

HUMANITARIAN SITUATION OVERVIEW OF SYRIA (HSOS)

June 2023 | Northwest Syria

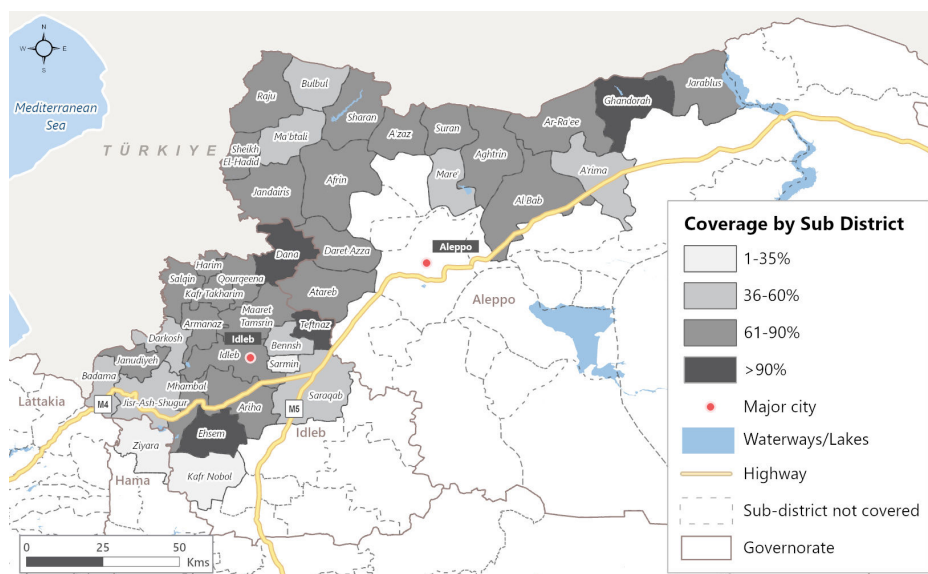
SITUATION OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

HSOS is a monthly assessment that provides comprehensive, multi-sectoral information about the humanitarian conditions and priority needs inside Syria. This factsheet presents a thematic review based on the HSOS assessment of the priority needs and humanitarian assistance, economic conditions, living conditions, access to basic services, public health, and the security and protection situation in Northwest Syria (NWS). HSOS focuses on host community and internally displaced persons (IDP) households residing in communities. **This assessment does not provide information on camps and informal settlements.**

Unless specified by an endnote, all indicators refer to the situation in the 30 days prior to data collection. Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalised across the population and region. The complete monthly HSOS dataset is available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#).

The assessment is conducted using a key informant (KI) methodology at the community level. REACH enumerators in Greater 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 **663 communities** across Greater Idlib¹ and Northern Aleppo areas. Data was collected **between 11-22 June 2023** from **2,656 KIs** (5% female).



KEY MESSAGES

Limited access to water continued to challenge households' living conditions as well as farmers' access to income. The lack or loss of civil documentation remained a prevalent protection issue in NWS, especially in the Greater Idlib region.

- Households in NWS continued to experience limited access to water.** KIs in 56% of assessed communities reported that households did not have access to sufficient water in the 30 days prior to data collection. The 12 years of conflict and the February 2023 earthquakes caused extensive damages to the piped water network in NWS,^a which was reported as the main source of drinking water in only 24% of assessed communities. As an alternative, 44% of assessed communities reportedly relied on private water trucking as a main source of drinking water, a modality that can be costly for households. Indeed, KIs reported high price of water trucking as a barrier to accessing sufficient water in 51% of the communities using private trucking as their main drinking water provision source.
- Water stress remained a challenge during the harvest season.** Agriculture is an important source of income in NWS, reflected by the KIs in 98% of assessed communities who reported food or cash crop production as a main source of meeting basic needs for households. In addition to high operational costs, limited access to water for agriculture continued to heavily impact farmers in the region. Indeed, KIs in 33% of assessed communities reported the lack of water for agriculture as a barrier to accessing livelihoods. Darkosh and Al Bab sub-districts appeared particularly impacted, as KIs reported the lack of water for agriculture as a barrier in 88% and 71% of assessed locations in these two sub-districts respectively.
- IDPs in Greater Idlib region were particularly concerned by the lack of civil documentation.** KIs in 55% of assessed communities in Greater Idlib reported the lack or loss of civil documentation as a protection risk for IDP households (in 52% of assessed communities for host community households). Boys and girls aged 12 to 17 were reportedly the most affected groups followed by adult women (aged 18-59). According to the Protection Cluster Rapid Protection Assessment,^b the February earthquakes and displacements that followed exacerbated issues linked to lack or loss of civil documentation across NWS.

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.

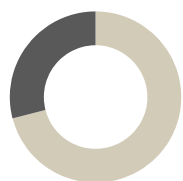
PRIORITY NEEDS AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



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

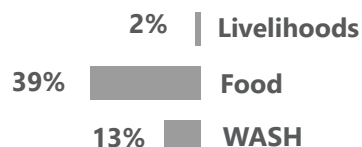
1	Livelihoods	59%
2	Food	57%
3	WASH [▲]	52%

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



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

% 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	73%	1	94%	No humanitarian assistance was available
Quantity of assistance provided to households was insufficient	52%	2	3%	Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	45%	3	2%	People did not comply with the eligibility criteria



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

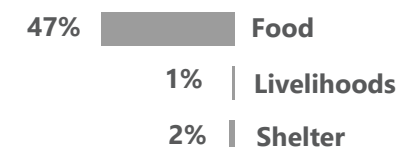
1	Food	61%
2	Livelihoods	54%
3	Shelter	48%

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



Yes: **74%**
No: **26%**

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

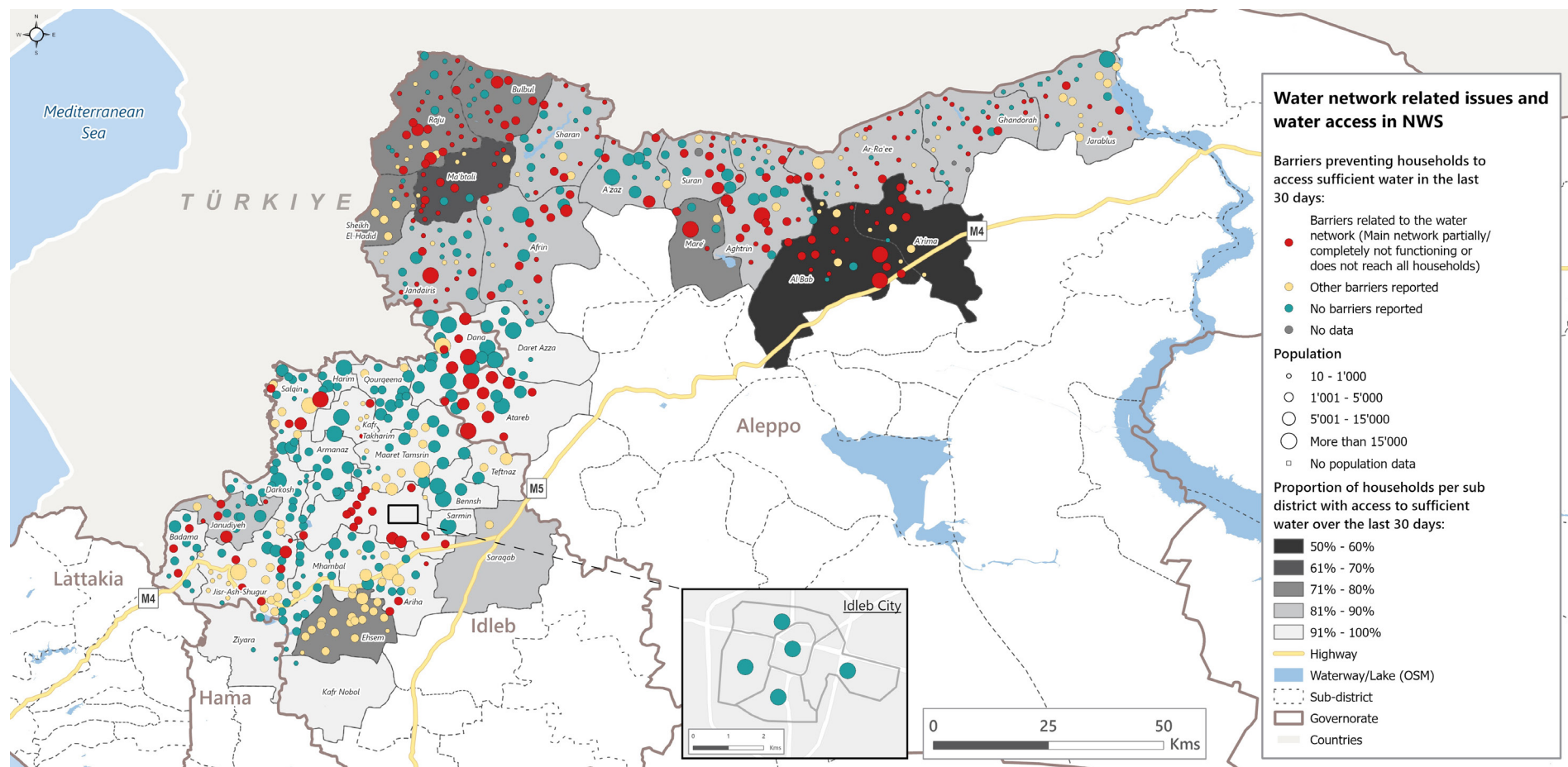


Most commonly reported barriers that IDP households faced in accessing humanitarian assistance (by % of assessed communities reporting barriers) ³

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	55%	2	2%	Not aware if assistance was available
Assistance provided was not relevant to all needs	46%	3	2%	Perceived discrimination in provision of humanitarian assistance



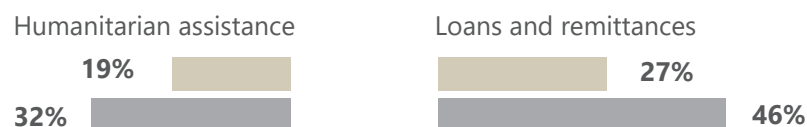
Water network-related issues and water access in NWS

Note on the map

This map shows the percentage of communities per sub-district, in which KIs reported that households had access to sufficient water within the 30 days prior to data collection. Red dots correspond to community where KIs reported that issues related to the water network prevented household to access sufficient water. Yellow dots correspond to communities in which KIs reported other barriers, not necessarily related to the water network, such as alternative sources being too expensive or boreholes not providing adequate quantities of water. Lastly, green dots represent communities in which no barriers to access sufficient water were reported.

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	200 TRY			400 TRY			50 TRY		
% of assessed communities where indicator was reported in following currencies	SYP	TRY	USD	SYP	TRY	USD	SYP	TRY	USD
	0%	100%	0%	0%	59%	41%	0%	99%	1%

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) ³Intersectoral findings on **unaffordability** hindering access to goods and services ⁷

KIs in **52%** of assessed communities cited **rent** was unaffordable for the majority of people



KIs in **70%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **solar panels** as a common challenge



KIs in **80%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **food** as a common challenge



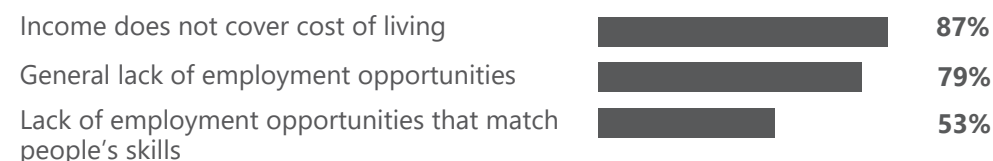
KIs in **28%** of assessed communities cited high cost of **fuel for generators** as a common challenge



KIs in **37%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **water trucking** as a common challenge



KIs in **43%** of assessed communities cited the high cost of **health services** as a common challenge

Most commonly reported barriers to accessing livelihoods (by % of assessed communities) ^{3,7}Most commonly reported barriers to accessing livelihoods related to agriculture (by % of assessed communities) ³% of assessed communities where livelihood sources from agriculture were reported ³

Livelihood source	Host community households	IDP households
Food crop production	71%	22%
Cash crop production	55%	10%
Livestock products	59%	42%
Sale of livestock	20%	14%



Host community households



IDP households

BASIC NEEDS OVERVIEW

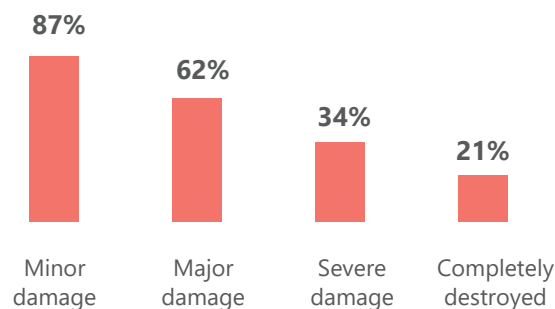
In **78%** of assessed communities, at least **80%** of the host community households reportedly **owned their shelter**

In **57%** 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 **19%** 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 82% of assessed communities)

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



67%

Shelter have minor damages⁸

57%

Lack of lighting around shelter



42%

High temperatures inside shelters

32%

Lack of privacy inside shelter

28%

Lack of space/overcrowding

17%

Shelters not suitable for people with disability/health condition

65%

60%

44%

40%

34%

18%



92%

% 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}

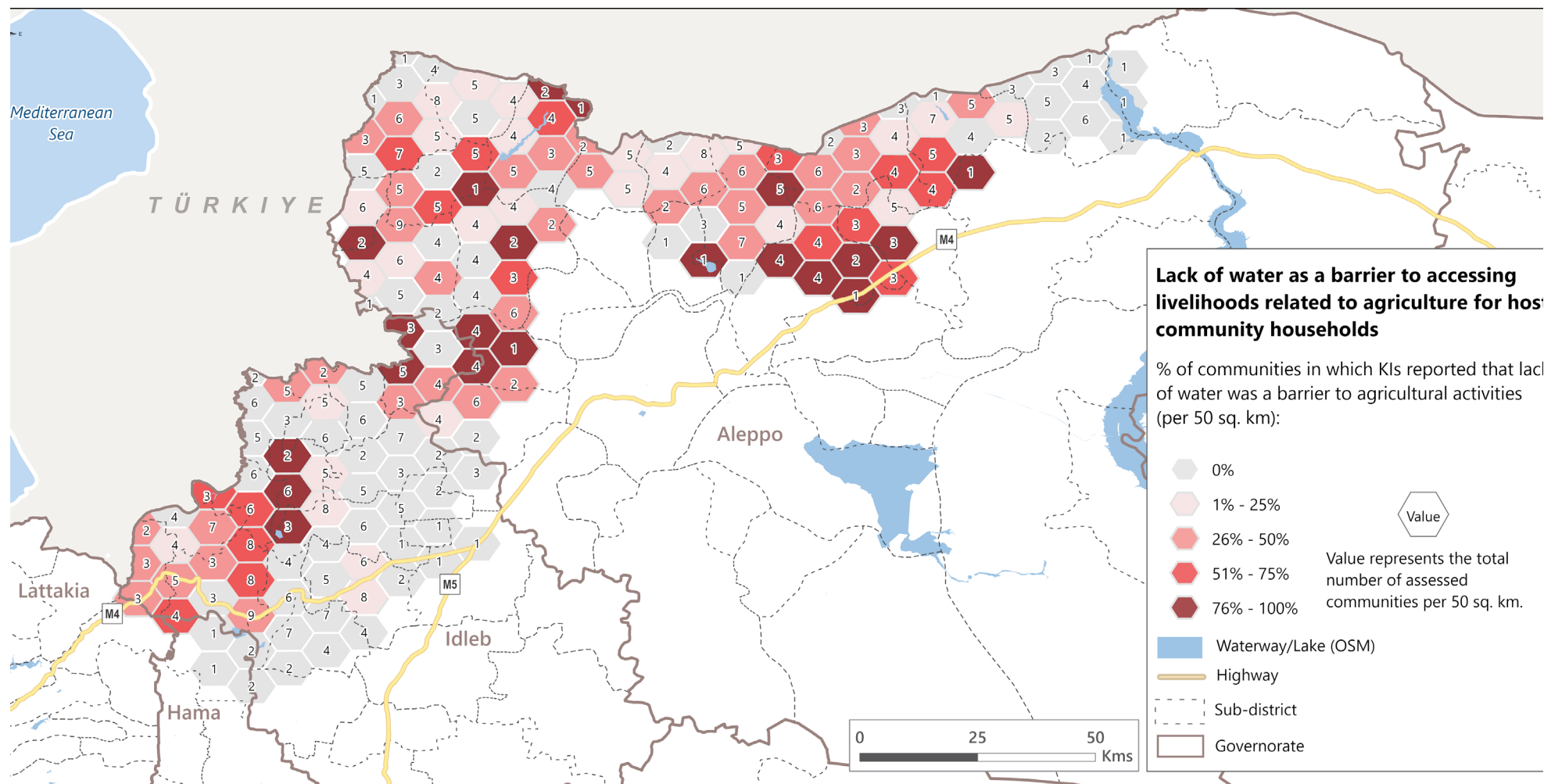
1	Markets exist and food is available but households cannot afford essential food items	80%
2	Households are not able to store food or cook food	21%
3	Markets exist but not all essential food items are available	19%



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	65%
2	Relying on food stored previously	24%
3	Assistance from local councils, NGOs or other groups	22%



Lack of water as a barrier preventing access to livelihoods related to agriculture

Note on the map

This map shows the percentage of communities in which KIIs reported that within the 30 days prior to data collection, the lack of water was a barrier to access livelihoods related to agriculture. The figure displayed in the center of each hexagon corresponds to the number of communities assessed in an area of 50 sq.km.

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 65% of assessed communities)

70%

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



Access to Water

56%

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



7 days 11%
5-6 days 9%
3-4 days 14%
1-2 days 20%
0 days 46%

Days per week where water from the network was available (by % of 490 communities connected to a water network)

Private water trucking

was the most commonly reported source of water for all purposes (reported by KIs in 44% of assessed communities)



Access to Sanitation

52%

% 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)

39%

Paid private waste collection

29%

Free public waste collection

18%

Waste disposed of by household to a dumping location

36%

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



Access to Markets

25%

% 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 72% of assessed communities where markets were not functioning)

67%

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



Access to Health Services

55%

% 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}

64%

Medicines and other commodities

55%

First aid or emergency care

54%

Treatment for chronic diseases

High cost of transportation to health facilities

was the most commonly reported **barrier to accessing healthcare** (reported by KIs in 72% of assessed communities)



Access to Education Services

29%

35%

% 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

94%

Not functioning

6%

Reported functionality of education services in the assessed location

71%

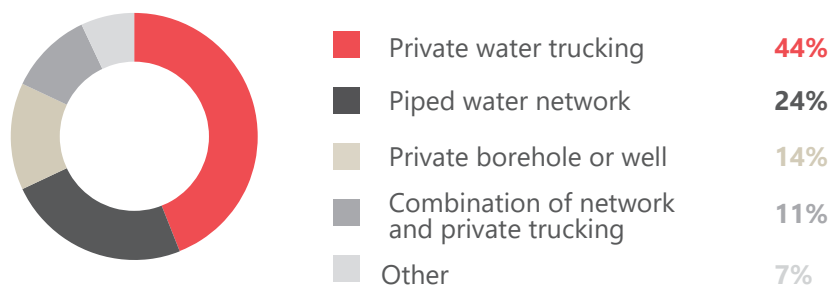
% of assessed communities where KIs reported that **Families cannot afford to prioritize school and children must work** ⁷

PUBLIC HEALTH

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

Unsafe soak pit	<div></div>	64%
Sewage network does not reach all households	<div></div>	32%
Sewage system needs repair/cleaning	<div></div>	30%

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



50%

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

63%

% 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	52%
2	Sedimentation	24%
3	Boiling	29%

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 **29%** of assessed communities

Not enough food reported in **22%** of assessed communities

Poor quality of food reported in **12%** of assessed communities

38%



% 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	<div></div>	38%
Absence of health facilities present/functioning in assessed location	<div></div>	33%
Health facilities are overcrowded	<div></div>	34%
Specialised services are not available	<div></div>	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	51%	49%
Treatment for parasitic infections	45%	55%
Skilled care during childbirth (General obstetric care - normal deliveries)	35%	65%
Vaccination	25%	75%
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 10 assessed communities

General safety and security concerns at markets was a reported barrier to market access in 24 assessed communities

Movement restrictions was reported as a protection risk in 3 assessed communities ⁷



Theft was reported as a protection risk in 9% 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 9% of assessed communities ⁷

Threat from airstrikes were reported as a protection risk in 34 assessed communities ⁷



The security situation was reported as a barrier to shelter repairs in 52 assessed communities ⁷



Safety and security concerns travelling to health facilities was reported as a barrier to healthcare in 1 assessed communities



Lack of safety while travelling to or from school was reported as a barrier preventing access to education in 70 assessed communities ⁷

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 **43%**



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

- 32%** Lack or loss of civil documentation as a protection risk
- 38%**
- 4%** Some people did not have the necessary personal document as a barrier to accessing humanitarian assistance
- 5%**
- 12%** Lack of personal documentation required to enrol in school as a barrier to education access
- 18%**

59%
62%

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

Gender and diversity

KIs in **35%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of employment opportunities for women** as a barrier to accessing livelihoods ⁷

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

KIs in **7%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of privacy for women and girls at health facilities** as a barrier to healthcare access

KIs in **27%** of assessed communities reported a **lack of market access for people with restricted mobility**

KIs in **7%** of assessed communities reported that **women and girls feel unsafe when traveling to markets**

KIs in **11%** of assessed communities reported **challenges specific to girls** as a barrier preventing access to education ^{7, 14}

ENDNOTES

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

² KIs were asked to select a first, second, and third highest priority needs in their communities. The overall priority need refers to the frequency a sector was selected across all three categories (first, second or third highest priority).

³ KIs could select multiple answers, thus findings might exceed 100%.

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

⁵ KIs had the option to select the price in United States Dollars (USD), Turkish Lira (TRY), or Syrian Pounds (SYP). When the price was not reported in SYP, the NWS Market Monitoring exchange rate was used to calculate the amount in SYP. According to the [Joint Market Monitoring Initiative \(JMMI\)](#) June 2023, 1 USD = 9,000 SYP; 1 TRY = 427 SYP.

⁶ According to the NWS [JMMI](#) June 2023, 1 USD = 9,000 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. ICRC. (7 June 2023). After earthquake damage in northwest Syria urgent action needed to prevent collapse of water systems and avoid devastating humanitarian consequences. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>

b. Protection Cluster NWS. (June 2023). Rapid Protection Assessment North-West Syria. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>

N,o of communities reporting on:	Subset	N,o of communities reporting on:	Subset
Host community households	653	Currency used for paying rent	423
IDP households	653	Currency in which wages are paid (merged)	533
Challenges to assistance access (host community)	437	Days when water is available from network	483
Barriers to assistance access (host community)	183	Barriers to markets functioning	165
Challenges to assistance access (IDP)	454	Methods to make water safer (merged)	248
Barriers to assistance access (host community)	162	Problems with drinking water (merged)	333
Currency used for paying water	532		

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).