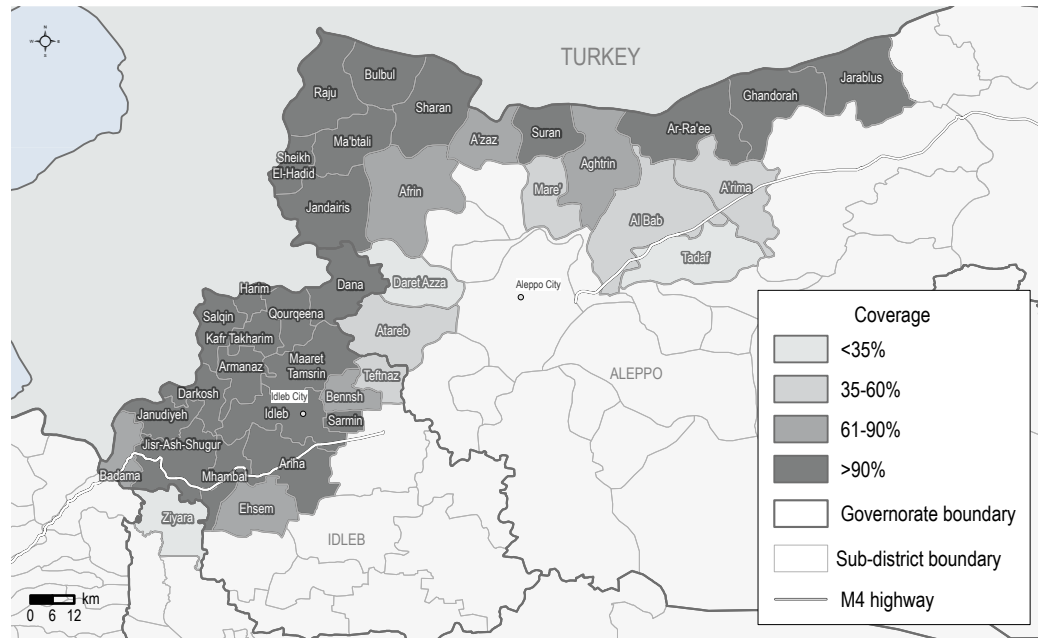


## Introduction and Methodology

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 security and protection situation 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 **891 communities** across the greater Idlib area<sup>1</sup> (375 communities) and northern Aleppo area (516 communities). **Data was collected between 11-21 of April 2021 from 3,296 KIs** (19% female). Unless specified by an endnote, all indicators refer to the situation in the 30 days prior to data collection (March/April 2021). 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

**In April, the dire economic situation continued to impact food and water security leading to negative coping strategies for households in NWS. Further, the first COVID-19 vaccines arrived on 21 April in NWS. However, a lack of preventative measures raised concerns over the capacity of health facilities to respond to a possible increase in the spread of COVID-19 following a surge in cases in neighboring Turkey.**

- ♦ **Food insecurity continued to be high in NWS.** Food was indicated as the first priority need in 29% and 25% of the assessed communities, for IDPs and for residents respectively. The inability to afford essential food items remained the primary barrier to accessing sufficient quantities of food (reported in 86% of assessed communities). To cope with high food prices, households relied on non-market food sources and decreased their food consumption. In more than half of the assessed communities, own production and farming was cited as a common source of food. Skipping meals remained a common coping strategy for a lack of food, especially in Northern Aleppo. KIs in more than 90% of the assessed communities in Suran, Jarablus and Al-Bab Sub-districts reported this coping strategy.

- ♦ **Households' access to water was limited by the lack of sustained sources of water and high prices of water trucking.** Rising temperatures increased households' need for water, but in 63% of the assessed communities, a proportion of households were reportedly unable to access sufficient quantities of water. The high price of water trucking was the most commonly reported barrier to accessing sufficient quantities of water, affecting more than half of the assessed communities. As a result, households resorted to spending money usually spent on other things or buying water on credit in 43% and 27% of the communities, respectively. Moreover, to cope with the lack of sufficient water, households in around 40% of the communities reportedly bathed less frequently and did laundry less frequently. Furthermore, reducing drinking water consumption was reported by KIs as a coping strategy in 7% of the assessed communities. In fact, drinking water was indicated as a water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) priority need in 40% of the assessed communities in Northern Aleppo and in 28% of communities in Greater Idlib.

- ♦ **A rise in COVID-19 cases in neighbouring Turkey, a lack of preventive measures and limited capacity of health facilities increased the risk of spread of COVID-19 in NWS.** On 21 April, the first batch of 53,800 COVID-19 vaccines arrived in Idlib, and on 1 May the vaccine distribution and administration started in NWS.<sup>a,b</sup> However, a sharp increase in COVID-19 cases in neighbouring Turkey in March<sup>c</sup>, as well as an overall lack of preventative measures in NWS raised the risk of increased spread of COVID-19 in the region. In April, reportedly none of the sub-districts in NWS implemented curfews or closures of public spaces.<sup>d</sup> In fact, according to KIs, markets and education services were not disrupted by COVID-19 preventive measures. Additionally, health facilities were reportedly in need of personnel, medicines and equipment. A lack of medicines and medical equipment at the health facility was reported in half of the assessed communities, and medicines and other commodities were reported as a priority health need in one third of the assessed communities.

## 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.



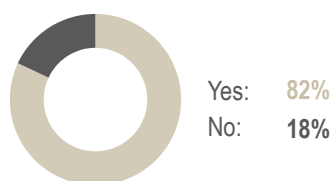
## Priority Needs and Humanitarian Assistance



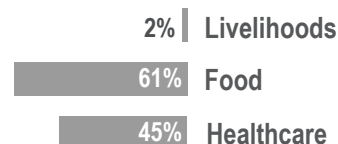
Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for residents (by % of communities) <sup>2,3</sup>

|   | FIRST       | SECOND            | THIRD       | OVERALL                                                                                       |     |
|---|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1 | Healthcare  | NFIs <sup>▲</sup> | Livelihoods |  Livelihoods | 73% |
| 2 | Food        | Livelihoods       | NFIs        |  Food        | 47% |
| 3 | Livelihoods | Food              | WASH        |  Healthcare  | 46% |

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



% of communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance** for residents <sup>4</sup>



Most commonly reported barriers that resident households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of communities) <sup>4,▲</sup>

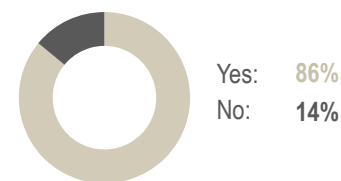
| Communities reporting access to humanitarian assistance          |     | Communities reporting no access to humanitarian assistance       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need | 65% | 1 89%                                                            |
| <b>Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs</b>         | 53% | 2 5%                                                             |
| Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient   | 37% | 3 4%                                                             |
|                                                                  |     | No humanitarian assistance was available                         |
|                                                                  |     | Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance |
|                                                                  |     | People did not comply with the eligibility criteria              |



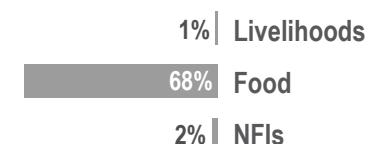
Most commonly reported **first, second, and third** and **overall** priority needs for IDPs (by % of communities) <sup>2,3</sup>

|   | FIRST      | SECOND      | THIRD       | OVERALL                                                                                         |     |
|---|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1 | Shelter    | NFIs        | Livelihoods |  Livelihoods | 66% |
| 2 | Food       | Food        | NFIs        |  Food        | 58% |
| 3 | Healthcare | Livelihoods | WASH        |  NFIs        | 48% |

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



% of communities where KIs reported the presence of the following **types of assistance** for IDPs <sup>4</sup>



Most commonly reported barriers that IDP households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of communities) <sup>4,▲</sup>

| Communities reporting access to humanitarian assistance          |     | Communities reporting no access to humanitarian assistance       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Assistance provided was insufficient to cover all people in need | 64% | 1 92%                                                            |
| <b>Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs</b>         | 55% | 2 5%                                                             |
| Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient   | 39% | 3 2%                                                             |
|                                                                  |     | No humanitarian assistance was available                         |
|                                                                  |     | Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance |
|                                                                  |     | Not aware if assistance was available                            |

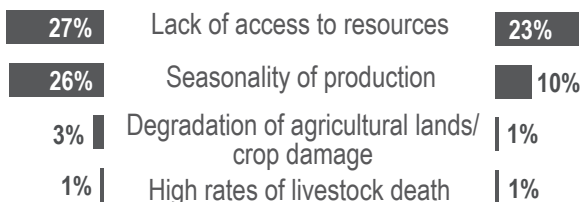


## Economic Conditions

| Region                                                                  | Estimated median monthly household expense for water for a household of six <sup>5,6</sup> |                  |     | Estimated median monthly rent price for a two bedroom apartment <sup>5,6</sup> |     |     | Estimated median daily wage for unskilled labour <sup>5,7,8</sup> |     |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Northwest Syria                                                         | 18,000 SYP                                                                                 |                  |     | 43,282 SYP                                                                     |     |     | 6,492 SYP                                                         |     |     |
| Greater Idlib area                                                      | 19,477 SYP                                                                                 |                  |     | 64,923 SYP                                                                     |     |     | 6,492 SYP                                                         |     |     |
| Northern Aleppo                                                         | 17,313 SYP                                                                                 |                  |     | 35,000 SYP                                                                     |     |     | 6,492 SYP                                                         |     |     |
| % of communities where indicator was reported in following currencies * | SYP                                                                                        | TRY <sup>▲</sup> | USD | SYP                                                                            | TRY | USD | SYP                                                               | TRY | USD |
|                                                                         | 36%                                                                                        | 64%              | 0%  | 33%                                                                            | 51% | 16% | 41%                                                               | 59% | 0%  |

% of communities where barriers to accessing income from agriculture to meet basic needs were reported <sup>4</sup>

### Residents



% of communities where common livelihood sources from agriculture were reported <sup>4</sup>

| Livelihood source         | Residents | IDPs |
|---------------------------|-----------|------|
| Food from crop production | 69%       | 16%  |
| Cash from crop production | 57%       | 6%   |
| Livestock products        | 63%       | 56%  |
| Sale of livestock         | 18%       | 28%  |

**89% and 94%**

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

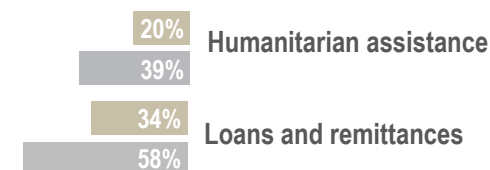
**63 days**

Number of days the average day labourer would need to work to earn the monthly cost of basic SMEB<sup>▲</sup> items <sup>5,9</sup>

**95% and 52%**

% of communities where KIs reported the **insufficient income of households** and general lack of employment opportunities as barriers to meeting basic needs <sup>8</sup>

% of communities where KIs reported the presence of **residents** and IDP households relying on non-productive sources of livelihoods to meet their basic needs <sup>4</sup>



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



KIs in **65%** of communities cited that **rent prices** were unaffordable for the majority of people



KIs in **57%** of communities cited the high cost of **fuel for generators** as a common challenge



KIs in **53%** of communities cited the high cost of **water trucking** as a common challenge



KIs in **86%** of communities cited the high cost of **food** as a common challenge <sup>8</sup>



KIs in **44%** of communities cited the high cost of **health services** as a common challenge



KIs in **30%** of communities cited the high cost of **a private tutor** as a common challenge <sup>8</sup>



## Living Conditions

In **94%** of communities reportedly at least **80%** of the resident population owned their shelter

In **65%** of communities reportedly none of the IDP households owned their shelter

In **15%** of communities at least one fifth of the IDP population reportedly lived in unfinished or abandoned residential buildings

In **26%** of 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 **15%** of communities



A lack of bathing facilities was reported as a shelter issue for IDPs in **10%** of communities

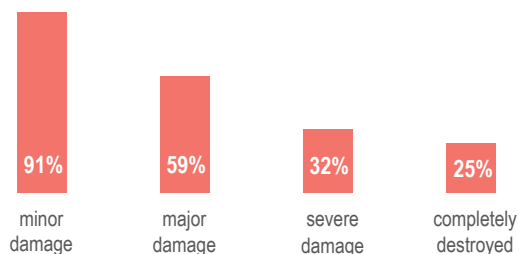


Problems with the drinking water were reported in **26%** of communities



**Water being calcareous** was the most commonly reported problem with drinking water (reported by KIs in 26% of communities)

Reported presence of occupied shelters with damage across communities where damages were reported (by % of communities) <sup>5,10</sup>



Reported sanitation issues affecting public space in the community (by % of communities) <sup>4</sup>

Solid waste in the streets

13%

Rodents and/or pests are frequently visible

8%

Stagnant water

7%

Flooding in the streets

6%

Sewage system pollutes public areas

5%



**Shelter and repair materials being too expensive** was the most commonly reported challenge for households to repair their shelter (reported by KIs in 84% of communities) <sup>4</sup>



**97%** % of communities where KIs reported that **households experienced barriers to accessing sufficient food** <sup>8</sup>



In 19% of these communities, KIs reported that the unavailability of certain food items was a challenge to accessing sufficient food <sup>8</sup>

Most commonly reported coping strategies for a lack of food (by % of communities) <sup>4</sup>

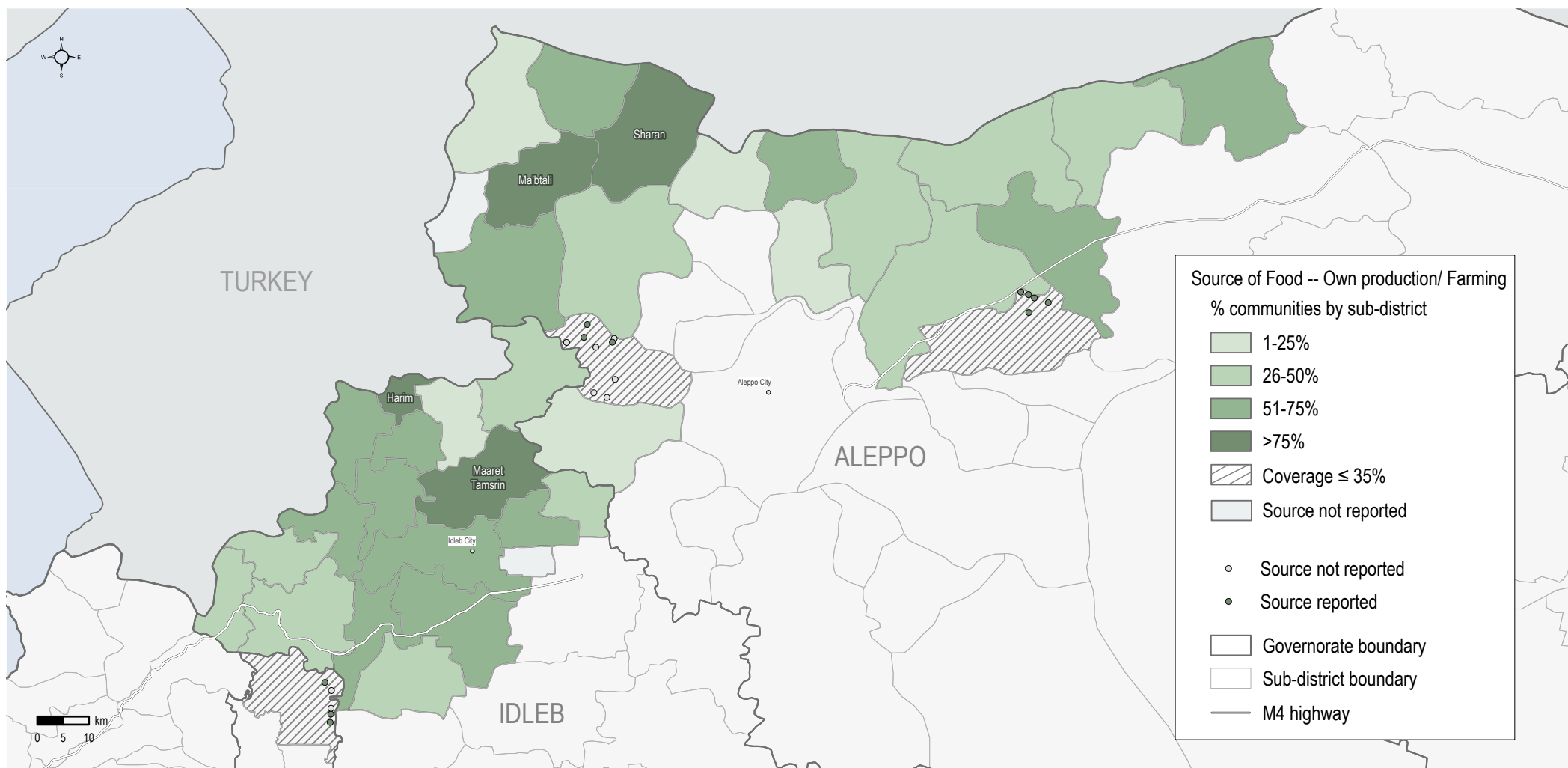
- 1 Relying on less preferred food or lower food qualities **69%**
- 2 Borrowing money to buy food **61%**
- 3 Buying food with money usually used for other things **60%**



**High price of suitable foods formula** was the most commonly reported challenge to feeding young children (reported by KIs in 90% of communities) <sup>4,11</sup>

Commonly reported **sources of food** for households other than markets (by % of communities) <sup>4</sup>

- 1 Own production or farming **52%**
- 2 Assistance from local council or NGOs **31%**
- 3 Borrowing money for food **31%**



## Own Production or Farming as Source of Food

### Note on the map

This map shows the percentage of communities reporting own production or farming as one of the three most common sources of food for households in the last 30 days. KIs in all assessed communities in Tadaf Sub-district reported this source of food for households.



## Access to Basic Services



## Access to Electricity

5-6 hrs per day

was the most commonly reported range for hours of electricity accessible to households (reported by KIs in 31% of communities)

## Solar panels

was the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 50% of communities)

49%

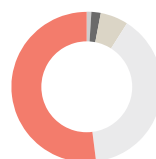
% of communities where KIs reported the main network is partially or completely not functioning as a barrier for electricity access \*



## Access to Water

63%

% of 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 652 communities connected to a water network) \*

## Private water trucking

was the most commonly reported source of drinking water (reported by KIs in 42% of communities)

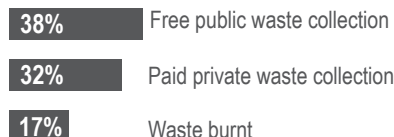


## Access to Sanitation

44%

% of communities where KIs reported that no sewage system was present

Most commonly reported ways people disposed of solid waste (by % of communities)



35%

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



## Access to Markets

24%

% of 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 80% of communities where households were unable to access markets in their own location)

68%

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

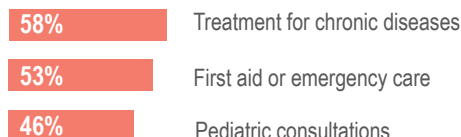


## Access to Health Services

55%

% of 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 communities) \*



## Going to the pharmacy instead of a clinic

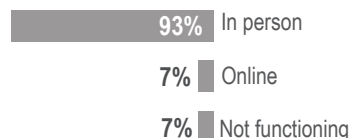
was the most commonly reported coping strategy for a lack of healthcare (reported by KIs in 87% of communities)



## Access to Education Services

33%  
56%

% of communities in which half or less of the school aged-children accessed school in the last 30 days for residents and IDPs

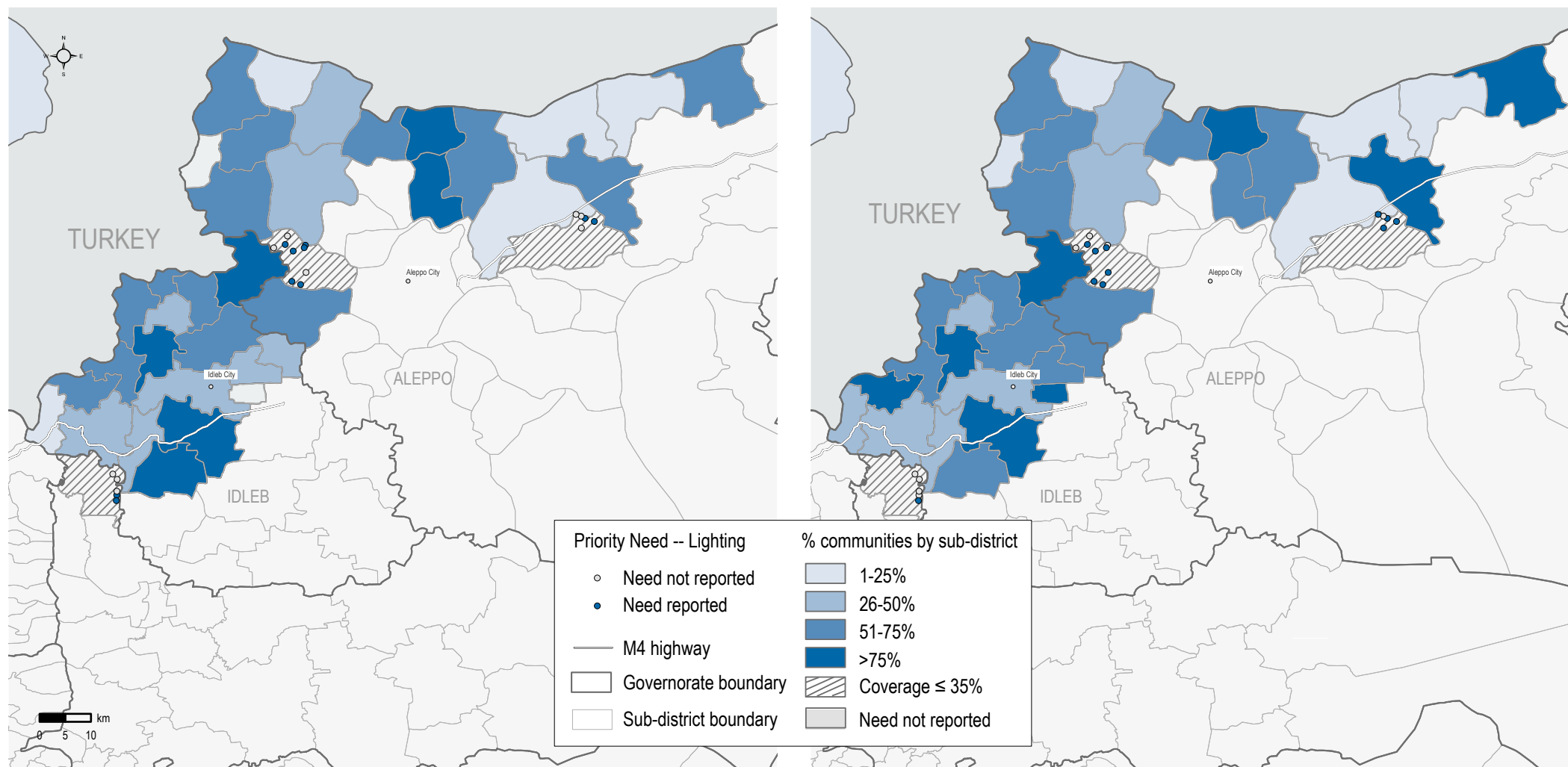


% of communities where KIs reported on the functioning of education services in the assessed location \*

9%

% of communities where KIs reported that the lack of access to internet, electricity and/or equipment was a barrier to accessing (online) education services \*





## Additional Lighting in the Community as Infrastructure Priority Need

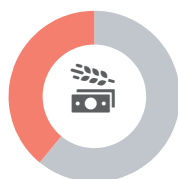
### Note on the map

These maps show the percentage of communities reporting additional lighting in the community as an infrastructure priority need. The highest percentage for the resident population was found in Dana Sub-district. The highest percentage for the IDP population was found in Sarmin Sub-district.



## COVID-19

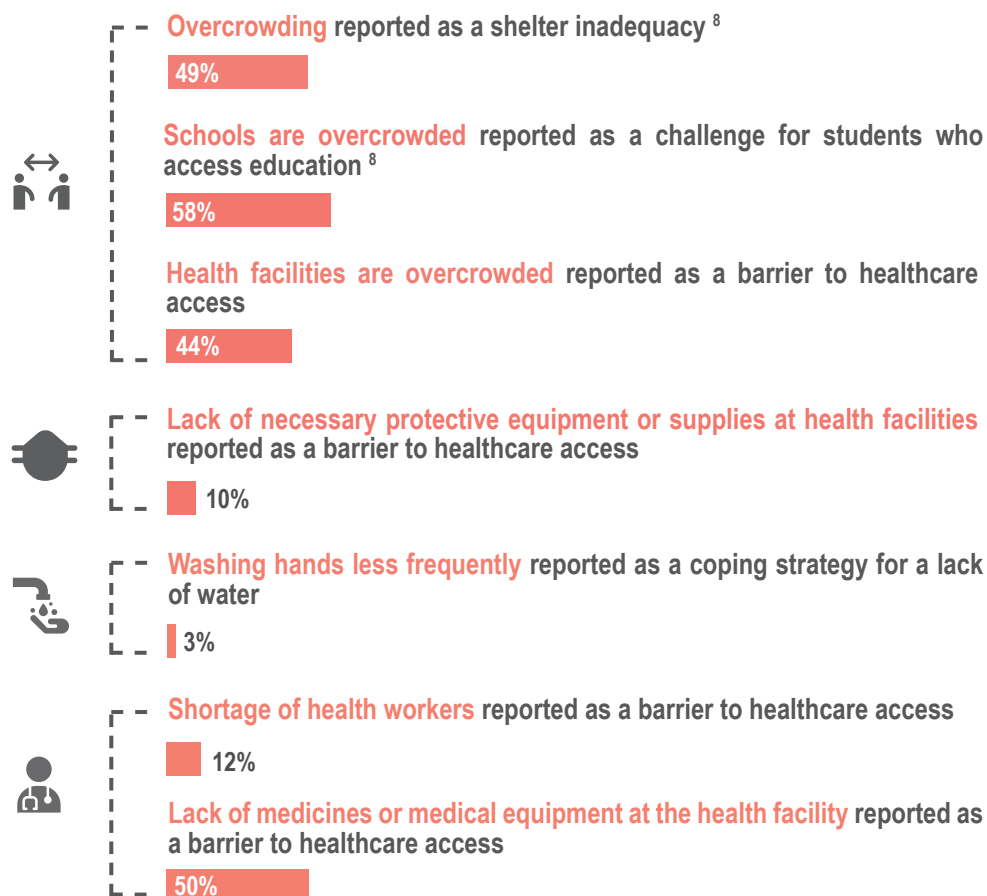
Effects of COVID-19 on livelihoods sectors in the community (by % of communities)



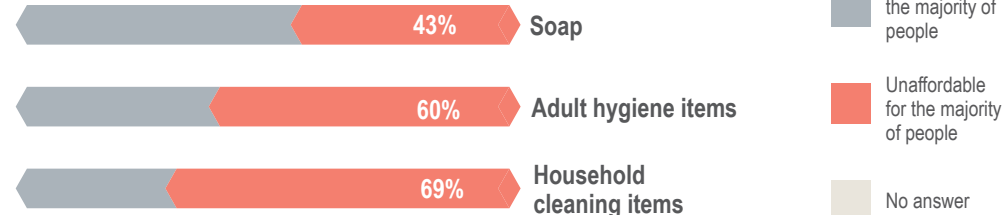
None of the available livelihood sectors were affected 61%

At least one of the available livelihood sectors was partially or totally affected 39%

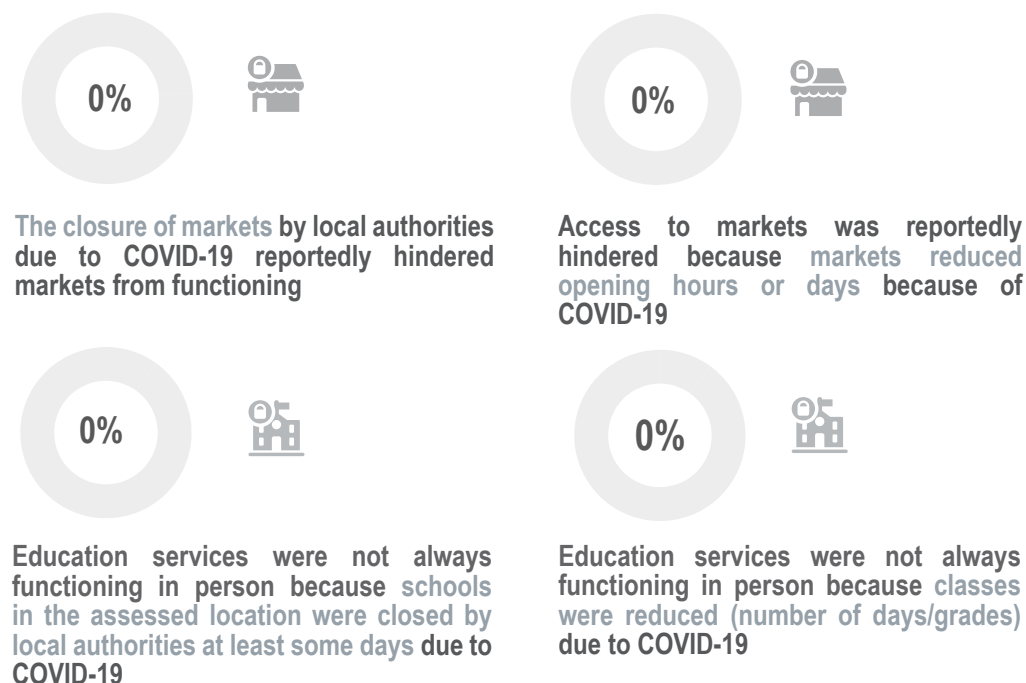
% of communities where COVID-19 risk indicators were reported



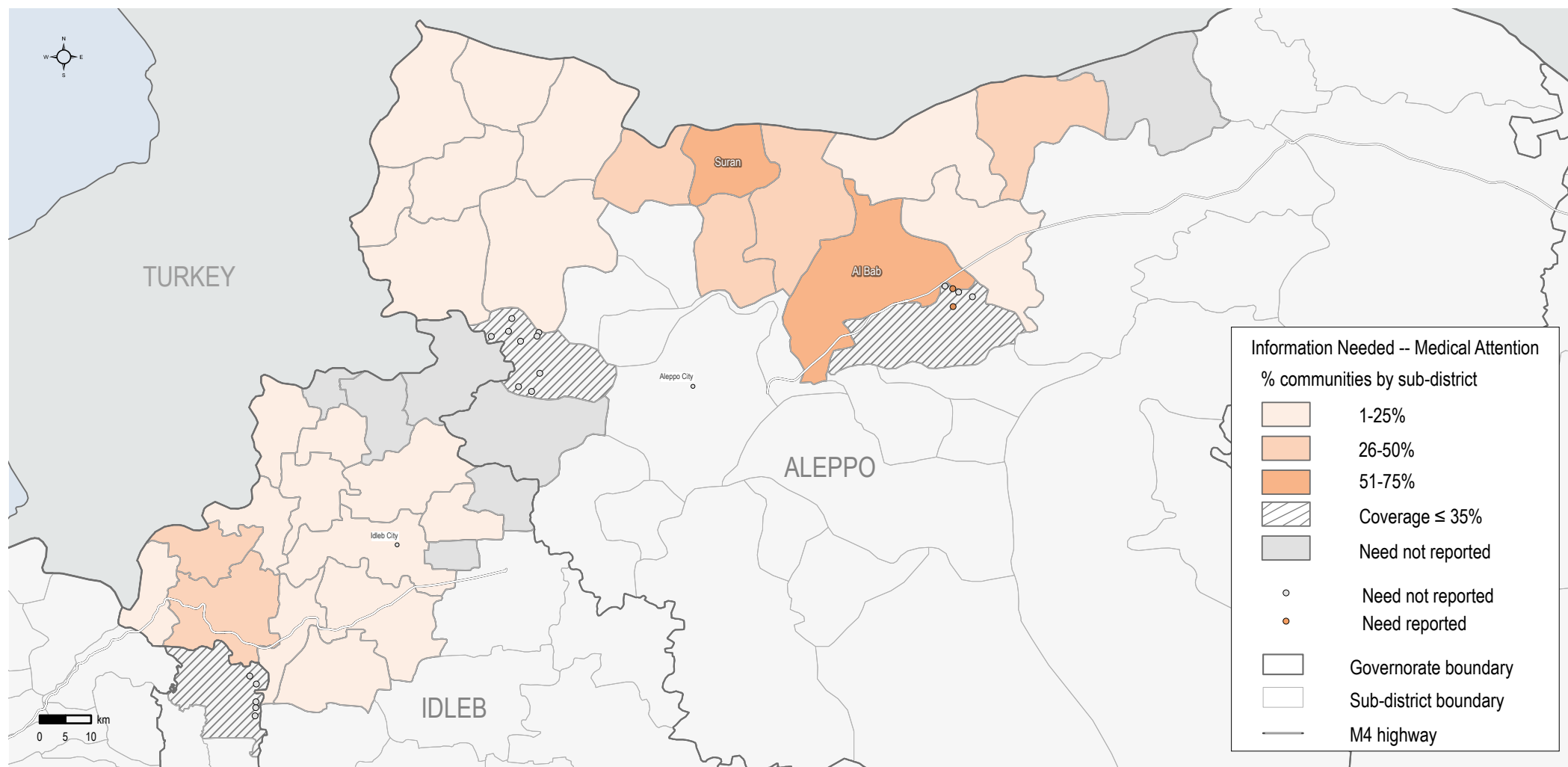
Reported hygiene item availability and affordability (by % of communities)<sup>12</sup>



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







## Missing Information: Where to Get Medical Attention

### Note on the map

This map shows the percentage of communities reporting information on where to get medical attention as one of the five most important missing information to provide to households in the location. In Al Bab and Suran Sub-districts, more than 50% of the assessed communities reported this information need.



## Security and Protection

### Intersectoral findings on security



General safety and security concerns restricting movement to markets was a reported barrier to market access in **8%** of communities

General safety and security concerns at markets was a reported barrier to market access in **21%** of communities

Markets not opening because of security issues was a reported barrier to markets not functioning in **2%** of communities



Threat from airstrikes was reported as a protection risk in **122 communities**<sup>8</sup>

Threat from shelling, sniper or gunfire was reported as a protection risk in **111 communities**<sup>8</sup>

Threat from improvised explosive devices (IEDs), mines or unexploded ordnances was reported as a protection risk in **189 communities**<sup>8</sup>

Fear from imminent conflict was reported as a protection risk in **72 communities**<sup>8</sup>



The inability to lock homes securely was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **36%** of communities<sup>8</sup>

Lack of lighting around the shelter was reported as a shelter inadequacy in **88%** of communities<sup>8</sup>

The security situation was reported as a barrier to shelter repairs in **9%** of communities



General safety and security concerns at the health facility was reported as a barrier to healthcare in **5%** of communities

### Most commonly reported protection priority needs

(by % of communities)<sup>3,8</sup>

- 80%** Special assistance for vulnerable groups
- 50%** Specialised child protection services
- 45%** Psychosocial support



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

- 31%** Lack or loss of civil documentation as a protection risk
- 38%**
- 8%** Lack of personal documentation required to enrol in school as a barrier to education access
- 15%**

% of communities where extreme coping strategies used by residents and IDPs to meet basic needs were reported<sup>4</sup>

#### Residents

- 32%** Early marriage
- 1%** Forced marriage
- 8%** High risk work
- 1%** Sending family members to beg
- 69%** Sending children (15 or below) to work

#### IDPs

- 39%**
- 2%**
- 15%**
- 1%**
- 78%**

### Age, Gender, and Diversity

KIs in **54%** of communities reported a lack of employment opportunities for women as a barrier to meeting basic needs<sup>8</sup>

KIs in **43%** of communities reported a lack of employment opportunities for persons with a disability as a barrier to meeting basic needs<sup>8</sup>

KIs in **16%** of communities reported a lack of privacy for women and girls at health facilities as a barrier to healthcare access

KIs in **41%** of communities reported a lack of market access for people with restricted mobility

Child labour and early marriage were reported to prevent children from going to school in **81%** and **36%** of communities<sup>8</sup>

Children below the age of 12 were reported as a group affected by child labour in **17%** of communities<sup>8</sup>

Hazardous child labour was reported as a protection risk in **9%** of communities<sup>8</sup>

## Endnotes

1. The greater Idlib 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 currently, 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 NWS **REACH Market Monitoring** exchange rate was used to calculate the amount in SYP. According to the NWS REACH Market Monitoring April 2021, 1 USD = 3,528 SYP; 1TRY= 440 SYP.
7. According to the NWS **REACH Market Monitoring** April 2021, 1 USD = 3,528 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 NWS **REACH Market Monitoring** April 2021, the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) = 411,125 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                                  | 884           | Currency used for paying water                | 841           |
| IDPs                                       | 857           | Currency used for paying rent                 | 617           |
| Challenges to assistance access (resident) | 695           | Currency in which wages are paid (merge)      | 783           |
| Barriers to assistance access (resident)   | 160           | Barriers to accessing sufficient food (merge) | 863           |
| Challenges to assistance access (IDPs)     | 708           | Days when water is available from network     | 652           |
| Barriers to assistance access (IDPs)       | 123           | Barriers to markets functioning               | 217           |

- a. Reuters. (21 April 2021). First batch of COVID-19 vaccines arrives in northwest Syria. Retrieved from <https://reuters.com>
- b. Asharq Al-Awsat. (1 May 2021). Vaccine Campaign Begins Amid Virus Surge in Syria's Idlib. Retrieved from <https://english.aawsat.com>
- c. iMMAP. (31 March 2021). COVID-19 SITUATION ANALYSIS - MARCH 2021. Retrieved from <https://www.reliefweb.com>
- d. HNAF. (27 April 2021). COVID-19 Rapid Assessment - ROUND 35.

### 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](http://www.reach-initiative.org). You can contact us directly at: [geneva@reach-initiative.org](mailto:geneva@reach-initiative.org).