

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OVERVIEW OF SYRIA (HSOS)

January 2024 | Northwest Syria

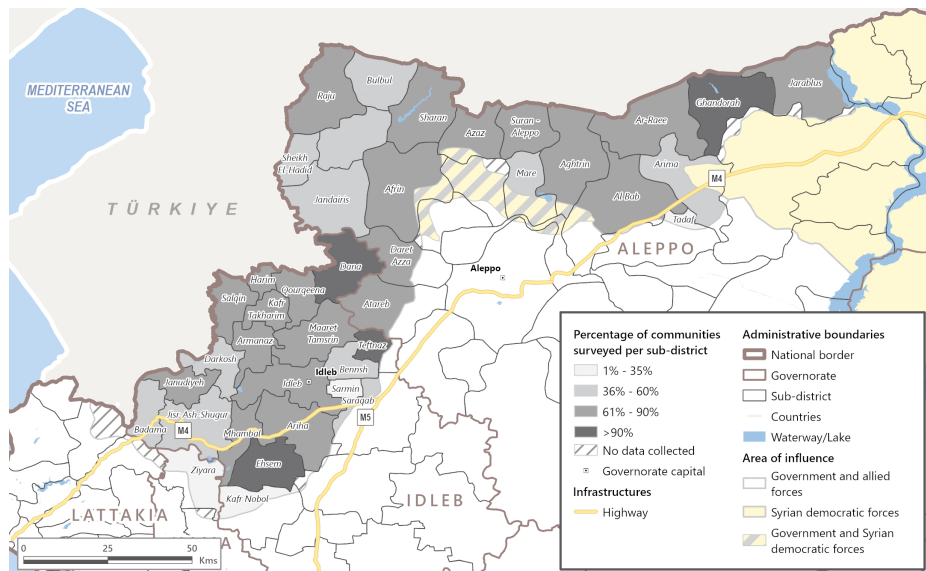
SITUATION OVERVIEW

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 Idlib, 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 **678 communities** across Greater Idlib¹ and Northern Aleppo areas. Data was collected **between 8-14 January 2024** from **2,618 KIs** (6% female).



KEY MESSAGES

- The food situation remained difficult in NWS with KIs reporting challenges to access sufficient food in most assessed communities. In January, **KIs increasingly reported that households relied on food stored previously**, compared to November (reported in 34% of communities in November compared to 40% in January). A heightened reliance on food stocks could be a first effect of the recent [fund cuts from the World Food Programme](#) as basic food items remain unaffordable for many.
- In addition, **KIs in 91% of assessed communities reported that households experienced barriers to access sufficient food**. In this context, deteriorated access to food may further increase the [risk of acute food insecurity](#) in the region. It is worth adding that the [Nutrition Cluster](#) indicated that the nutrition situation in NWS has been worsening in the past year.
- Conflict-related violence continued to impact the region in January**, with KIs reporting the threat from shelling in 22% of assessed communities in Idlib governorate, and the threat of imminent conflict in 20% of assessed communities in Aleppo governorate. Sustained security volatility may further affect the already limited access to basic services such as markets, schools, or health facilities.
- As winter hit NWS, winterisation assistance was among the most frequently reported needs, especially for IDP households. However, **among the assessed communities in which KIs indicated that winterisation was a top priority need for IDP households, 58% reportedly did not receive such type of assistance.**

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	 Winterisation	67%
2	 Livelihoods	53%
3	 Food	52%

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



Yes: **56%**
No: **44%**

% 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	75%	1	95%	No humanitarian assistance was available
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	42%	2	4%	Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	41%	3	1%	Not aware if assistance was available



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

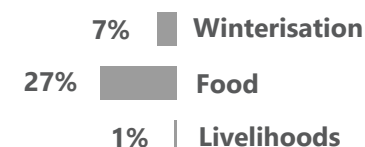
1	 Winterisation	72%
2	 Food	58%
3	 Livelihoods	47%

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



Yes: **58%**
No: **42%**

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



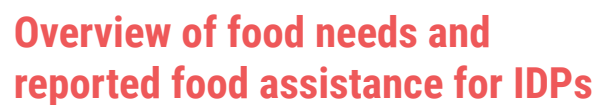
Most commonly reported barriers that IDP households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of assessed communities reporting barriers) ³

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	71%	1	96%	No humanitarian assistance was available
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	45%	2	3%	Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	42%	3	1%	Not aware if assistance was available





This map shows the gap between food needs and reported food assistance for IDPs living in communities. Communities in red are those where KIs indicated that food was the top priority need for IDP households, but where food assistance was reportedly not provided to them. Green dots correspond to communities where KIs also reported food as a top priority need for IDPs, but where such assistance was reportedly provided. Please note that this map is based on KI perception, thus this data is indicative only. This map refers to the 30 days prior to data collection.



This map shows the gap between winterisation needs and reported winterisation assistance for IDPs living in communities. Communities in red are those where KIs indicated that winterisation was the top priority need for IDP households, but where winterisation assistance was reportedly not provided to them. Green dots correspond to communities where KIs also reported winterisation as a top priority need for IDPs, but where such assistance was reportedly provided. Please note that this map is based on KI perception, thus this data is indicative only. This map refers to the 30 days prior to data collection.

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			600 TRY			90 TRY		
% of assessed communities where indicator was reported in following currencies	SYP	TRY	USD	SYP	TRY	USD	SYP	TRY	USD
	0%	99%	1%	0%	45%	55%	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 **53%** of assessed communities cited **rent** was unaffordable for the majority of people



KIs in **64%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **solar panels** as a common challenge



KIs in **76%** 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

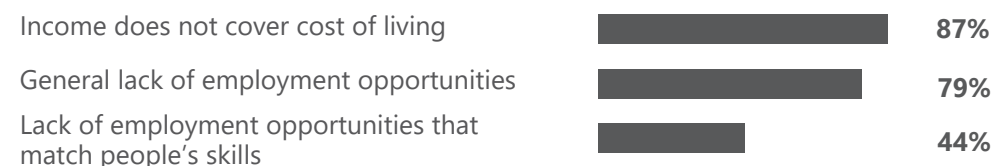


KIs in **36%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **water trucking** as a common challenge



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	66%	22%
Cash crop production	50%	6%
Livestock products	55%	37%
Sale of livestock	17%	14%



Host community households



IDP households

BASIC NEEDS OVERVIEW

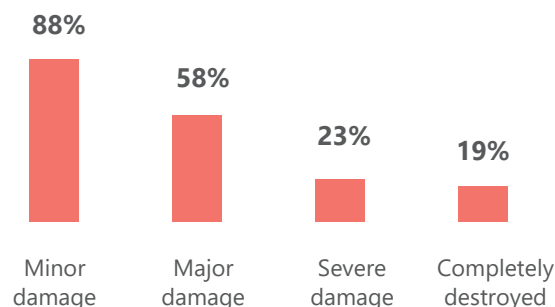
In **81%** of assessed communities, at least **80%** of the host community households reportedly **owned their shelter**

In **61%** of assessed communities, **none** of the IDP households reportedly **owned their shelter**

In **26%** of assessed communities, at least **one fifth** of the IDP population reportedly lived in **unfinished or abandoned residential buildings**

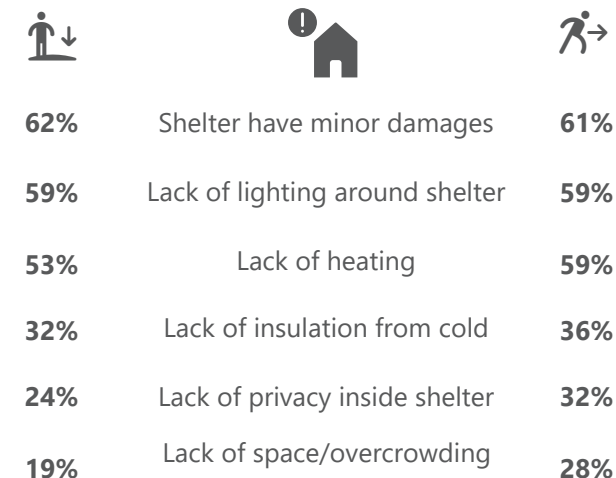
In **11%** of assessed communities, at least **one fifth** of the IDP population reportedly lived in **tents**

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 84% 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}

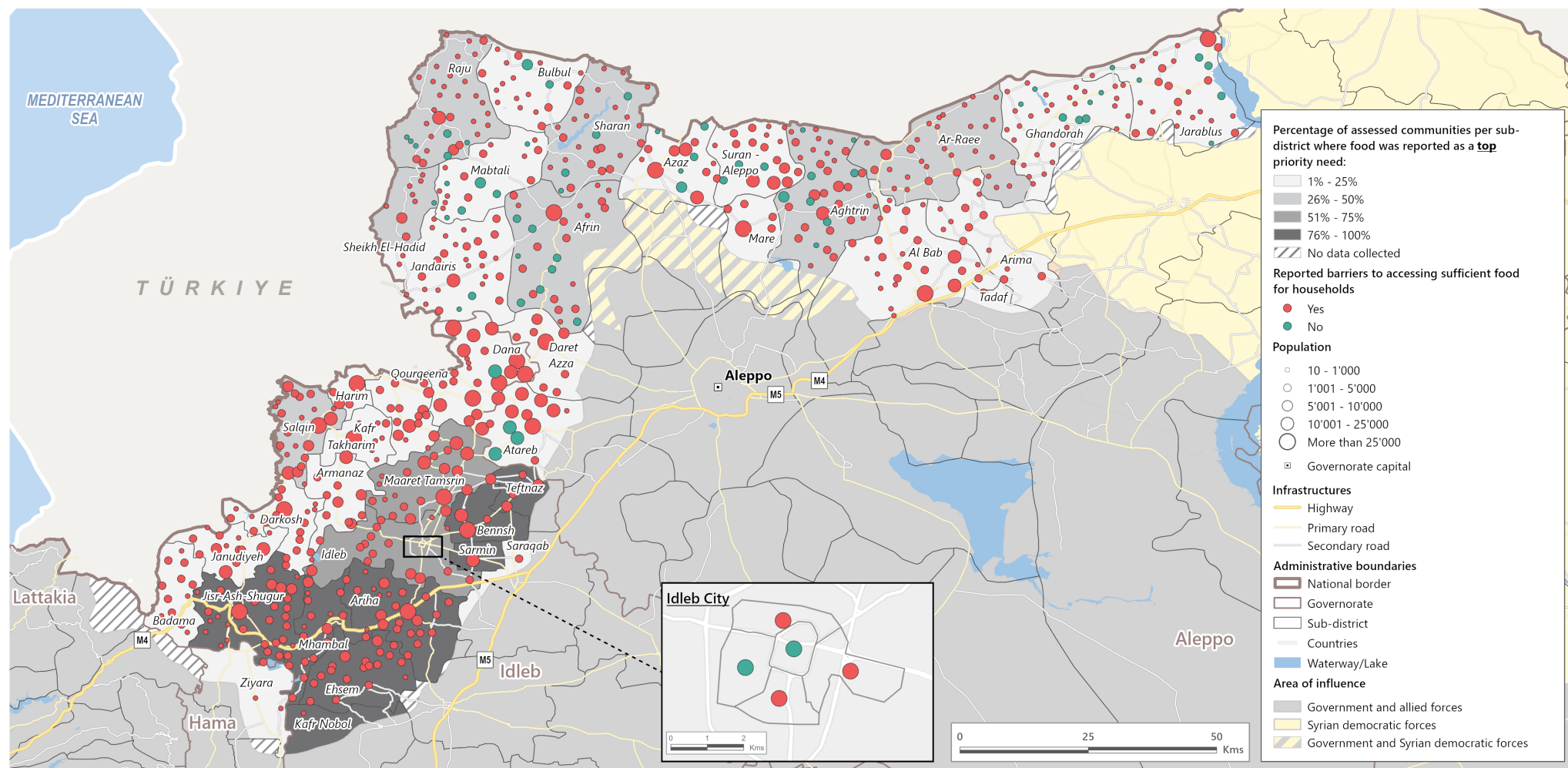
1	Markets exist and food is available but households cannot afford essential food items	76%
2	Markets exist but not all essential food items are available	16%
3	Households are not able to store food or cook food	14%



High price of suitable foods formula was the most commonly reported challenge to feeding young children (reported by KIs in 89% 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	58%
2	Relying on food stored previously	40%
3	Assistance from local councils, NGOs or other groups	9%



Access to food in Northwest Syria

Note on the map

This map shows in red the communities where households experienced barriers to accessing food, regardless of how many obstacles were reported. The shade of each sub-district corresponds to the percentage of communities (per sub-district) in which KIs reported food to be the **first priority need** for households.

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 41% of assessed communities)

Solar panels

was the most commonly reported main source of electricity (reported by KIs in 56% of assessed communities)

64%

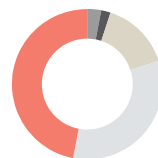
% of assessed communities where KIs reported **solar panels too expensive** as the most common barrier to electricity access



Access to Water

49%

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



7 days 3%
5-6 days 2%
3-4 days 15%
1-2 days 33%
0 days 47%

Days per week where water from the network was available (by % of 509 communities connected to a water network)

Private
water
trucking

was the most commonly reported source of water for all purposes (reported by KIs in 45% of assessed communities)



Access to Sanitation

48%

% 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)

48%

34%

9%

Free public waste collection

Paid private waste collection

Waste disposed of by household to a dumping location

20%

% 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 71% 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}

62%

51%

40%

Medicines and other commodities

First aid or emergency care

Treatment for chronic diseases

High cost of transportation to health facilities

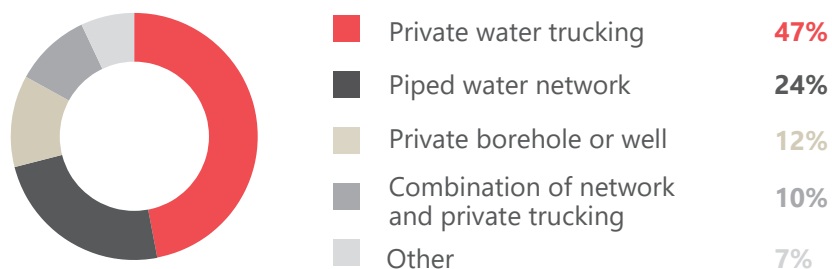
was the most commonly reported **barrier to accessing healthcare** (reported by KIs in 66% of assessed communities)

PUBLIC HEALTH

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

Unsafe soak pit		61%
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**.

68%

% 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	49%
2	Sedimentation	33%
3	Household filters	7%

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 **22%** of assessed communities

Not enough food reported in **15%** of assessed communities

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

33%



% 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		47%
Health facilities are overcrowded		36%
Absence of health facilities present/functioning in assessed location		29%
Specialised services are not available		13%

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	48%	52%
Skilled care during childbirth (General obstetric care - normal deliveries)	28%	72%
Vaccination	24%	76%
First aid/emergency care (accident and injuries)	6%	94%

SECURITY AND PROTECTION

Intersectoral findings on security



General safety and security concerns restricting movement to markets was a reported barrier to market access in 11 assessed communities

General safety and security concerns at markets was a reported barrier to market access in 28 assessed communities



Theft was reported as a protection risk in 16% of assessed communities ⁷

Fear from imminent conflict was reported as a protection risk in 15% of assessed communities ⁷

Threat from shelling was reported as a protection risk in 14% of assessed communities ⁷

Threat from airstrikes were reported as a protection risk in 65 assessed communities ⁷



The security situation was reported as a barrier to shelter repairs in 45 assessed communities ⁷



Safety and security concerns travelling to health facilities was reported as a barrier to healthcare in 10 assessed communities

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

- 1** Special assistance for vulnerable groups **69%**
- 2** Specialised child protection services **48%**
- 3** Psychosocial support **42%**



% 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

<1% Some people did not have the necessary personal documents to receive assistance

55% % of assessed communities where **child labour** was reported as a protection risk for **host community** and IDP households

52%

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 **25%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for persons with a disability** as a barrier to accessing livelihoods ⁷

KIs in **3%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of privacy for women and girls at health facilities** as a barrier to healthcare access

KIs in **29%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of market access for people with restricted mobility**

KIs in **4%** of assessed communities reported that **women and girls feel unsafe when traveling to markets**

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'zaz, 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 \(JMMI\)](#) November 2023, 1 USD = 14,025 SYP; 1TRY= 500 SYP.

⁶ According to the NWS [JMMI](#) November 2023, 1 USD = 14,025 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	654	Currency used for paying rent	429
IDP households	670	Currency in which wages are paid (merged)	560
Challenges to assistance access (host community)	337	Days when water is available from network	509
Barriers to assistance access (host community)	288	Barriers to markets functioning	166
Challenges to assistance access (IDP)	352	Methods to make water safer (merged)	217
Barriers to assistance access (host community)	280	Problems with drinking water (merged)	331
Currency used for paying water	582		

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).