

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OVERVIEW OF SYRIA (HSOS)

June 2023 | Northeast Syria

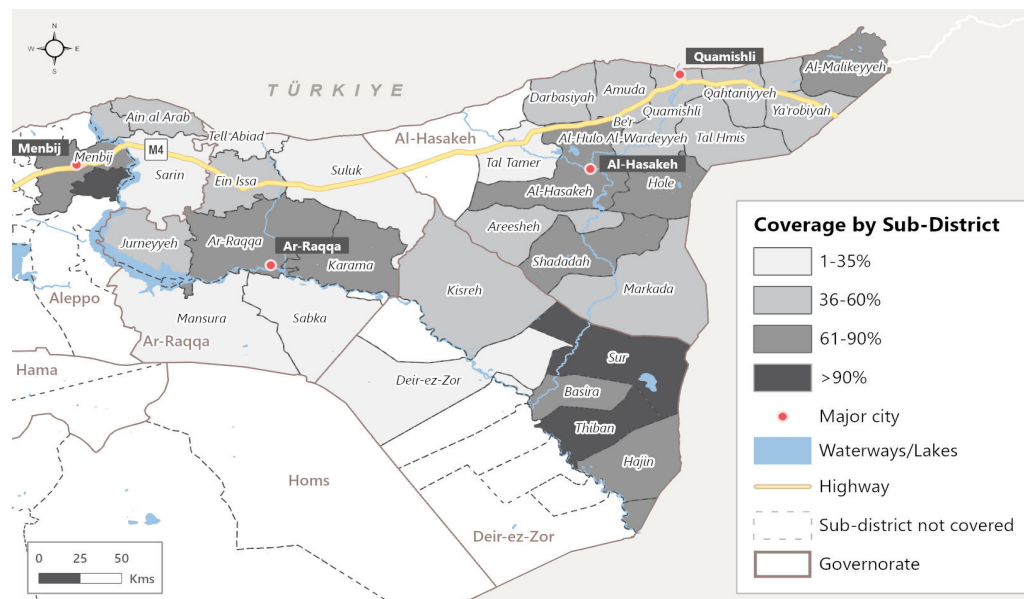
SITUATION OVERVIEW

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 Northeast Syria (NES). 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 are based inside Syria and interview three to five 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 **1,351 communities** across Aleppo¹, Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hasakeh, and Deir-ez-Zor. Data was collected **between 4-15 June 2023** from **5,056 KIs** (20% female).



KEY MESSAGES

Farmers continued to face high operational costs during this harvest season. Communities relying on private water trucking as a main source of drinking water reported further problems with water than communities using the water network. Although households widely depend on markets to access food, unaffordability, and unavailability of food items in markets persisted.

- **Despite expectations of an improved harvest compared to 2022,^a farmers continued to face challenges.** In nearly all assessed communities in NES (99,5%), KIs reported food crop or cash crop production as a source of livelihoods. However, farmers faced barriers related to agriculture in all assessed communities. Farmers mostly suffered from high operational costs, including high prices of inputs, shipment, fuel, irrigation, etc. (reported in 93% of assessed communities relying on agriculture). Additionally, water stress remained an issue for agriculture, particularly in Hasakeh governorate, where KIs reported that the lack of water was a challenge for the agricultural sector in 48% of the assessed communities relying on agriculture.
- **Communities heavily relying on private water trucking continued to record high reports of problems with water.** KIs reported private water trucking to be the main source of drinking water in 36% of assessed communities, and piped water network in 32% of assessed communities. It is worth noting that KIs reported problems with drinking water in 63% of communities relying on private trucking, compared to 22% of communities relying on the piped network. This difference may result from limited regulation of private trucking, leading to the distribution of potentially unsafe water.^b
- **Barriers to accessing food in markets persisted.** KIs in almost all communities in NES (99,7%) reported that stores and markets were a common source of food for households. However, KIs indicated that markets were not functioning in 21% of the assessed communities. The most commonly reported barrier to accessing sufficient food was the unaffordability of food items (reported in 83% of assessed communities). Additionally, the insufficient quantities of food in markets and the unavailability of essential food items were reported in 18% and 17% of assessed communities respectively. It is worth reminding that the closure of Semalka border^c from 12 May to 5 June may have impacted supply chains from the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) into NES.

HSOS Dashboards

The interactive [HSOS Dashboard](#) provides a monthly sectoral overview of key indicators disaggregated at the sub-district and community level. The [Humanitarian Trends Dashboard](#) uses HSOS data to visualise how the humanitarian situation in northern Syria has been changing over time.

Feedback on improvements to this product can be done anonymously using the following [link](#).

PRIORITY NEEDS AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



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

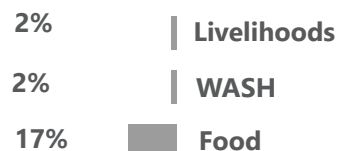
1	Livelihoods	74%
2	WASH ▲	59%
3	Food	57%

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



Yes: **29%**
No: **71%**

% 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

Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need	61%	1	95%
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	51%	2	3%
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	42%	3	2%

Communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

No humanitarian assistance was available	
Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance	
Not aware if assistance was available	



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

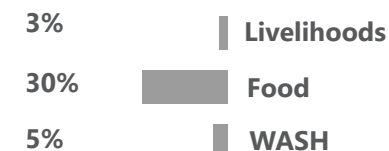
1	Livelihoods	71%
2	Food	68%
3	WASH	47%

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



Yes: **43%**
No: **57%**

% 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

Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	59%	1
Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need	57%	2
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	48%	3

Communities where no access to humanitarian assistance was reported

No humanitarian assistance was available	
Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance	
People did not comply with the eligibility criteria	

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Region	Median estimated monthly expense for water for a household of six ^{4, 5}	Median estimated monthly rent price for a two-bedroom apartment ^{4, 5}	Median estimated daily wage for unskilled labour ^{4, 6, 7}
Aleppo	20,000 SYP	50,000 SYP	15,000 SYP
Al-Hasakeh	40,000 SYP	125,000 SYP	10,000 SYP
Ar-Raqqa	3,000 SYP	75,000 SYP	15,000 SYP
Deir-ez-Zor	70,000 SYP	75,000 SYP	12,000 SYP
Northeast Syria	35,000 SYP	75,000 SYP	12,000 SYP

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

Cash crop production	80%
Waged labour (daily labour)	78%
Waged labour (regular work)	66%

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

Humanitarian assistance	2%
Loans and remittances	30%
	6%
	32%

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



KIs in **22%** of assessed communities cited **rent** was unaffordable for the majority of people



KIs in **72%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **solar panels** as a common challenge



KIs in **83%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **food** as a common challenge



KIs in **59%** of assessed communities cited high cost of **fuel for generators** as a common challenge



KIs in **46%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **water trucking** as a common challenge



KIs in **87%** 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}

Income does not cover cost of living	92%
Lack of employment opportunities that match people's skills	57%
No available ways to access financial resources (no grants, no loans)	55%

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

84%	High operational costs 34%
64%	Lack of resources for agriculture 29%
60%	Seasonality of production 31%

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

Livelihood source	Host community households	IDP households
Food crop production	36%	24%
Cash crop production	80%	20%
Livestock products	46%	19%
Sale of livestock	38%	18%



Host community households



IDP households

BASIC NEEDS OVERVIEW

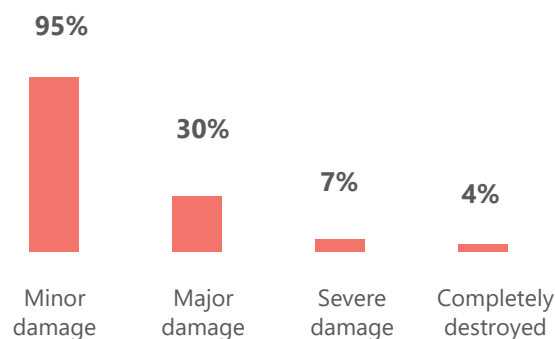
In **96%** of assessed communities, at least **80%** of the host community households reportedly **owned their shelter**

In **72%** of assessed communities, **none** of the IDP households reportedly **owned their shelter**

In **9%** of assessed communities, at least **one fifth** of the IDP population reportedly lived in **unfinished or abandoned residential buildings**

In **4%** 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 93% of assessed communities)

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



80%	Lack of lighting around shelter	82%
53%	Lack of privacy inside shelter	63%
53%	Shelter have minor damages ⁸	49%
51%	Lack of space/overcrowding	61%
32%	Unable to lock home securely	36%
30%	High temperatures inside shelters	31%



98%

% 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}

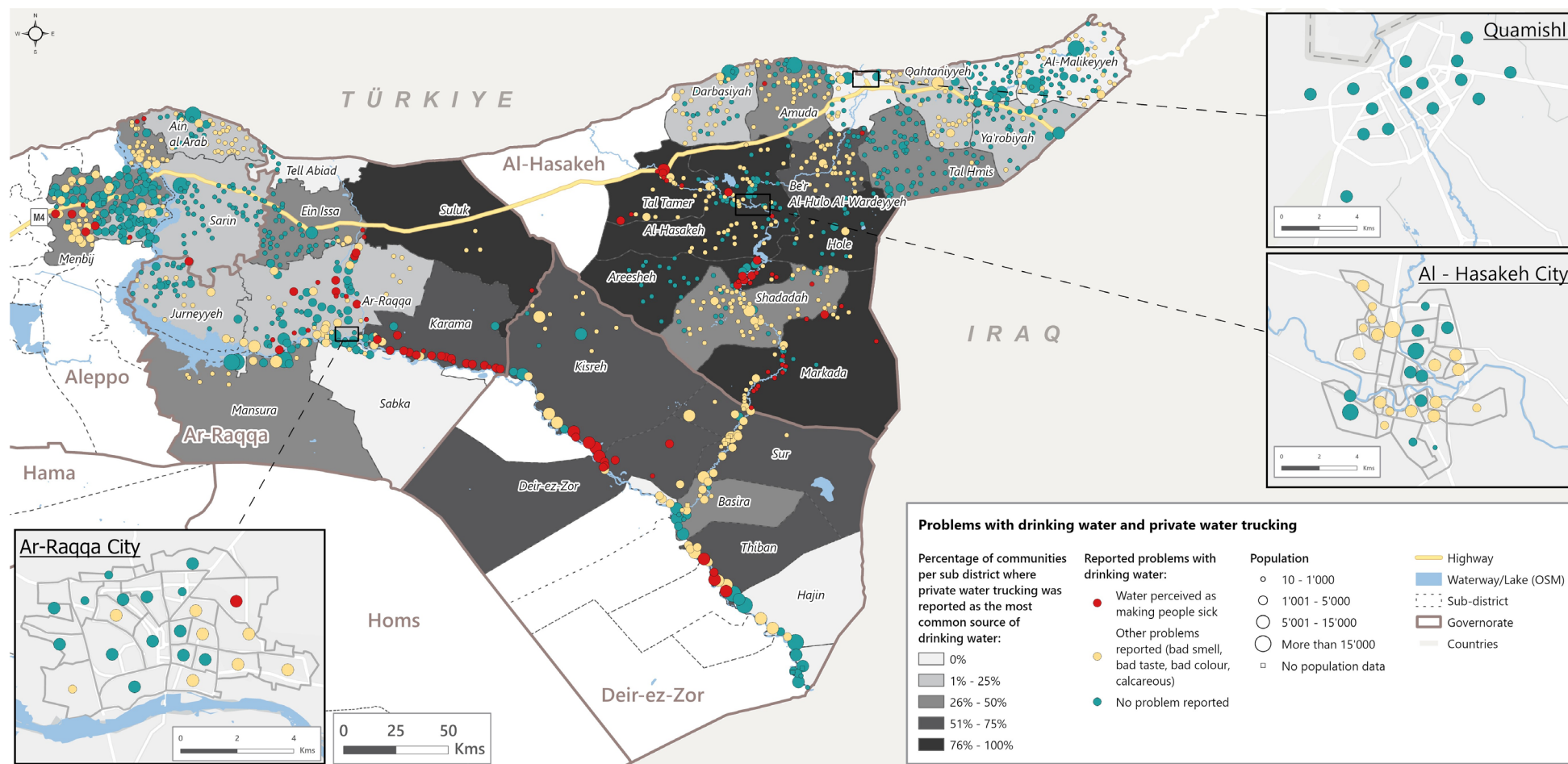
1	Markets exist and food is available but households cannot afford essential food items	83%
2	Markets are not functioning in the community	21%
3	Markets exist but have insufficient quantities of food	18%
4	Markets exist but not all essential food items are available	17%



High price of suitable foods formula was the most commonly reported challenge to feeding young children (reported by KIs in 94% 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	38%
2	Relying on food stored previously	33%
3	Food gifts from friends and family	4%

**Note on the map**

On this map, the color of each sub-district is linked to the percentage of communities per sub-district, in which KIs reported private water trucking as the main source of drinking water. Hence, darker sub-districts correspond to sub-districts where high percentages of communities rely on private water trucking. Green dots represent assessed communities in which no problems with drinking water were reported. Red dots correspond to communities in which water was reported to make people sick, while yellow dots represent communities in which other problems were reported (bad colour, bad taste, bad smell, calcareous water).

Problems with drinking water and private water trucking

ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES



Access to Electricity

2-4
hrs/day

was the most commonly reported range of hours of electricity accessible to households (reported by KIs in 33% of assessed communities)

Main network

was the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 69% of assessed communities)

82%

% of assessed communities where KIs reported **Rationing electricity by local authorities** as the most frequently reported barrier to electricity access



Access to Water

70%

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



Days per week where water from the network was available (by % of 852 communities connected to a water network)

Private borehole or well

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



Access to Sanitation

78%

% 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)

37%

Free public waste collection

31%

Waste burnt

23%

Waste disposed of by household to a dumping location

21%

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



Access to Markets

35%

% 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 82% of assessed communities where markets were not functioning)

75%

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



Access to Health Services

70%

% 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}

57%

Medicines and other commodities

55%

Treatment for chronic diseases

51%

Paediatric consultations

Cannot afford to pay for health services

was the most commonly reported **barrier to accessing healthcare** (reported by KIs in 87% of assessed communities)



Access to Education Services

29%

% 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

Functioning
Not functioning

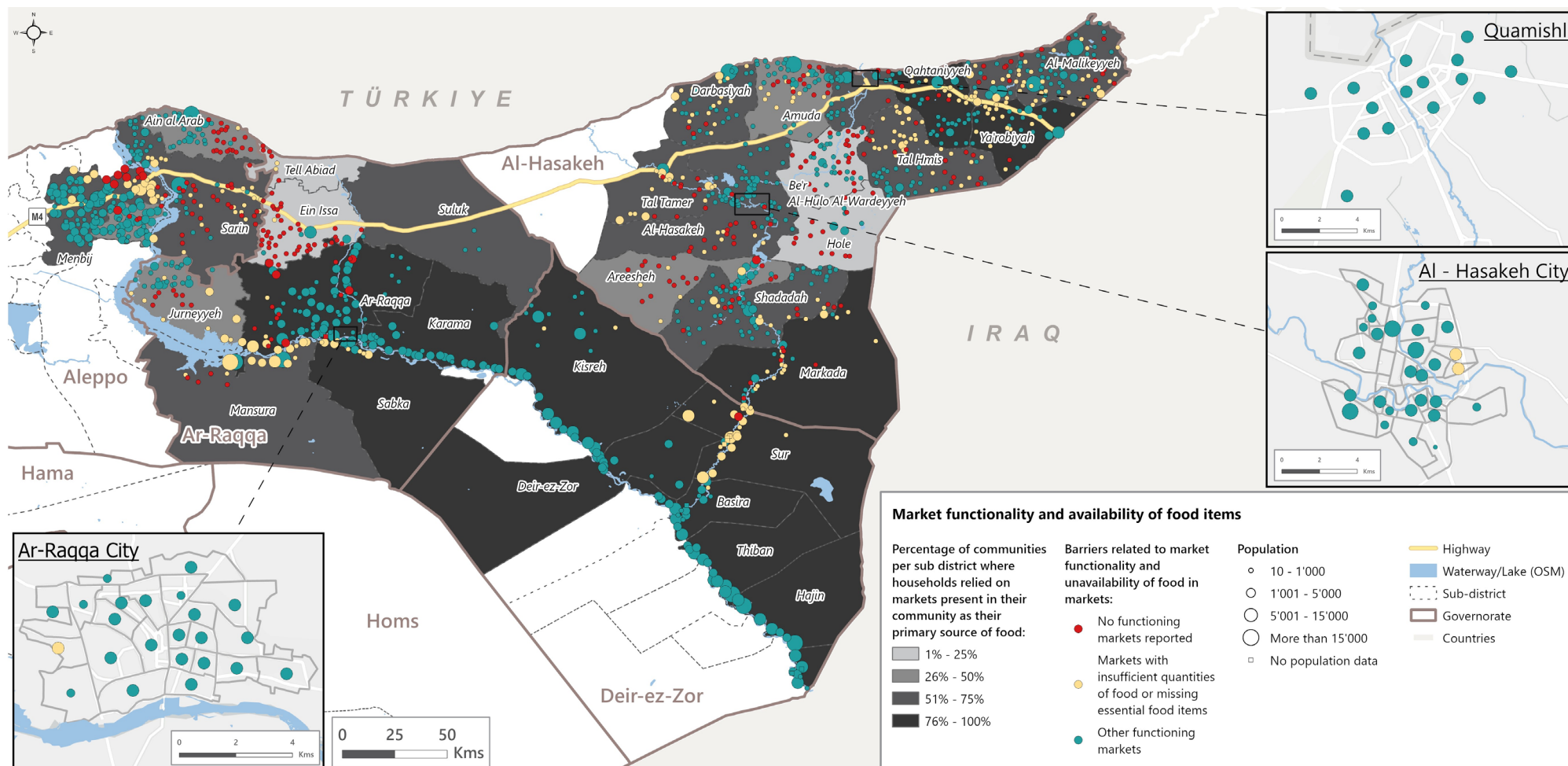
88%

Reported functionality of education services in the assessed location

12%

72%

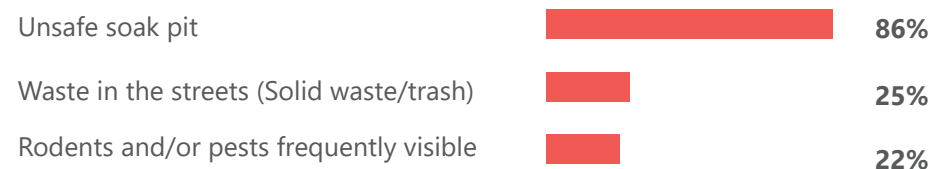
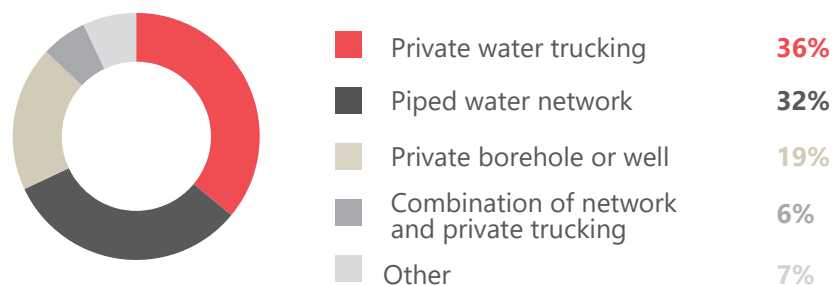
% of assessed communities where KIs reported that **Families cannot afford to prioritize school and children must work** ⁷



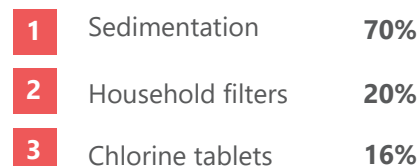
Market functionality and availability of food items

Note on the map

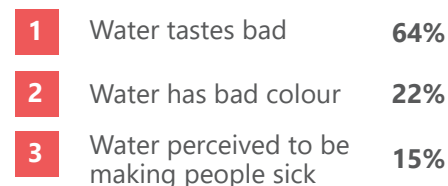
This map shows the percentage of communities per sub-district, in which KIs reported that households mainly relied on markets functioning in their community as their primary source of food. Hence, darker sub-districts count a higher percentage of communities in which residents relied on markets present within their community as a main source of food. Red dots represent communities where no functioning markets were reported. Yellow dots correspond to community in which KIs reported functioning markets, but with a lack of sufficient food items available.

PUBLIC HEALTH**Most commonly reported sanitation issues** (by % of assessed communities)³**Primary sources of drinking water** (by % of assessed communities)**79%**

% 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**46%**

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

Problems with drinking water (by % of assessed communities in which KIs reported problems)^{3,11}**Reported challenges related to quantity, quality and diversity of food for babies and young children (less than 2 years old)^{3,9}**

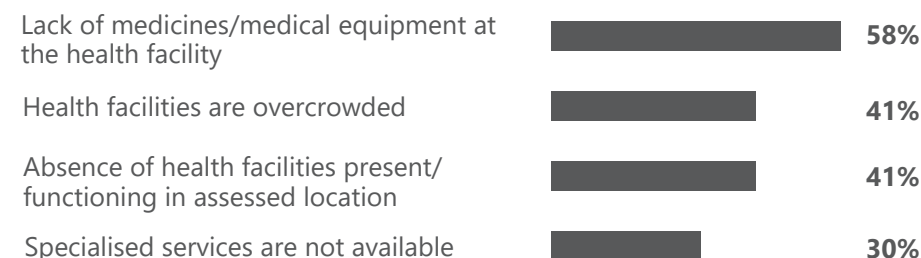
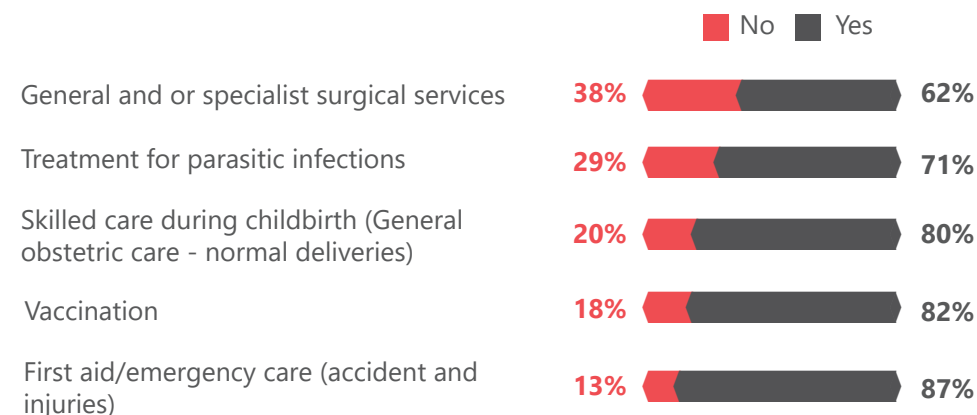
Limited variety of food reported in **57%** of assessed communities

Not enough food reported in **26%** of assessed communities

Poor quality of food reported in **10%** of assessed communities

16%

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

SECURITY AND PROTECTION

Intersectoral findings on security



General safety and security concerns restricting movement to markets was a reported barrier to market access in 12 assessed communities

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



Theft was reported as a protection risk in 32% of assessed communities ⁷

Tribal disputes were reported as a protection risk in 41 assessed communities ⁷

Fear from imminent conflict was reported as a protection risk in 10% of assessed communities ⁷

Threat from airstrikes was reported as a protection risk in 22 assessed communities ⁷

Threat from shelling was reported as a protection risk in 27 of assessed communities ⁷



The security situation was reported as a barrier to shelter repairs in 63 assessed communities ⁷



Safety and security concerns travelling to health facilities was reported as a barrier to healthcare in 9 assessed communities



Lack of safety while travelling to or from school was reported as a barrier preventing access to education in 175 assessed communities ⁷

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

- 1 Special assistance for vulnerable groups 75%
- 2 Specialised child protection services 55%
- 3 Psychosocial support 29%



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

- 22% Lack or loss of civil documentation as a protection risk
- 28%
- 4% Some people did not have the necessary personal document as a barrier to accessing humanitarian assistance
- 3%
- 3% Lack of personal documentation required to enrol in school as a barrier to education access
- 3%

88%
79%

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

Gender and diversity

KIs in **29%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for women** as a barrier to accessing livelihoods ⁷

KIs in **16%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for persons with a disability** as a barrier to accessing livelihoods ⁷

KIs in **10%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of privacy for women and girls at health facilities** as a barrier to healthcare access

KIs in **19%** 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 **15%** of assessed communities reported **challenges specific to girls** as a barrier preventing access to education ^{7, 14}

ENDNOTES

¹ Aleppo governorate includes Menbij and Ain Al Arab districts

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 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 NES **Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI)** exchange rate was used to calculate the amount in SYP. According to the REACH Market Monitoring June 2023, 1 USD = 8,888 SYP; 1TRY= 417 SYP.

⁶ According to the NES **JMMI** June 2023, 1 USD = 8,888 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.

REFERENCES

^a Reuters. (5 June 2023). Syria expects to halve wheat imports after 'very good' harvest, minister says. Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com>

^b REACH. (July 2023). Current Situation of the Water Crisis in Northeast Syria and its Humanitarian Impacts. Retrieved from <https://www.reachresourcecentre.info>

^c The Syrian Observer. (7 July 2023). Semalka border crossing resumes operation after weeks of closure. Retrieved from <https://syrianobserver.com>

N,o of communities reporting on:	Subset	N,o of communities reporting on:	Subset
Host community households	1,345	Barriers to assistance access (IDP)	357
IDP households	628	Days when water is available from network	852
Challenges to assistance access (host community)	358	Barriers to markets functioning	471
Barriers to assistance access (host community)	955	Methods to make water safer (merged)	283
Challenges to assistance access (IDP)	240	Problems with drinking water (merged)	627

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).