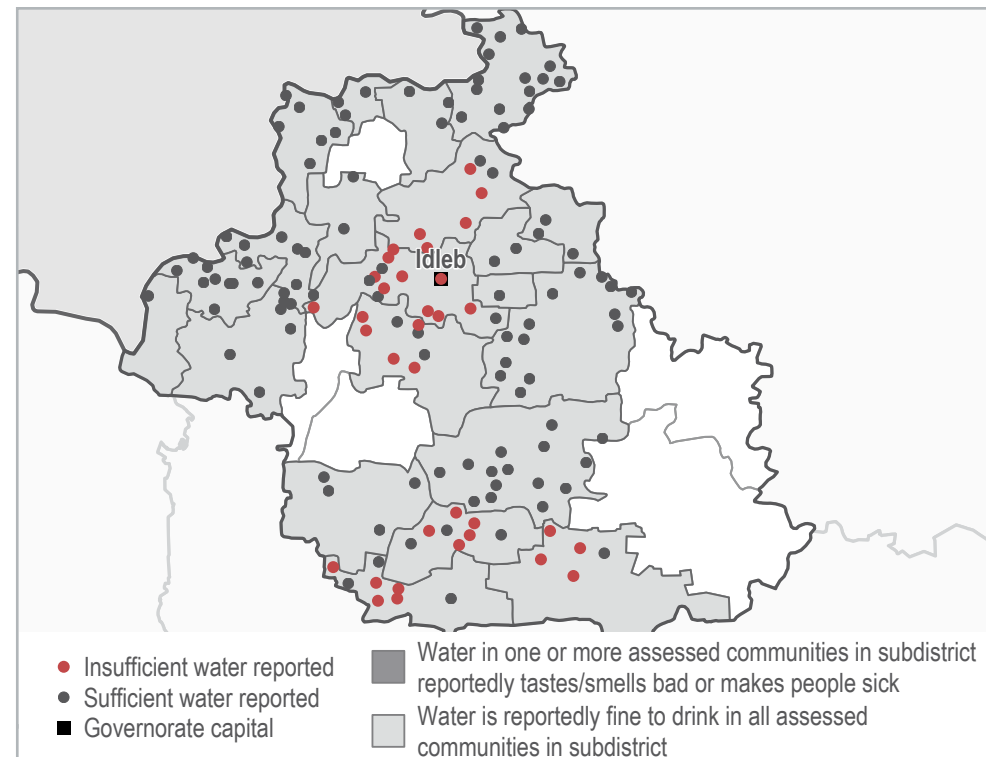
Modify hygiene practices  97%

Spend money usually spent on other things to buy water  47%

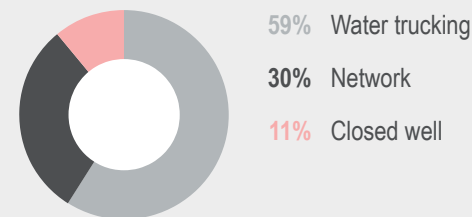
Receive water on credit/ borrow water or money for water  21%

Reduce drinking water consumption  3%

## Water sufficiency for household needs:



## Primary drinking water source reported<sup>4</sup>:



## Top 3 reported methods of garbage disposal<sup>3,4</sup>:

Public free collection 44%

Private paid collection 26%

Disposed at designated site 15%

<sup>3</sup> Multiple choices allowed.

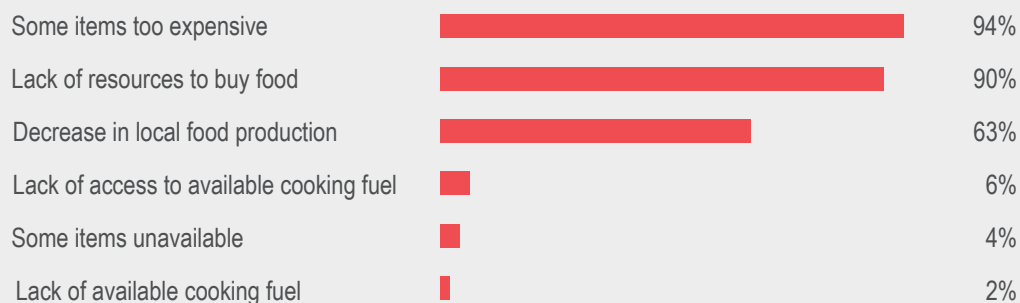
<sup>4</sup> By percent of communities reporting.

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## FOOD SECURITY

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

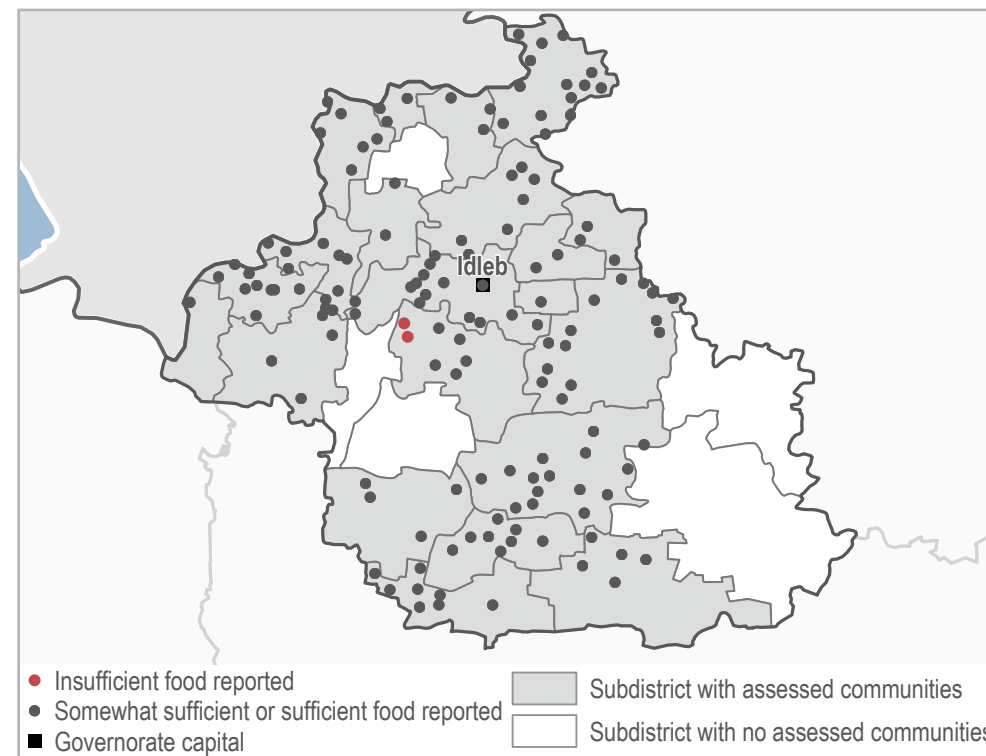
**93 communities** reported that they had enough food to meet household needs. The most common difficulties experienced in the remaining **49** assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:



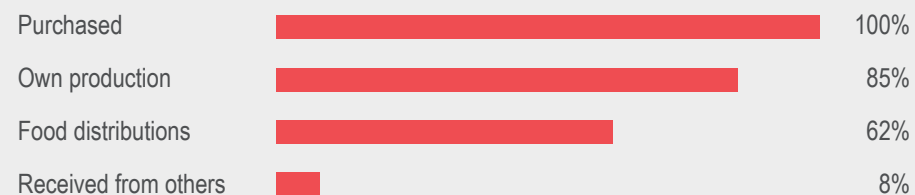
### Core food item prices reported (in SYP)<sup>5</sup>:

Food item:	Governorate average price in November:	Governorate average price in October:	Syrian average price in November:
Bread public bakery (1 loaf)	133	99	115
Rice (1 kilogram)	387	410	641
Lentils (1 kilogram)	395	407	445
Sugar (1 kilogram)	342	386	895
Cooking oil (1 litre)	568	601	964

### Food sufficiency:



### Most common ways of obtaining food reported<sup>3,4</sup>:



<sup>3</sup> Multiple choices allowed.

<sup>5</sup> 1 USD = 508 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 November 2017)

<sup>4</sup> By percent of communities reporting.

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## LIVELIHOODS

Less than 50,000 SYP

26,417 SYP

1

Most commonly reported household income range<sup>5</sup>.

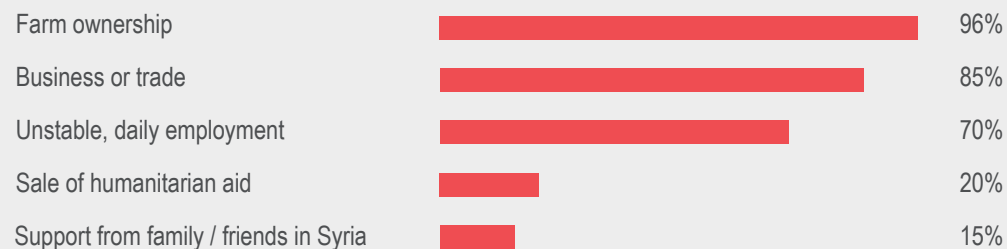
Governorate average food basket price<sup>5,6</sup>.

Community reporting that residents used extreme food-based coping strategies to deal with insufficient income<sup>7</sup>.

11 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 131 assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:

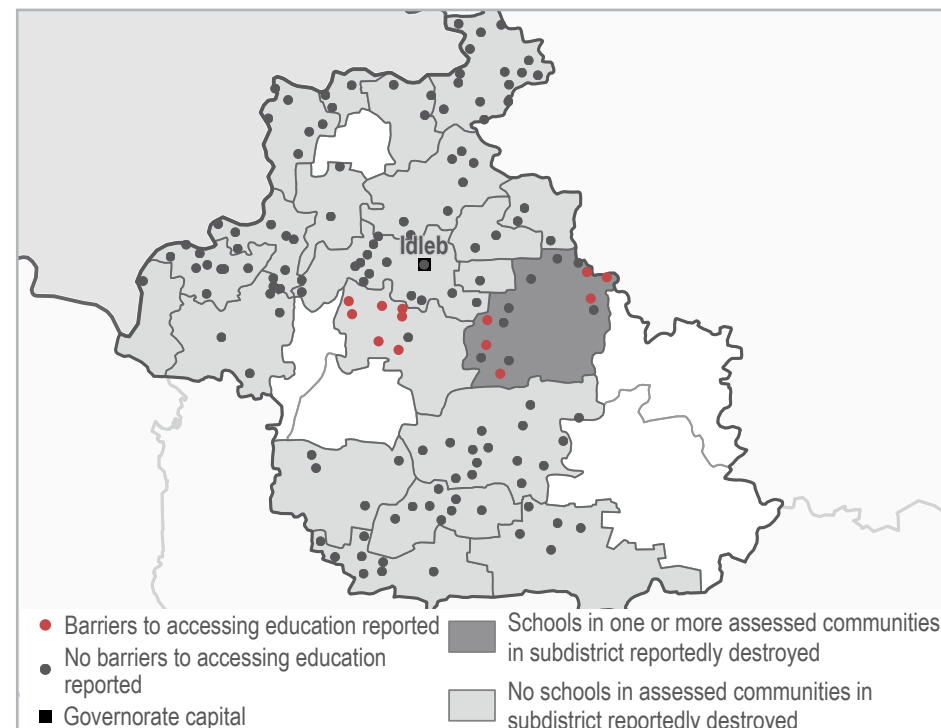


Most commonly reported main sources of income<sup>3,4</sup>:

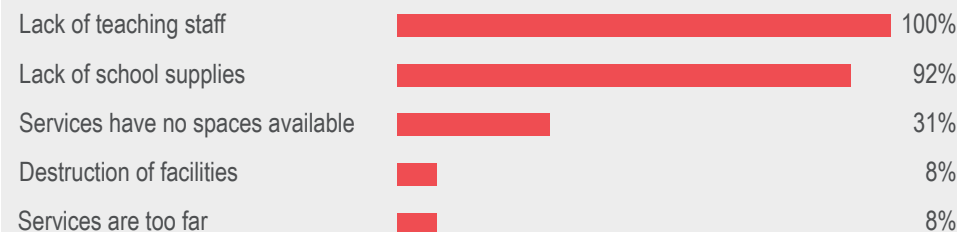


## EDUCATION

Barriers to accessing education services:



129 communities reported that most children were able to access education. The most commonly reported barriers to education in the remaining 13 assessed communities were<sup>3,4</sup>:



<sup>3</sup> Multiple choices allowed.

<sup>4</sup> By percent of communities reporting.

<sup>5</sup> 1 USD = 508 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 November 2017)

<sup>6</sup> 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.

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

## 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 143 communities in December 2017, referring to the situation in Idleb Governorate in November 2017. It presents key indicators, rather than the entire range of indicators gathered in the HSOS questionnaire. For community-level data on assessed sub-districts in Al Hasakeh, Dar'a, Idleb, Rural Damascus and Quneitra, please refer to the monthly sub-district 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

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Returns are not necessarily voluntary, safe, or sustainable.

<sup>3</sup> 'Children' includes all persons below the age of 18.

<sup>4</sup> Aljazeera (24 July 2017). Hay'et Tahrir al-Sham take control of Syria's Idlib. Retrieved from <http://www.aljazeera.com>.

<sup>5</sup> UNHCR (14 September 2017). Syria: Flash update on recent events - 14 September 2017. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

<sup>6</sup> UNHCR (28 September 2017). Syria: Flash update on recent events - 28 September 2017. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

<sup>7</sup> Aljazeera (20 September 2017). 'Deadly air strikes' target hospitals in Syria's Idlib. Retrieved from <http://www.aljazeera.com>.

<sup>8</sup> Reuters (12 October 2017). First Turkish military convoy enters Syria's Idlib. Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com>.

<sup>9</sup> Hamou, Ibrahim and Edwards (18 October 2017). Ankara reopens Idlib border crossing as Turkish soldiers build presence in northern Syria. Syria Direct. 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](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.