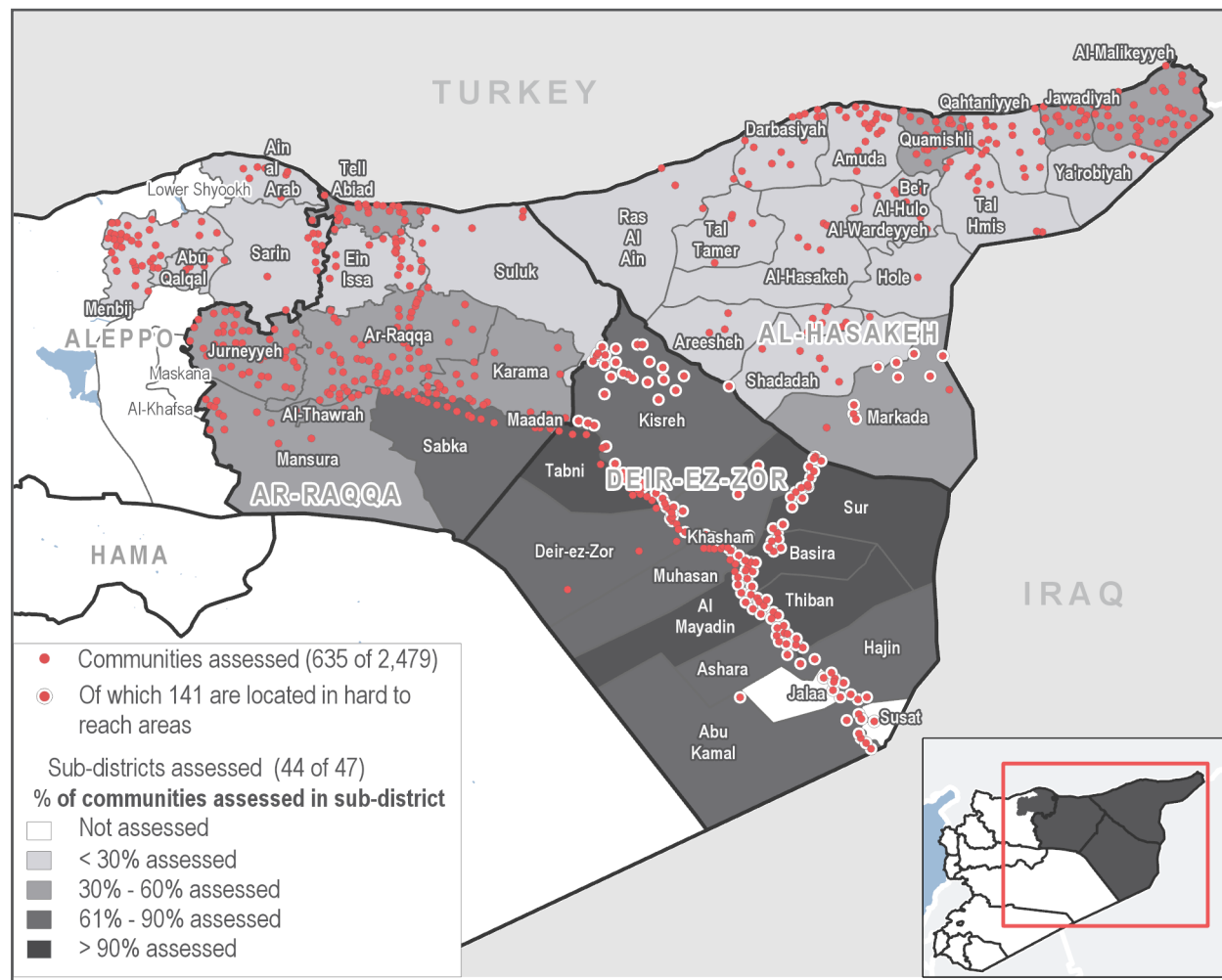


Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

Northeast Syria, April 2019

Coverage



Introduction

HSOS is a monthly assessment that aims to provide comprehensive, multi-sectoral information about the humanitarian situation inside Syria. The assessment is conducted at the community level covering [displacement](#), [food security and livelihoods \(FSL\)](#), [education](#), [water, sanitation and hygiene \(WASH\)](#), [health](#) and [shelter and non-food items \(SNFI\)](#).

The factsheet presents information gathered in 635 communities across Al-Hasakeh (195 communities), eastern Aleppo* (61 communities), Deir-ez-Zor (163 communities), and Ar-Raqqa (216 communities) governorates. Data was collected during the month of May 2019, and refers to the situation in Northeast Syria (NES) in April 2019. Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalised across the region.

Community-level datasets are available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#), [the Humanitarian Data Exchange](#), and are also distributed through partners across the humanitarian community.

*The eastern part of Aleppo where humanitarian response and coordination is conducted from the northeast rather than the northwest.

Top 3 reported priority needs in assessed communities:

- 1 Healthcare
- 2 Livelihoods
- 3 Education

People in need (PIN) Demographics*

1,088,962 PIN **572,682** People in Acute Need

Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB):^{1,2}

Average price in April 2019 **70,934 Syrian pound (SYP)**
 One month change: **+ 4.9%**
 Six month change: **+10.1%**

* PIN refers to people whose physical security, basic rights, dignity, living conditions or livelihoods are threatened or have been disrupted, and whose current level of access to basic services, goods and protection is inadequate to re-establish normal living conditions within their accustomed means without assistance.

People in Acute Need refers to those facing more severe forms of deprivation in terms of their security, basic rights and living conditions and face life-threatening needs requiring urgent humanitarian assistance ([HNO 2019](#)).

The calculated PIN numbers are indicative as they are calculated using the OCHA dataset and coverage varies slightly.

Key events impacting the humanitarian situation in Northeast Syria

October-November 2017	April 2018	October 2018	Mid-December 2018	November 2018 - March 2019	December 2018 - April 2019
Ar-Raqqa and Deir-ez-Zor cities fully liberated from ISIL. ^{a,b}	Forces escalate offensive on ISIL in southeastern Deir-ez-Zor governorate and in southern Al-Hasakeh governorate. ^c	Delayed rainfall and deteriorated agricultural infrastructure and input resulted in the lowest annual wheat yield since 1989. ^d	244,655 spontaneous returnees in Deir-ez-Zor governorate and 166,305 in Ar-Raqqa city reported by OCHA since November 2017. ^e	Since November, hostilities in ISIL-held areas of Hajin and Baghouz further intensified. ^f	More than 63,000 people were displaced from ISIL-held areas in Deir-ez-Zor to Al Hol camp in Al-Hasakeh. Situation stabilises. ^f

CONTEXT

Severe rainstorms hit NES in April 2019 resulted in the flooding of around 1,000 acres of wheat and barley fields in southern Al-Hasakeh governorate.⁹ The affected population is estimated to be around 118,000 individuals, including people living in camps.^h REACH's [satellite image analysis](#) shows how heavy rains have flooded the majority of Areesheh camp, and forced many residents to move to a separate annexe.

Although the number of new arrivals to Al Hol has decreased, it remains overcrowded.ⁱ Some women and children arriving to Al Hol coming from Bagouz require specialised medical attention.^k Lastly, the Syrian pound depreciated against the US dollar in Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa and Aleppo governorates.^l In Deir-ez-Zor governorate many traders closed their shops due to sudden increases in taxes.^m See the [REACH Market Monitoring April 2019](#) for more information.

KEY HIGHLIGHTSⁿ

Education reported as priority need in Ar-Raqqa and eastern Aleppo governorates, while early marriage and child labour are notable barriers in Deir-ez-Zor governorate

KIs reported education as a priority need in most assessed communities in Ar-Raqqa governorate (61%) and eastern Aleppo governorate (80%), in contrast to Deir-ez-Zor governorate (15%) and Al-Hasakeh (37%) governorates. In those communities in which not all school-aged children were reportedly accessing school (Ar-Raqqa 69%, eastern Aleppo 77%), main reasons KIs reported were a lack of teaching staff (Ar-Raqqa 79% and eastern Aleppo 91%) and a lack of school supplies (Ar-Raqqa 71% and eastern Aleppo 87%). In Ar-Raqqa, KIs in 27 (13%) of 216 assessed communities reported that challenges affected mainly girls. In Deir-ez-Zor, a lack of school supplies (46%) and a lack of teaching staff (26%) were also mentioned. However, KIs reported most commonly early marriage (72%) and child labour (60%) as reasons why children were not accessing school, highlighting specific protection concerns in Deir-ez-Zor governorate.

While lack of livelihoods continues, fuel prices increase in NES

The price of Government of Syria (GoS) refined fuel (petrol) increased in April compared to March. Whereas in March the price was reportedly 188 SYP, the price increased by 60% to 300 SYP in April.¹ The price of manually refined diesel and cooking fuel also rose respectively by 19% and 27%. The petrol crisis can be partially explained by the decline in volume of oil production in Syria.^o Livelihoods were, after healthcare, the most commonly reported priority need by KIs in 67% of assessed communities. Limited access to livelihoods may reduce populations in NES's ability to withstand such volatile price increases. Increased fuel prices could have far-reaching consequences, by impacting mobility and increasing the cost of water/food delivery.

Hosting without rent and formalised squatting most often reported in Deir-ez-Zor governorate

KIs in Deir-ez-Zor governorate reported a wider array of tenancy arrangements than in other governorates in NES. In Deir-ez-Zor, hosting without rent was reported in 37% of assessed communities and formalised squatting was reported in 55% of assessed communities, which was not as frequently reported in other governorates. Deir-ez-Zor governorate was conflict-affected until recently, so likely the wider variety of tenancy arrangements is linked to the presence of more vulnerable IDP populations.

➔ Displacement⁴

- In comparison to March when approximately 11,000 IDPs arrived in the assessed communities, the number of IDP arrivals across NES in April 2019 was much lower, approximately 800. The main subdistrict of origin for IDP arrivals was Jawadiyah (Al-Hasakeh governorate).
- In addition, the estimated number of spontaneous returns in April 2019 was notably higher (25,931 - 28,996) in comparison to March 2019 (around 9,500 spontaneous returns). It was reported that 15,000 people returned to Sosa community in Deir-ez-Zor governorate from Basira (Deir-ez-Zor), Kisreh (Deir-ez-Zor), and Al Hole (Al-Hasakeh) sub-districts, the latter notable for the presence of Al Hole camp. The other spontaneous returnees were distributed throughout NES.

🍷 Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL)

- The most common sources of income through which people in NES covered essential needs during April 2019 were reportedly being an owner of a farm (78% of assessed communities), having unstable daily employment (53%), doing business trade (44%), having salaried stable employment (43%), and receiving remittances from outside of Syria (37%).
- In Ar-Raqqa governorate (34%) and Al-Hasakeh governorate (23%), KIs reported that local food production has decreased. Considering that one of the key ways of obtaining food in NES is through own production (77%), and a key source of income is farm ownership (78%), a decrease of local food production could have detrimental effects on FSL in NES.

📖 Education

- Education was the third most commonly reported priority need by KIs (44%), after healthcare (82%) and livelihoods (67%). The majority of KIs reported that primary schools were functioning in NES, as reported by KIs in 602 (95%) of 635 assessed communities. KIs in only 39% of assessed communities reported that secondary schools were functioning. KIs in only 10% of assessed communities reported that high schools were functioning.
- Across NES, KIs in 41% of assessed communities reported that children were not attending school in nearby communities if facilities were not available or functioning. This was particularly seen in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, where children were not attending school in nearby communities in 119 (73%) of 163 assessed communities.

🚰 Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

- KIs in 11 communities reported that people got sick after drinking water; KIs in 8 communities in Ar-Raqqa (Jurneyyeh, Ar-Raqqa and Karama sub-districts) and 3 communities in Deir-ez-Zor governorate (Basira and Kisreh sub-districts).
- In addition, KIs in 200 communities reported that water tasted or smelled bad. KIs in Deir-ez-Zor mainly reported this (124 or 76% of 163 communities). It was reported by KIs in 28 communities in Kisreh and 19 communities in Deir-ez-Zor sub-districts.

🏥 Health

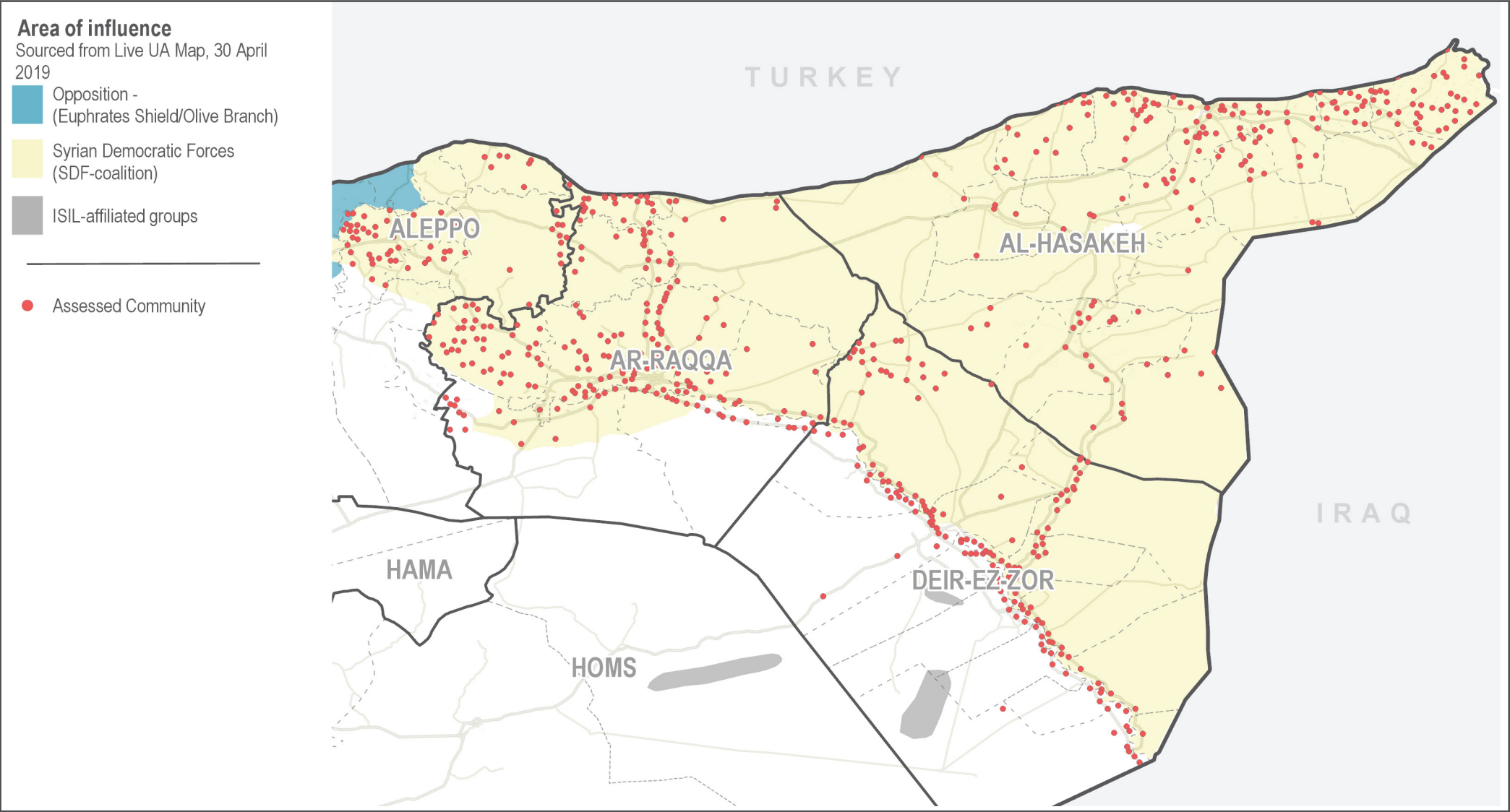
- Across NES, KIs in 307 (48%) of 635 assessed communities reported that there were no medical items available in the community. This was especially high in eastern Aleppo where it was reported in 74% of assessed communities, and Ar-Raqqa, in 64% of assessed communities. KIs in 276 (43%) communities across NES reported people in their communities using low quality medication, and KIs in 265 (42%) assessed communities reported using less than the required amount of medication.
- In Deir-ez-Zor governorate, KIs in 161 (99%) of 163 assessed communities reported difficulties in access to healthcare. Of those reporting difficulties, KIs in 66% of assessed communities reported that healthcare services were too expensive, KIs in 29% of assessed communities reported a high cost of transportation to health facilities, and KIs in 27% of assessed communities reported a lack of medical staff and absence of specialised clinics.

🏠 Shelter and non-food items (NFI)

- Of all 635 assessed communities, most returnee households were reported to own a pre-conflict home, as reported by KIs in 76% of assessed communities. This was especially reported in Ar-Raqqa, by KIs in 93% of assessed communities.
- The source of electricity most used by the community according to KIs varied slightly between governorates. KIs in Ar-Raqqa and eastern Aleppo reported the main electricity network (respectively 86% and 98% of assessed communities). KIs in Deir-ez-Zor and Al-Hasakeh were found to most commonly making use of generators (respectively 77% and 51% of assessed communities).

Northeast Syria, April 2019

Regional areas of influence:



Northeast Syria, April 2019

➔ DISPLACEMENT⁴

752 - 813

Estimated number of IDP arrivals in assessed communities in April 2019.

25,931 - 28,996

Estimated number of spontaneous returns in assessed communities in April 2019.⁵

Communities with the largest estimated number of IDP arrivals:

Sweidan Jazira (Thiban, Deir-ez-Zor) **700 - 750**

Hilo Abed (Ar-Raqqa, Ar-Raqqa) **50 - 60**

Mazraet Eljamus (Al-Malikeyyeh, Al-Hasakeh) **2 - 3**

*Reported as community, (sub-district, governorate)

Top 1 reported subdistrict of origin for IDP arrivals:^{6,7}

Jawadiyah (Al-Hasakeh)

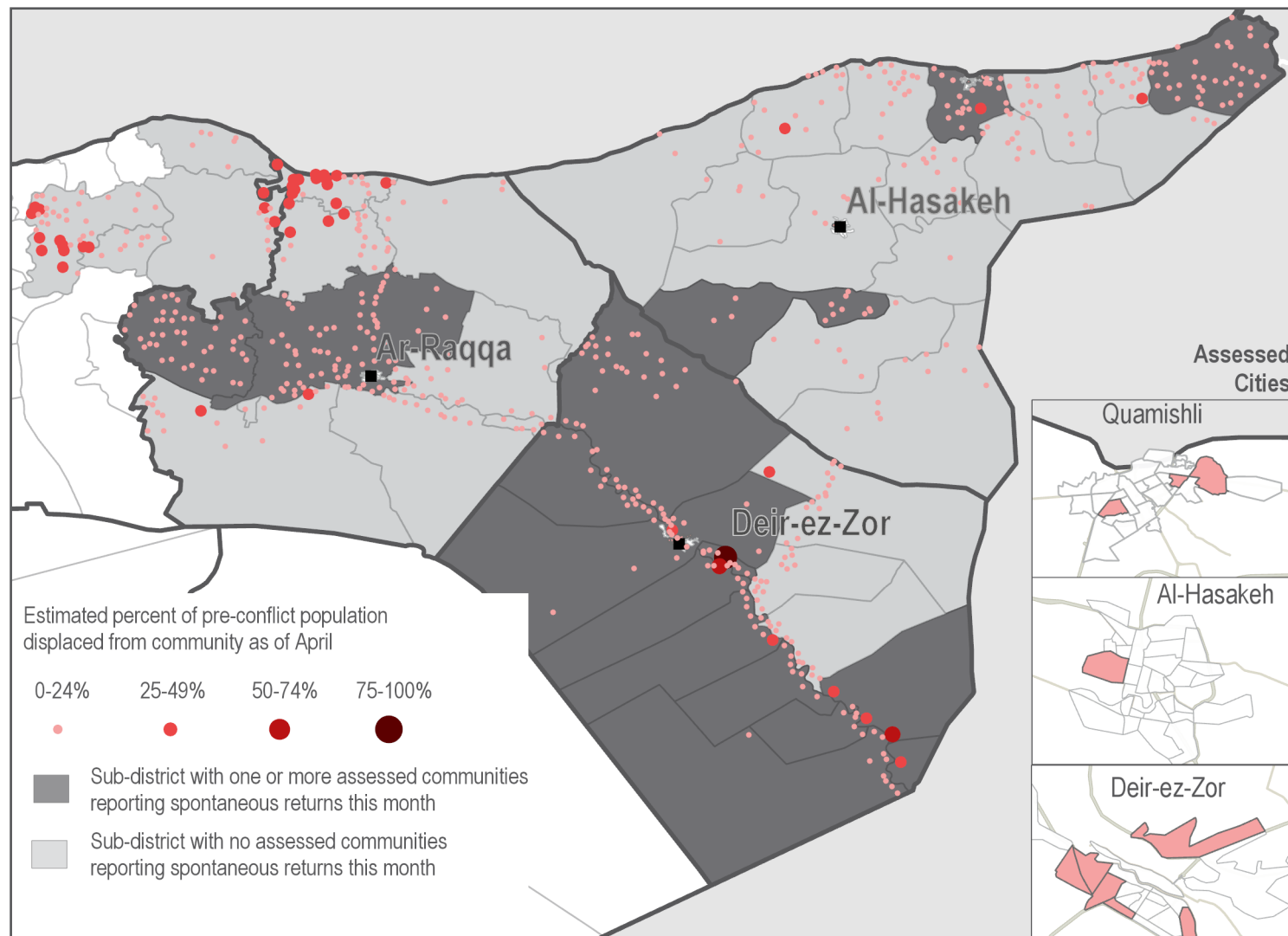
*Reported as sub-district (governorate)

634 communities reported no PCP departures.⁸

Top 1 reason for PCP departures in the remaining 1 assessed community:^{6,7,9}

Protection concerns 100%

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



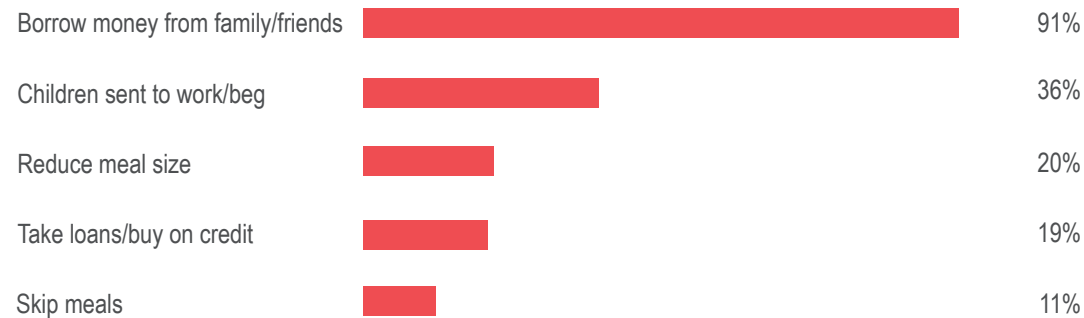
Northeast Syria, April 2019

FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

- 65/635** Communities reported having received food distributions in the last month.
- 95/635** Communities reported that residents were unable to access shops and markets.
- 0/635** No communities reported that residents used extreme food-based coping strategies to deal with insufficient income.¹⁰

From 50,000 to 100,000 SYP Most commonly reported household monthly income range.¹

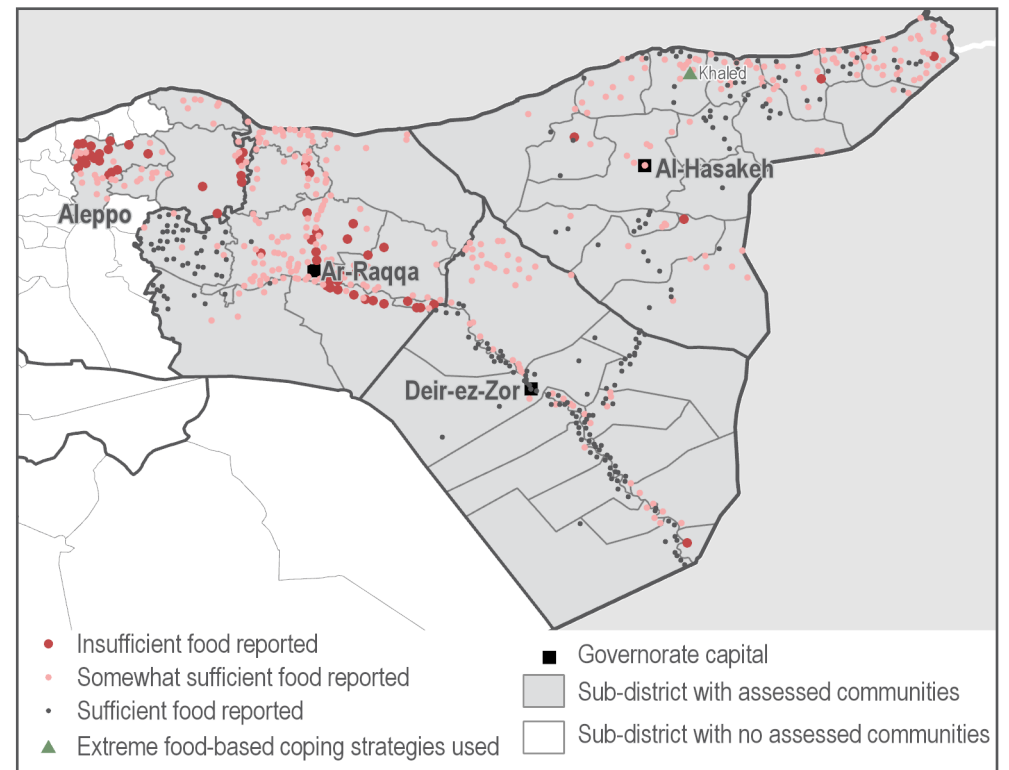
79 communities reported that residents had enough income to cover household needs. The most commonly reported coping strategies to deal with a lack of income in the remaining **556** assessed communities were:^{6,7,9}



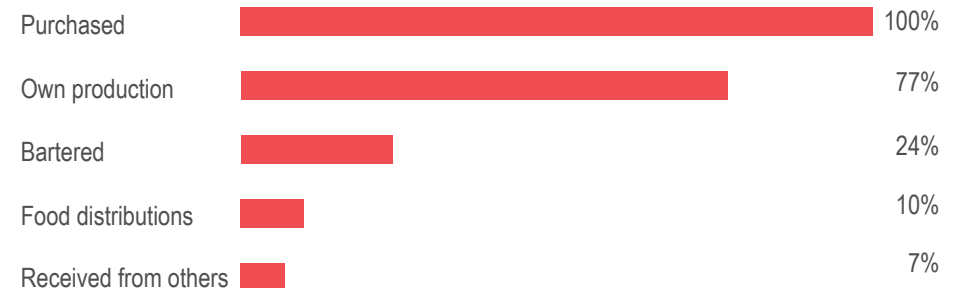
Most commonly reported main sources of income:^{6,7}



Communities that reported having an insufficient quantity of food:¹¹



Most commonly reported ways of obtaining food:^{6,7}



Northeast Syria, April 2019

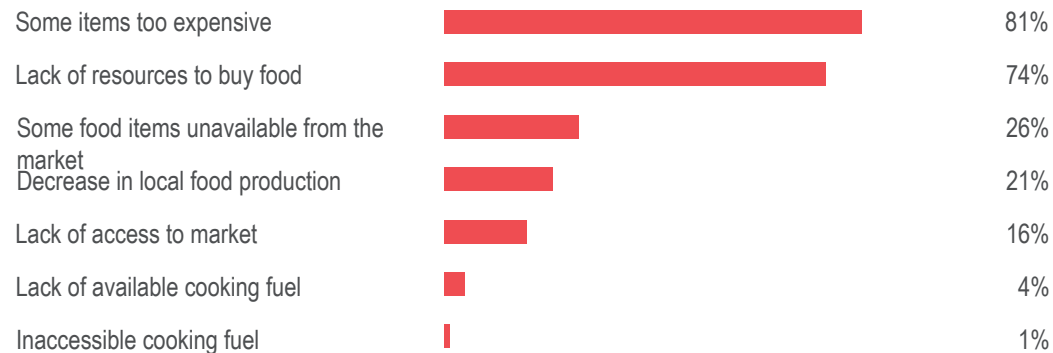
FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS

Core food item prices reported (in SYP):^{1,12}

Food item:	Regional average price in Apr-19:	One month change:	Six month change:
Bread (8 pieces)	100	0%	-26%
Rice (1 kilogram)	500	+18%	+14%
Lentils (1 kilogram)	350	+17%	+17%
Sugar (1 kilogram)	325	0%	+8%
Cooking oil (1 litre)*	4,158	+2%	+9%

*includes the combined vegetable oil and ghee prices

25 communities reported that residents experienced no challenges in accessing food. The most common difficulties experienced in the remaining 610 assessed communities were:^{6,7,9}



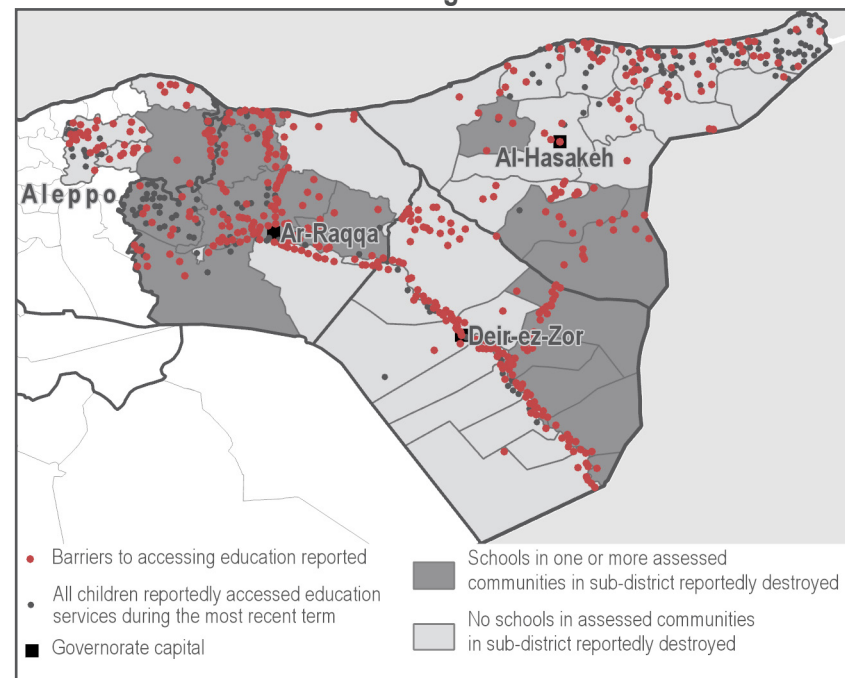
EDUCATION

602/635 communities reported having functioning primary education facilities, while 248 communities reported having functioning secondary education facilities.¹³

185 communities reported that all children were able to access education. The most commonly reported barriers to education in the remaining 450 assessed communities were:^{6,7,9}



Prevalence of barriers to accessing education services:



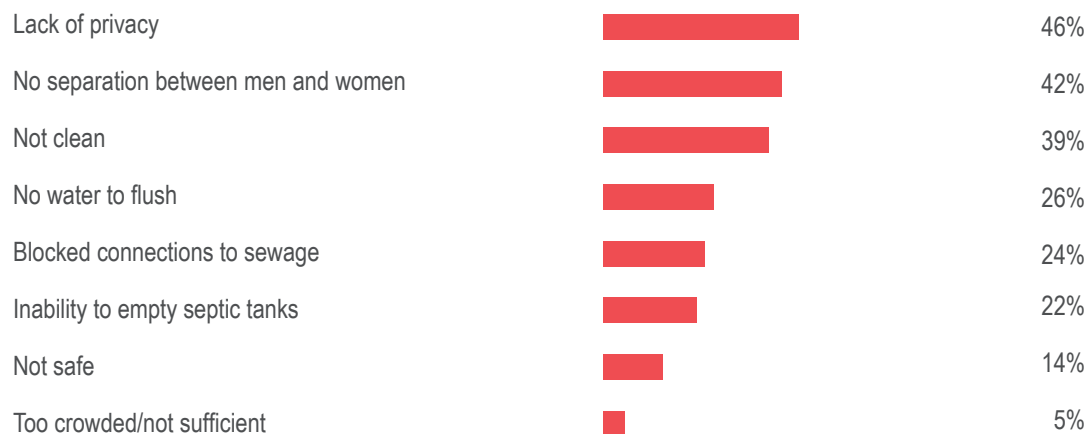
Northeast Syria, April 2019



200/635 Communities reported that water from their primary source tasted and/or smelled bad.

11/635 Communities reported that drinking water from their primary source made people sick.

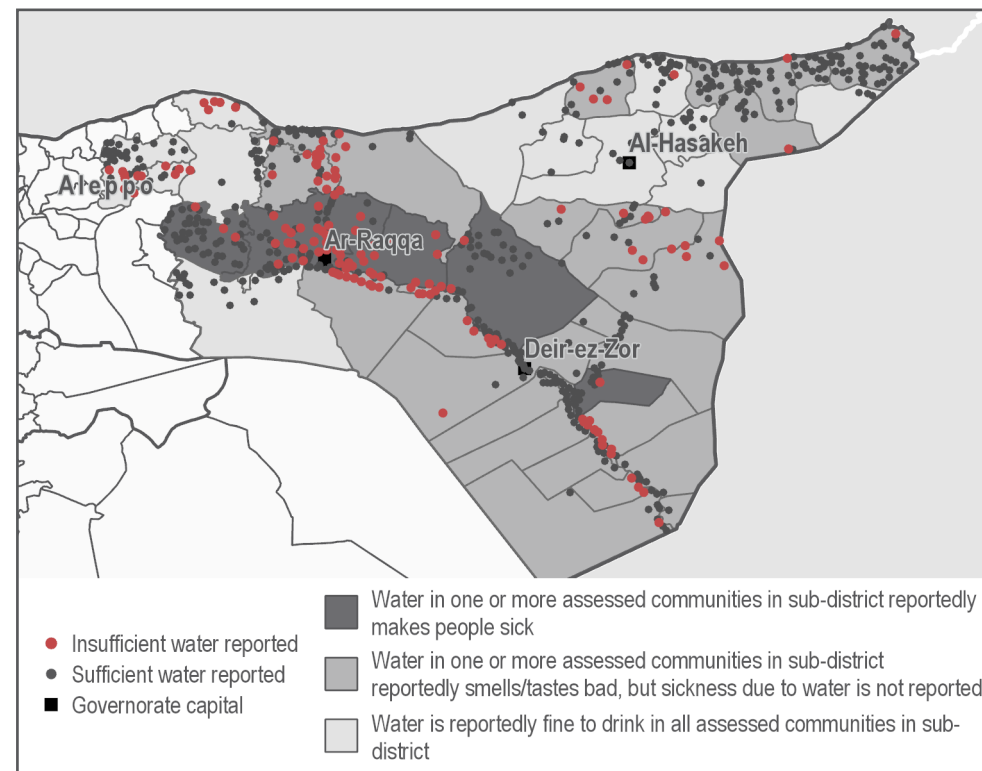
351 communities reported that residents had no problems with latrines. The most commonly reported problems with latrines in the remaining **284** assessed communities were:^{5,7,9}



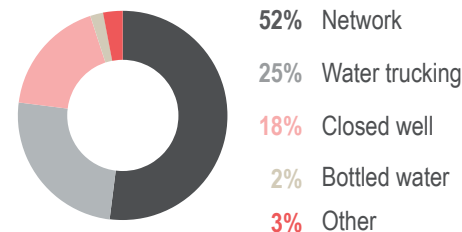
490 communities reported that they had sufficient amounts of water to meet household needs. The most common coping strategies to deal with a lack of water in the remaining **145** assessed communities were:^{6,7,9}



Communities that reported insufficient amounts of water to meet household needs:¹¹



Primary drinking water source reported:⁷



Primary method of garbage disposal reported:^{6,7}



Northeast Syria, April 2019

HEALTH

307/635 Communities reported that no assessed medical items were available in their community.¹⁴

191/635 Communities reported that the majority of women did not give birth in a formal health facility.

6/635 Communities reported that some individuals had been diagnosed with SAM (Severe Acute Malnutrition).¹⁵

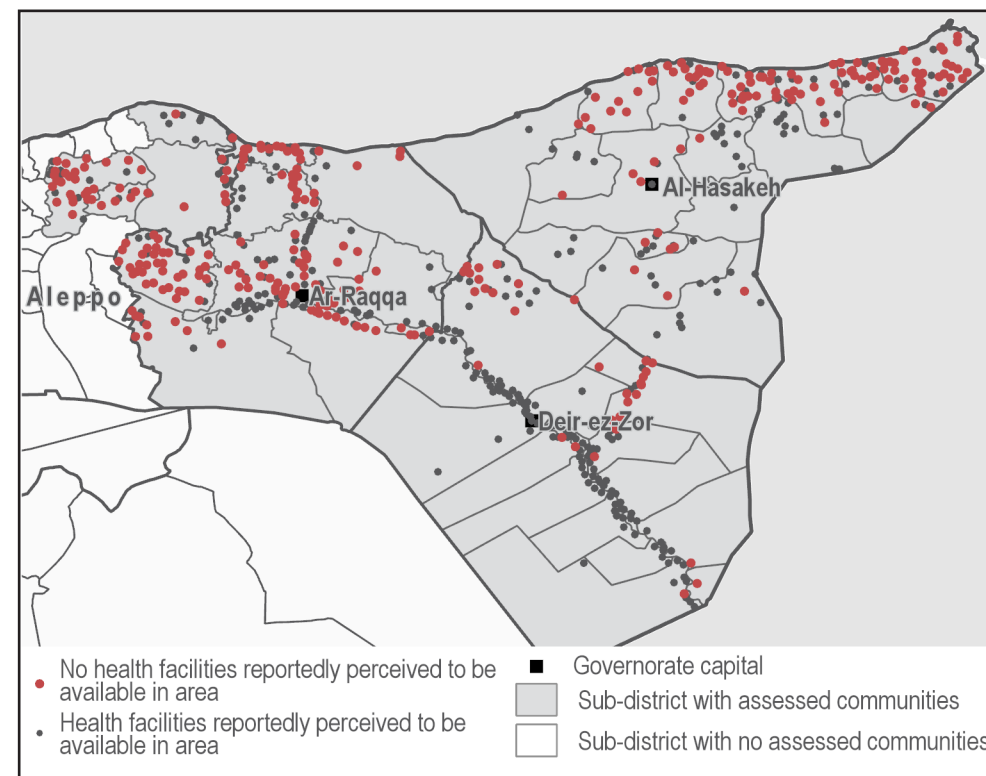
19 communities reported that residents experienced no barriers to accessing healthcare services. The most commonly reported barriers in the remaining 616 assessed communities were:^{6,7,9}



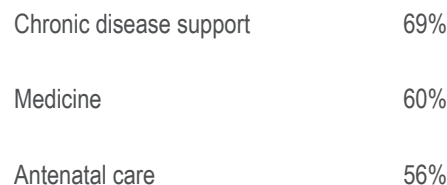
251 communities reported that residents were not using coping strategies to deal with a lack of medical services and items. The coping strategies used in the remaining 383 communities were:^{6,7,9}



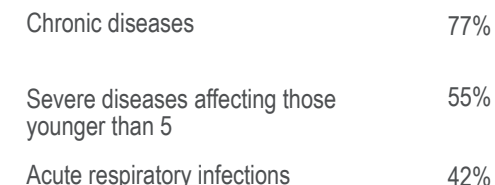
Presence of medical facilities in assessed communities:



Top 3 most needed healthcare services reported:^{6,7}



Top 3 most common health problems reported:^{6,7}



Northeast Syria, April 2019

SHELTER AND NFI

4,012 SYP Regional average monthly reported rent price in SYP across assessed communities.¹

5,827 SYP Northern Syria average monthly reported rent price in SYP across assessed communities.^{1,16}

Most commonly reported shelter type for PCP households:⁷

Independent apartment/house 100%

Most commonly reported shelter type for IDP households:⁷

Independent apartment/house 40%

Shared apartment/house 14%

Tent 3%

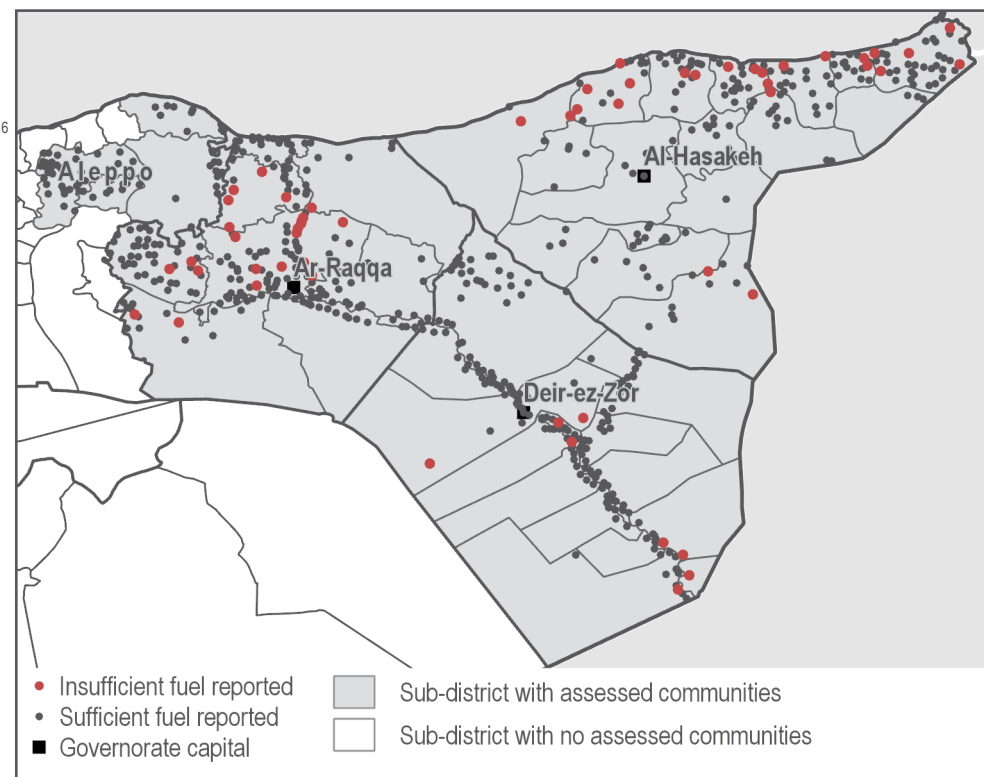
Unfinished apartment/house 2%

No information 41%

Reported fuel prices (in SYP):^{1,2}

Fuel type (1L):	Regional average price in April 2019:	One month change:	Six month change:
GoS petrol	300	+60%	+155%
GoS diesel	55	0%	0%
Manually refined petrol	200	0%	0%
Manually refined diesel	155	+19%	+36%
Cooking fuel	4,375	+27%	+40%

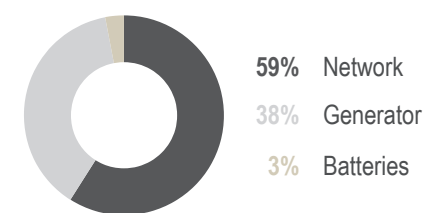
Communities that reported insufficient amounts of fuel to meet household needs:¹¹



579 communities reported no lack of fuel. Most common strategies to cope with lack of fuel in the remaining **56** assessed communities:^{6,7,9}

Burning productive assets	27%
Burning furniture not in use	21%
Cutting trees to burn	16%
Burning furniture in use	16%
Other	38%

Primary source of electricity reported:⁷



METHODOLOGY

HSOS data collection is conducted through an enumerator network in accessible locations throughout Idlib, Aleppo, northern Hama, Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa, and Al-Hasakeh governorates. REACH enumerators are based inside Syria and interview Key Informants (KIs) directly in the community about which they are reporting. Where access and security constraints renders direct data collection unfeasible, some KI interviews are conducted remotely through participants identified in camps and settlements in neighbouring countries by REACH field teams. Participants contact multiple KIs in their community in Syria to collect information about their community. KIs are asked to report at the community level.

KIs generally included local council members, Syrian NGO workers, medical professionals, teachers, shop owners and farmers, among others, and were chosen based on their community-level or sector specific knowledge. In cases where KIs disagree on a certain piece of information, enumerators triangulate the data with secondary sources or select the response provided by the KI with the more relevant sector-specific background. For each question asked, confidence levels are assigned based on the KIs area of expertise and knowledge of the sector-specific situation. The confidence levels associated with each question are presented in the [final dataset](#). The full confidence matrix used to assign confidence levels is available upon request.

Findings are triangulated through secondary sources, including news monitoring and humanitarian reports. Where necessary, follow-up is conducted with enumerators and participants. Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalised across the region.

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. You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org and follow us on Twitter [@REACH_info](https://twitter.com/REACH_info).

ENDNOTES

KEY EVENTS AND DEVELOPMENTS

^a Sen. (18 October 2017). After the Battle for Raqqa, Now Comes the Hard Part. News Deeply. Retrieved from <https://newsdeeply.com/syria>.

^b UNHCR. (21 January 2018). Syria Crisis: Northeast Syria Situation Report No. 20 (1 December – 31 December 2017). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

^c Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. (4 April 2018). The International Coalition and SDF prepare for a massive military operation against ISIS amid alertness in the east of the Euphrates River and south of Al-Hasakah. Retrieved from <https://syriaahr.com>.

^d El Dahan, M. (9 October 2018). War and drought produce Syria's smallest wheat crop in 30 years: U.N. Reuters. Retrieved from <https://reuters.com>.

^e UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (14 December 2018). Syria Crisis: Northeast Syria Situation Report No. 30 (1 November 2018 – 14 December 2018). Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

^f United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA). (15 December - 31 March 2019). Syria Crisis: Northeast Syria. Situation Report No. 31. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

^g Smart News Agency. (9 April 2019). Raining flooded 1000 donum of wheat and barley fields south Al-Hasakeh governorate. Retrieved from <https://smartnews-agency.com>.

^h International Federation of Red Cross And Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). (11 April 2019). Syria: Floods Information Bulletin #2. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

ⁱ World Health Organization (WHO). (25 April 2019). Syria crisis - WHO's Response in Al-Hol Camp, Al-Hasakeh Governorate - Issue 5, 12-25 April 2019. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

^j Syria Direct. (17 April 2019). 'Unlike any other camp': A journey through al-Hol, holding center for thousands of IS families. Retrieved from <https://syriadirect.org>.

^k United Nations Population Fund (UNPF). (29 April 2019). Caught in the crossfire: Urgent needs in north-east Syria. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

^l Smart News Agency. (25 April 2019). The Syrian pound is depreciated against the US dollar. Retrieved from <https://smartnews-agency.com>.

^m Smart News Agency. (30 April 2019). Traders in Deir-ez-Zor closed their shops due to sudden increases in taxes. Retrieved from <https://smartnews-agency.com>.

ⁿ Enab Baladi. (2 May 2019). Without resorting to bullets: Is the fuel crisis a weapon against al-Assad's regime or the Syrians? Retrieved from <https://english.enabbaladi.net>.

MAIN TEXT

¹ According to an exchange rate of 1 USD = 540 SYP (see [Syria Market Monitoring Dataset April 2019](#)).

² 18 items comprise the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), which represents the minimum culturally adjusted items required to support a 6-person household for a month. SMEB items: Bread, bulgur, chicken, eggs, fresh vegetables, ghee/vegetable oil, red lentils, rice, salt, sugar, tomato paste, bathing soap, laundry/dish soap, sanitary pads, toothpaste, cooking fuel, water trucking, smartphone data, float (other costs).

³ All information and figures reported in HSOS factsheets refer to the situation in assessed communities and cannot be generalised to other non-assessed communities of the region.

⁴ For population numbers, KIs were asked to provide the number of resident and IDPs present in the community as of 30 April 2019. A minimum of three KIs were interviewed in each assessed community. Where discrepancies in the information provided by KIs was deemed too large further triangulation with additional KIs and local organizations was conducted. Estimated individual figures in this report are rounded to the nearest tenth.

Discrepancies with other available population data may be the result of any of the following: differences in assessment coverage dates; differences in definitions of population sub-groups (IDPs and residents); differences in geographic scope of assessed locations (e.g. included/excluded nearby camps and sites); differences in KI types interviewed; and differences in average household sizes used to calculate individual numbers, among others.

The definition of IDPs used by enumerators for this assessment was 'Individuals or groups of people who have been forced to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights, or natural or man-made disasters, and who have not crossed an international border'.

⁵ Spontaneous returns refers to IDPs or refugees who return to their community of origin that they left due to conflict but not necessarily to their places of habitual residence (their former homes); who intend to remain in the community for an undetermined period; and who do not meet the IASC framework on durable solutions (IASC framework includes "not necessarily voluntary, safe or sustainable" elements).

⁶ Assessed using select multiple questions.

⁷ By percentage of communities reporting.

⁸ The definition of resident (pre-conflict) population (PCP), was 'Individuals or groups of people who currently reside in their communities of origin, or communities of permanent residence prior to the Syrian conflict. This includes populations that were never displaced as well as previously displaced populations that have returned to their communities of origin'.

⁹ Not all surveys have answers for every question, in these scenarios the KI or participant will input no answer. When the dataset has no answer for a particular question the reported number of assessed communities will not add up to the total number of communities assessed and percentages will be calculated based on submitted responses.

¹⁰ Extreme food-based strategies: eating food waste; eating non-edible plants and spending days without eating.

¹¹ Based on KI perception of sufficiency.

¹² Bread, rice, lentils, sugar, and cooking oil are considered core food items used in food baskets across Syria. For further information on all SMEB items please see the [Syria Market Monitoring April 2019 Situation Overview](#).

¹³ Reported numbers indicate the number of communities with functioning primary and secondary education facilities during the data collection period. It is important to note that simply having a functioning facility is not indicative of students being able to attend said facility. In addition, in some cases KIs reported that children attend schools in a neighbouring community.

¹⁴ Assessed HSOS medical items; anti-anxiety medication, contraception, clean bandages, blood transfusion bags, diabetes medicine, anaesthetics, blood pressure medicine, antibiotics, burn treatment.

¹⁵ This information was derived from medical professionals (KIs). The number of total communities refers to all communities that had a KI as medical professional available.

¹⁶ Includes HSOS data for Idleb, Aleppo, northern Hama, Deir-ez-Zor, Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh governorates.