

Aleppo Governorate, January 2018

Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria (HSOS)

OVERALL FINDINGS¹

Following the cessation of conflict in and around Aleppo city in December 2016, thousands have spontaneously returned to their communities in 2017². In January 2018, only **one** of the 43 assessed communities, Suran, witnessed spontaneous refugee returns from Turkey. In contrast to December when no assessed communities reported that members of the pre-conflict population left during the assessment period, **six** communities reported that members of their original population left in January. **All six** of these communities cited an escalation of conflict as one of the reasons for population departures and are located in the currently contested northwestern subdistricts of A'zaz and Jebel Saman. Of the communities assessed, **93%** reported the presence of IDPs, and **27** of the 43 assessed communities reported new arrivals in January. The estimated number of IDP arrivals in assessed communities ranged from **13,085 - 15,305** individuals, a **59%** increase compared to the number of arrivals reported in December. The largest number of arrivals were recorded in Atareb subdistrict. The majority of arrivals reportedly originated from other areas of Aleppo governorate. Out of the 40 communities reporting an IDP presence, **72%** reported hosting more than 1,000 IDPs and **14%** reported the presence of over 10,000 IDPs. **Half** of the latter were located in Atareb subdistrict, although the largest number of IDPs, **88,000 - 90,000**, was reported in A'zaz city, comprising over half of its estimated population of 141,500.

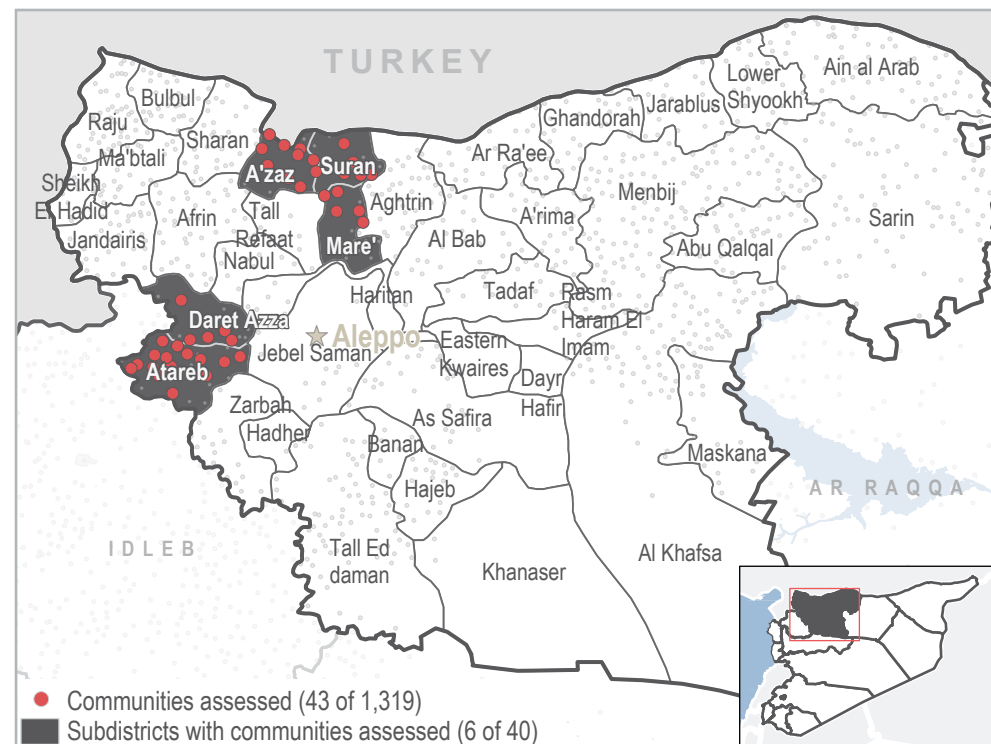
Of the communities assessed, **11** reported that none of the assessed medical items were available in January, while residents in **24** communities reportedly experienced barriers to accessing healthcare. Of these communities, **88%** reported that there were no available health facilities in their area. Medical KIIs in **15** communities reported that individuals in their community had been diagnosed with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) in January. **All** of these communities are located in Daret Azza and Atareb subdistricts. **Slightly less than half** of the communities assessed reported having insufficient water to meet household needs. A majority of these communities are located in A'zaz subdistrict, including A'zaz city, as well as in neighbouring Mare' and Suran subdistricts. **Three** communities, Bayada, Salah Ad-Deen and Sayf Ad-Dauleh (in Jebel Saman subdistrict) reported that drinking water from their primary source made people sick. Of the 43 communities assessed, **21** reported a lack of fuel, concentrated in Atareb and Daret Azza sub-districts. Of these communities, **14** reported the presence of over 4,000 IDPs, and **four** reported that over 10,000 IDPs were residing in their community. Rent prices in **all but two** of these communities were above the Syrian average of 7,482 SYP and over 10,000 SYP in **13** of them, likely attributable to the large number of IDPs residing in these subdistricts.

Over half of the assessed communities reported experiencing challenges to accessing sufficient amounts of food. A vast majority of these communities reported a lack of resources to buy available food, the high cost of some food items as well as a lack of access to cooking fuel as the most common challenges faced by residents. These **22** communities were predominantly located in A'zaz, Mare', and Suran subdistricts, and **all but two** of them reported that unstable employment was among the three most common sources of income. Nonetheless, **all** communities assessed in Aleppo reported that food was either somewhat sufficient or sufficient, and no extreme food-based coping strategies were reported. Of the communities assessed in Aleppo, **66%** reported that children were being sent to work or beg³. Most children were reportedly able to access educational facilities in **all but three** of the assessed communities, where children were unable to attend school due to the destruction of facilities. **All** three of these communities are located in Jebel Saman subdistrict.

KEY EVENTS

Over 70,000 civilians displaced in eastern Aleppo countryside near Menbij and Al Bab cities ⁴ .	Damascus – Aleppo – Hasakeh highway reopens, facilitating commercial and civilian travel between governorates ⁵ .	Tensions continue to mount between Kurdish and Turkish forces in the Afrin area ⁶ .	Operation "Olive Branch" commences in the Afrin area ⁷ .	Thousands displaced in the Afrin area due to an intensification in conflict ⁸ .	Military activity in northern Aleppo prevents aid deliveries as Bab-Al-Hawa and Bab-Al-Salam border crossings close to U.N. staff ⁹ .
February	23 April	July onward	20 January	Mid-January onward	20 January

Coverage



Top 3 reported priority needs

1. Food security
2. Water security
3. Healthcare

Demographics*

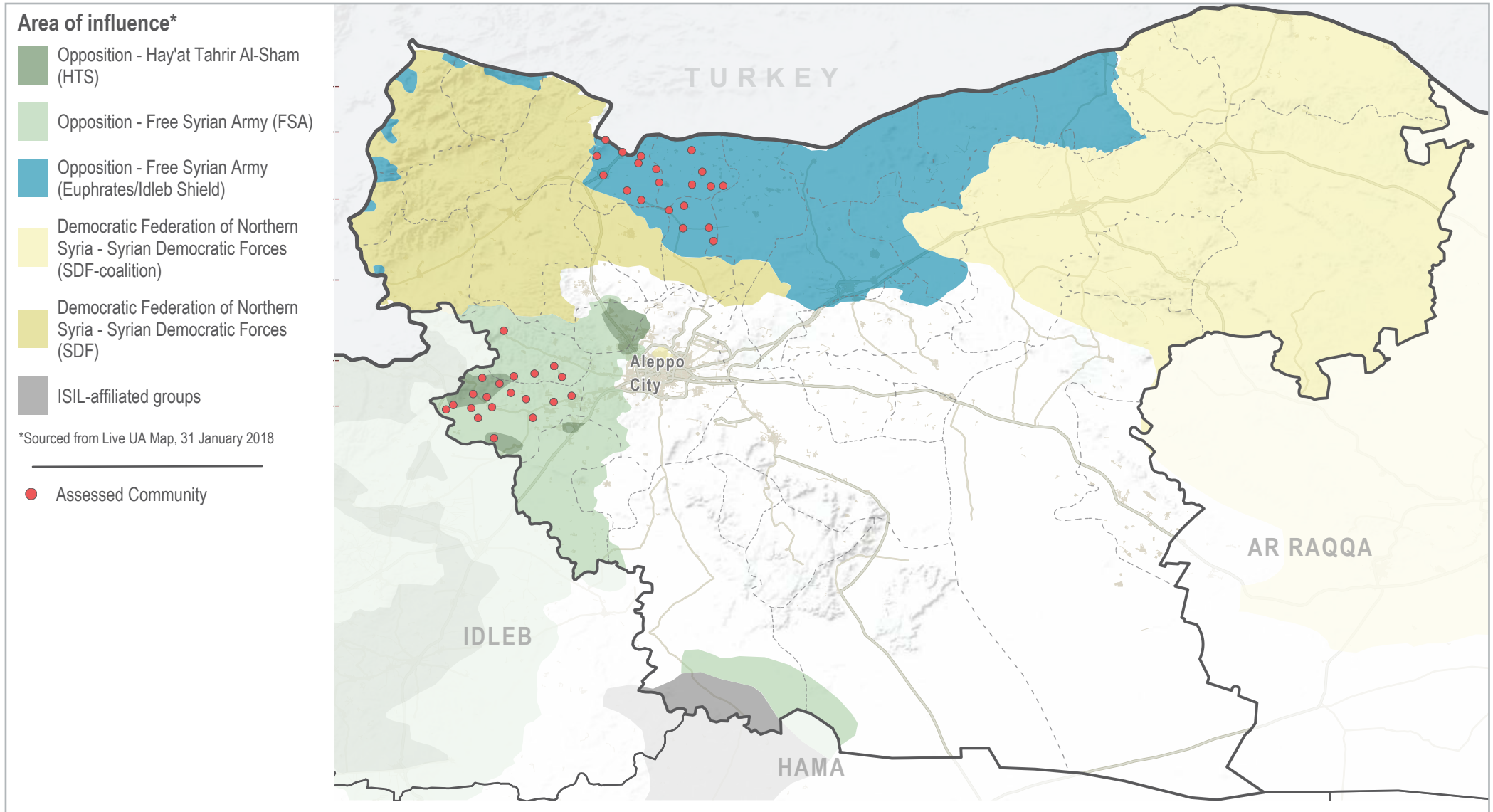
3,570,540 people in need

1,756,706 1,813,834

* Figures based on HNO 2018 population data for the entire governorate.

Aleppo Governorate, January 2018

Governorate areas of influence:



Aleppo Governorate, January 2018

DISPLACEMENT

13,085 - 15,305 Estimated number of IDP arrivals in assessed communities in January.

25 - 30 Estimated number of spontaneous returns in assessed communities in January².

Communities with the largest estimated number of IDP arrivals:

Kafr Naha	3,500 - 3,600
Atareb	1,200 - 1,500
Big Orm	1,000 - 1,200

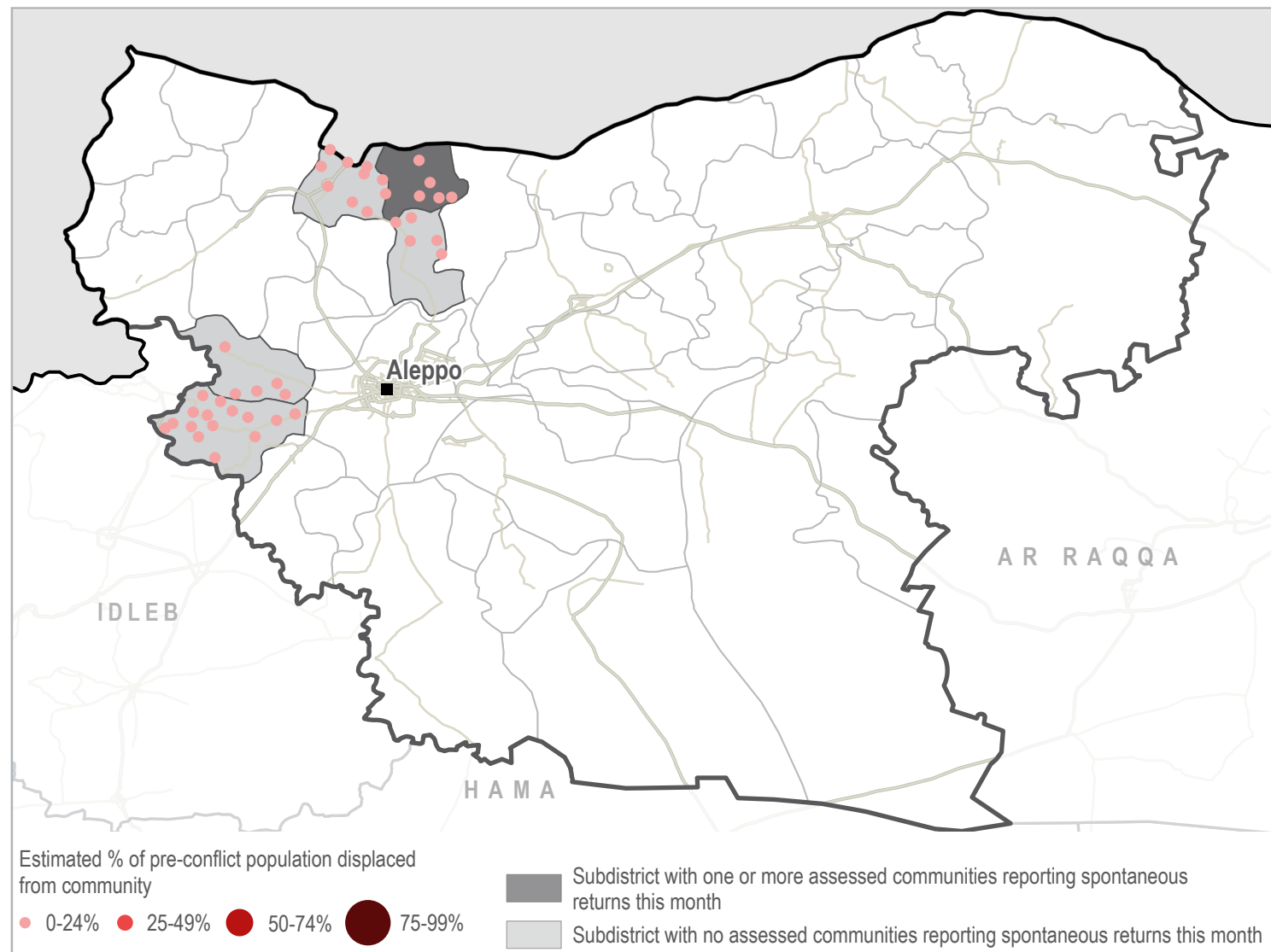
Top 3 subdistricts of origin of most IDPs arrivals^{3,4}:

Tall Ed-daman (Aleppo)	41%
Zarbah (Aleppo)	15%
A'zaz (Aleppo)	11%

37 communities reported no PCP departures. Top 3 reasons for PCP displacement in the remaining **6** assessed communities^{3,4}:

Escalation of conflict	100%
Loss of assets	33%
Loss of income	33%

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



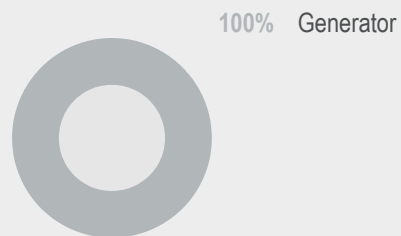
³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

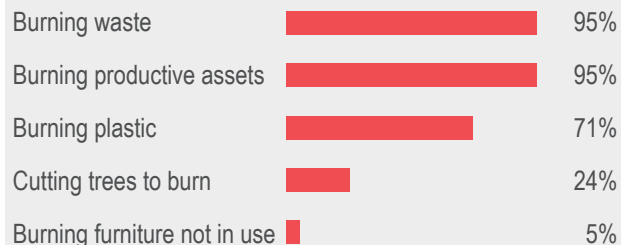
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SHELTER AND NFI

Primary source of electricity reported:⁴



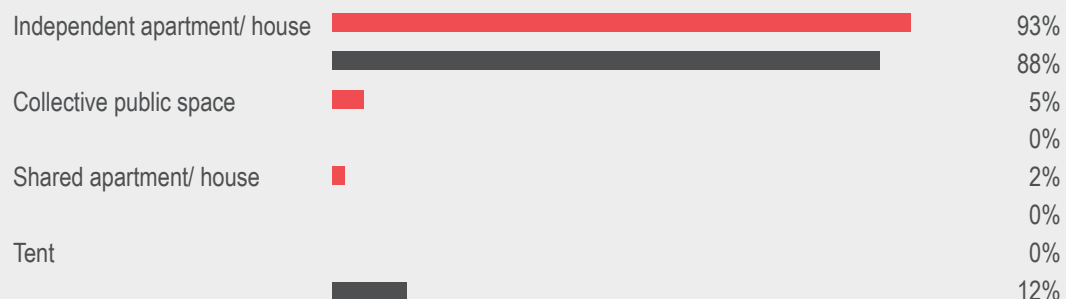
20 communities reported no lack of fuel. The most common coping strategies in the remaining 21 assessed communities reporting lack of fuel coping strategies were^{3,4}:



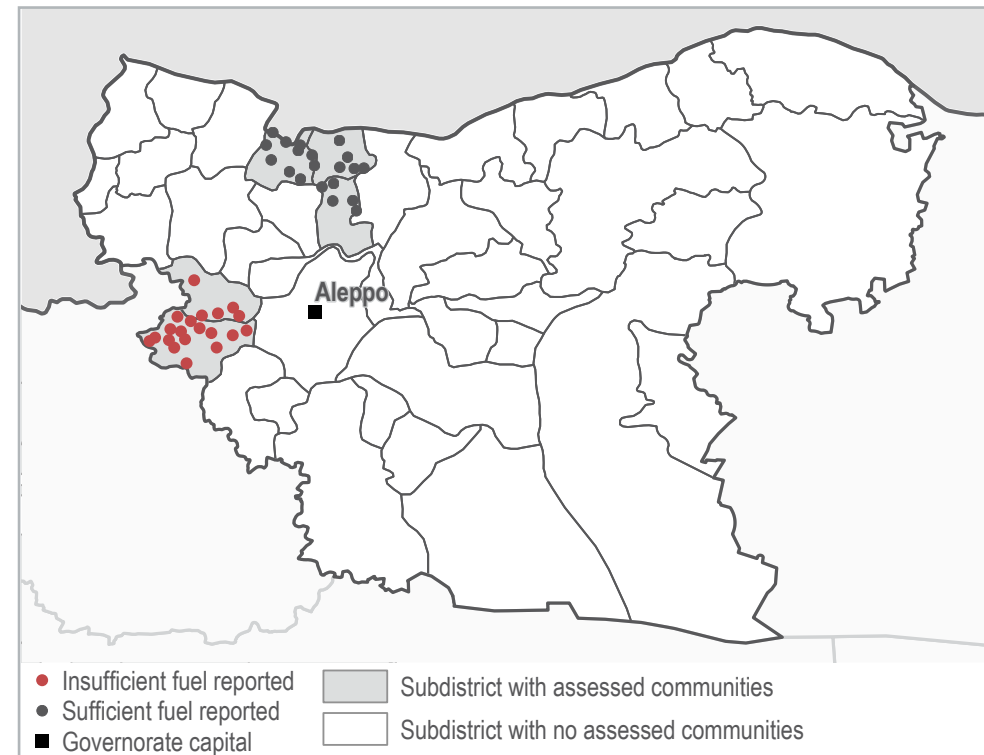
11,100 SYP Governorate average reported rent price in Syrian Pounds (SYP) across assessed communities.⁵

7,482 SYP Syrian average reported rent price in SYP across assessed communities.⁵

Most commonly reported shelter type for PCP (in red) and IDP (in grey) households⁴:



Fuel sufficiency:



Reported fuel prices (in SYP)⁵:

Fuel type:	Governorate average price in January:	Governorate average price in December:	Syrian average price in January:
Coal (1 kilogram)	69	102	325
Diesel (1 litre)	271	207	414
Butane (1 canister)	8,579	9,218	6,060
Firewood (1 tonne)	81,565	89,783	76,514

³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

⁵ 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 February 2018)

HEALTH

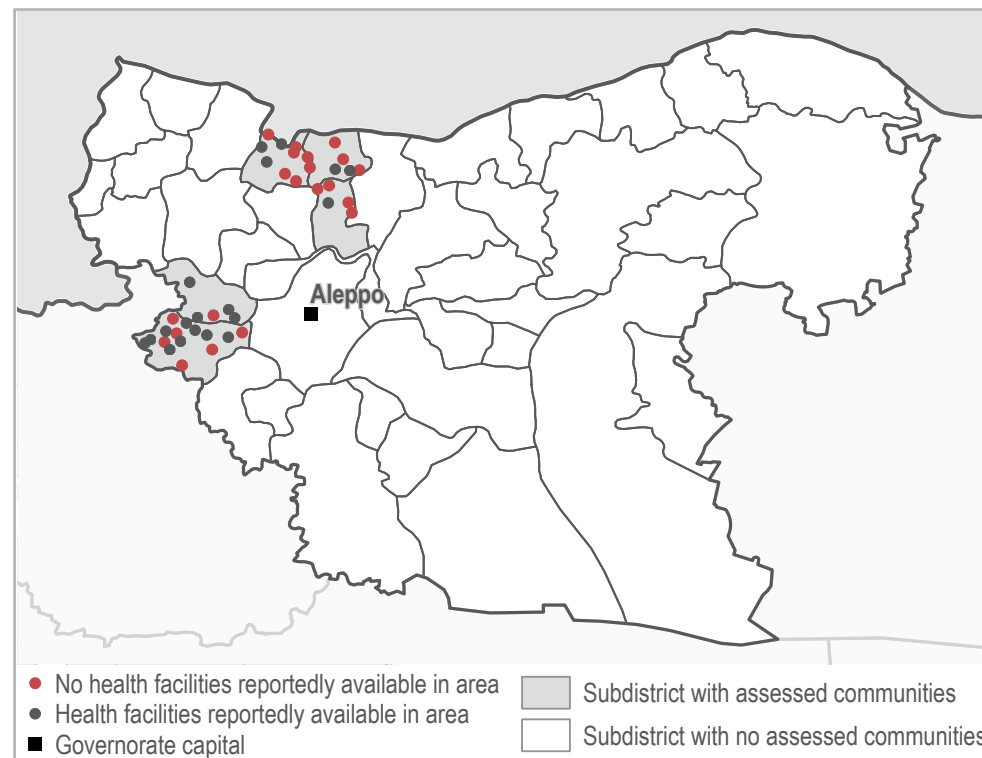
- 11** Communities reported that no medical items were available in their community.
- 0** Communities reported that the majority of women did not have access to formal health facilities to give birth.

19 communities reported that residents experienced no barriers to accessing healthcare services. The barriers in the remaining **24** assessed communities were^{3,4}:

No health facilities available in the area		88%
Family not permitting travel to health facilities		8%
Security concerns when traveling to facilities		4%
High cost of transportation to facilities		4%

41 communities reported that residents were not using coping strategies to deal with a lack of medical supplies^{3,4}.

Presence of health facilities in assessed communities:



Top 3 most needed healthcare services reported^{3,4}:

All health services	44%
Surgical care	42%
Orthopedic services	35%

Top 3 most common health problems reported^{3,4}:

Severe diseases affecting those younger than 5	84%
Acute respiratory infections	47%
Chronic diseases	47%

³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

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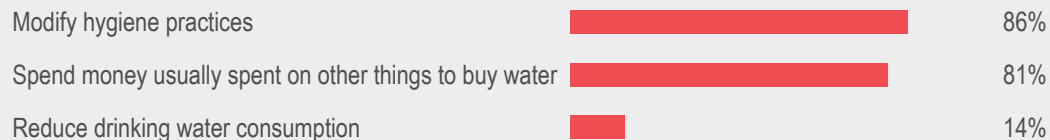


- 0 Communities reported that water from their primary source tasted and/or smelled bad.
- 3 Communities reported that drinking water from their primary source made people sick.

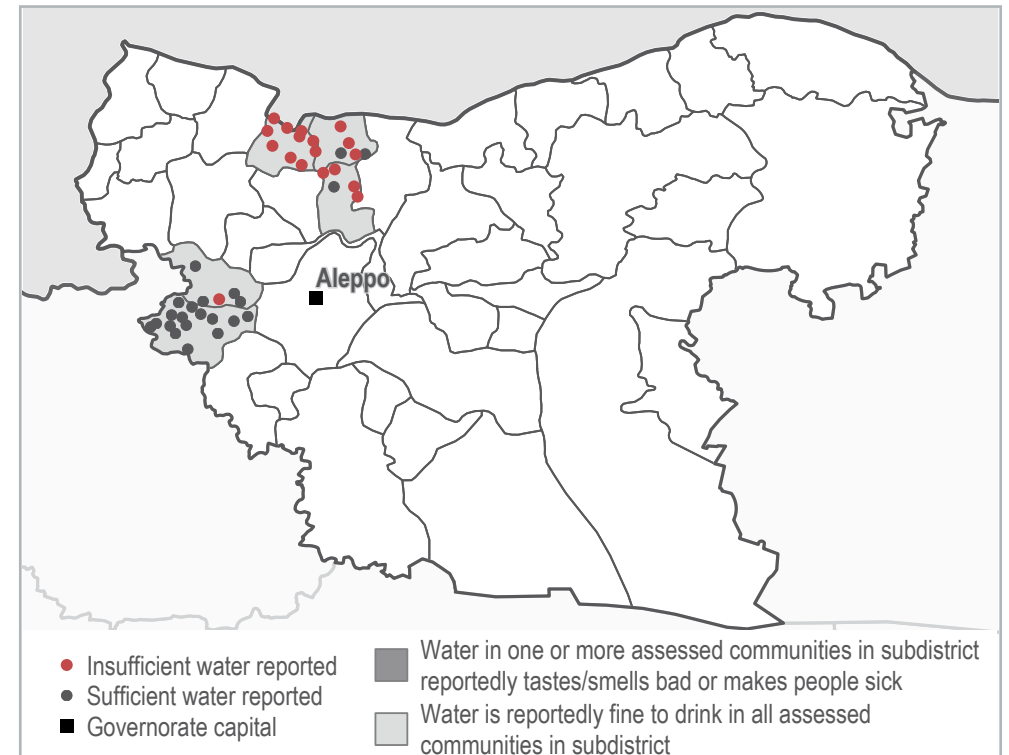
29 communities reported that residents had no problems with latrines. The most prevalent problems with latrines in the remaining 14 assessed communities were^{3,4}:



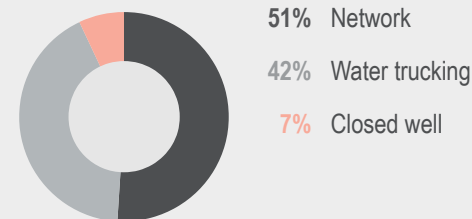
22 communities reported that they had sufficient amounts of water to meet household needs. The most common coping strategies to deal with a lack of water in the remaining 21 assessed communities were^{3,4}:



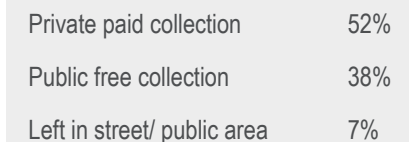
Water sufficiency for household needs:



Primary drinking water source reported⁴:



Top 3 reported methods of garbage disposal^{3,4}:



³ Multiple choices allowed.

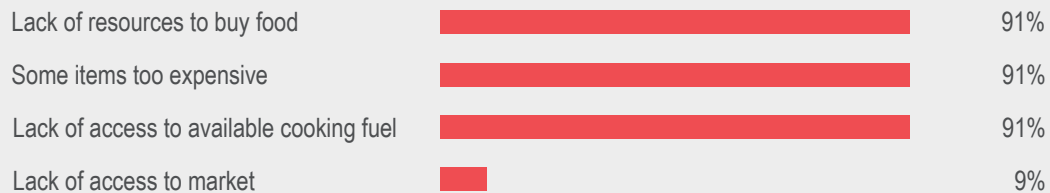
⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

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FOOD SECURITY

- 0 Communities reported not having received a food distribution in the last 12 months.
- 0 Communities reported that residents were unable to purchase food at shops and markets.

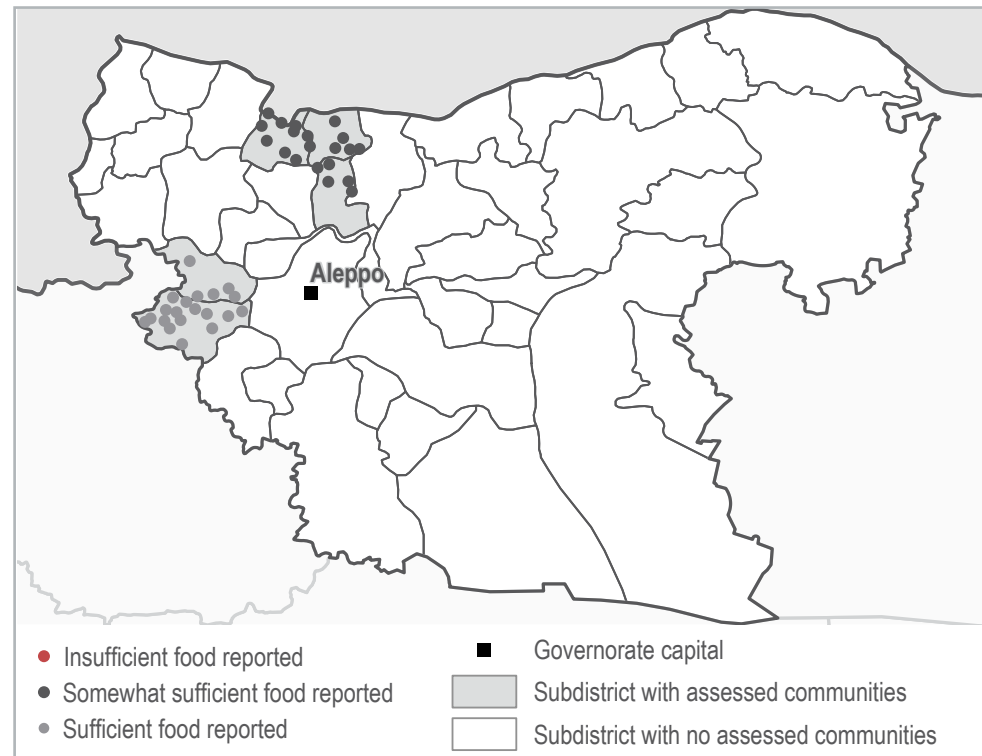
21 communities reported that residents experienced no challenges in accessing food. The most common difficulties experienced in the remaining 22 assessed communities were^{3,4}:



Core food item prices reported (in SYP)⁵:

Food item:	Governorate average price in January:	Governorate average price in December:	Syrian average price in January:
Bread public bakery (1 loaf)	107	110	115
Rice (1 kilogram)	488	469	535
Lentils (1 kilogram)	354	360	416
Sugar (1 kilogram)	362	336	386
Cooking oil (1 litre)	499	477	669

Food sufficiency:



Most common ways of obtaining food reported^{3,4}:



³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

⁵ 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 February 2018)

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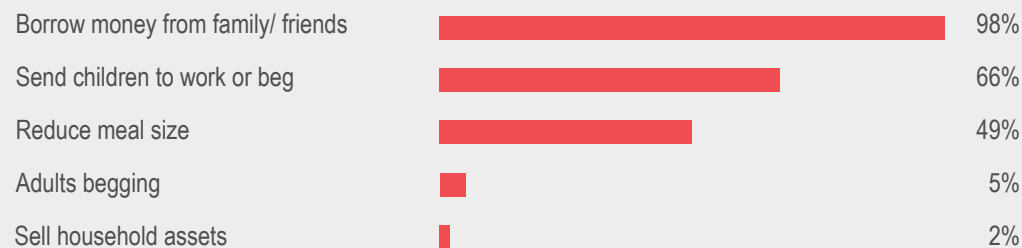
LIVELIHOODS

Less than 50,000 SYP Most commonly reported household income range⁵.

26,005 SYP Governorate average food basket price^{5,6}.

0 Communities reported that residents used extreme food-based coping strategies to deal with insufficient income⁷.

1 community reported that residents had enough income to cover household needs. The most common coping strategies in the remaining **41** assessed communities reporting lack of income strategies were^{3,4}:

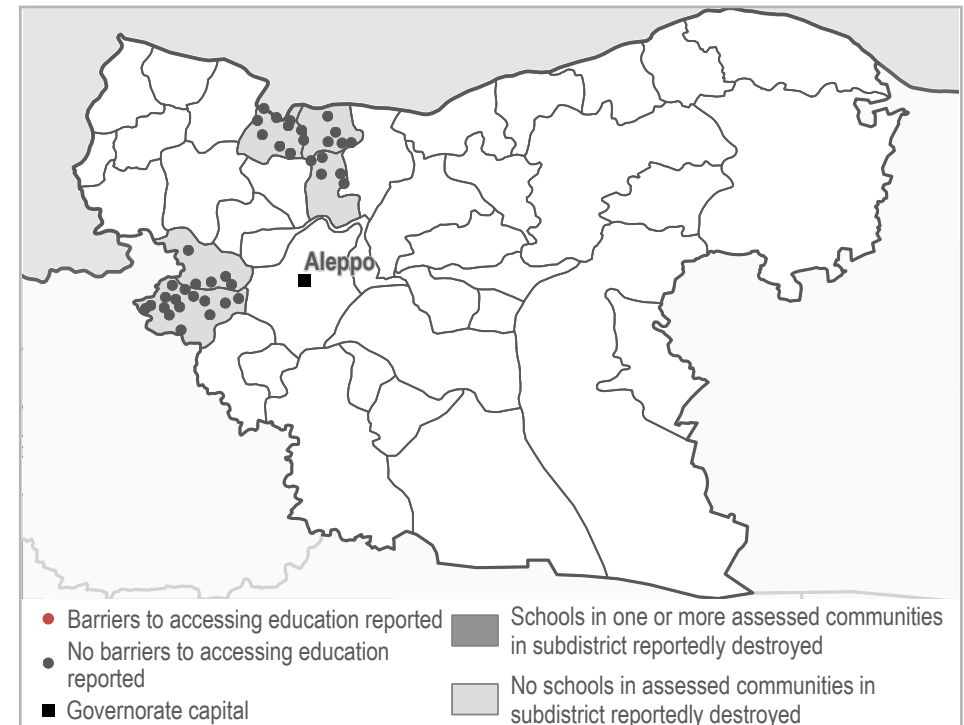


Most commonly reported main sources of income^{3,4}:

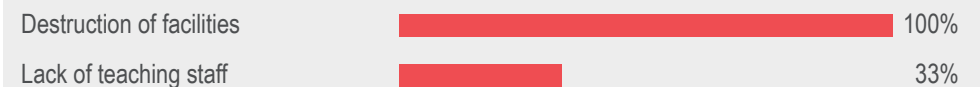


EDUCATION

Barriers to accessing education services:



40 communities reported that most children were able to access education. The most commonly reported barriers to education in the remaining **3** assessed communities were^{3,4}:



³ Multiple choices allowed.

⁴ By percent of communities reporting.

⁵ 1 USD = 434 SYP (UN operational rates of exchange as of 1 February 2018)

⁶ Calculation of the average price of a food basket is based on the World Food Programme's standard basket of dry goods. The food basket includes 37 kg of bread, 19 kg of rice, 19 kg of lentils, 5 kg of sugar, and 7 kg of vegetable oil, and provides 1,930 kcal a day for a family of five for a month.

⁷ Extreme food-based strategies: Eating food waste; eating non-edible plants and spending days without eating.

METHODOLOGY

The HSOS project, formerly known as the AoO (Area of Origin) project, is a monthly assessment that aims to provide comprehensive, multi-sectoral information about the humanitarian situation inside Syria. This factsheet presents information gathered in 43 communities in February 2018, referring to the situation in Aleppo Governorate in January 2018. It presents key indicators, rather than the entire range of indicators gathered in the HSOS questionnaire. For community-level data on assessed subdistricts in Al Hasakeh, Dar'a, Idleb, Rural Damascus and Quneitra, please refer to the monthly subdistrict factsheets, available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#). The complete HSOS dataset is disseminated monthly via the REACH Syria mailing list.

Wherever possible, information was collected through an enumerator network. REACH enumerators are based inside Syria and interview Key Informants (KIs) directly in the community they report about. Where access and security constraints rendered direct data collection unfeasible, KI interviews were conducted indirectly through participants identified in camps and settlements in neighbouring countries by REACH field teams. Participants contact KIs in their community in Syria to collect information about their community. KIs were asked to report at the community level.

A minimum of three KIs were interviewed per community to enhance data accuracy. 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 disagreed on a certain piece of information, enumerators triangulated the data with secondary sources or selected the response provided by the KI with the more relevant sector-specific background. For each question asked, confidence levels were 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 were triangulated through secondary sources, including news monitoring and humanitarian reports. Where necessary, follow-up was conducted with enumerators and participants. Findings are indicative rather than representative, and should not be generalised across the governorate.

ENDNOTES

¹ 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 governorate.

² Returns are not necessarily voluntary, safe, or sustainable.

³ 'Children' includes all persons below the age of 18.

⁴ UNCHR (8 March 2017). Syria: Flash update on recent events - 08 March 2017. Reliefweb. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

⁵ Aboufadel, L. (23 April 2017). Major highway from Aleppo to east Syria reopened for the first time in 5 years. Al Masdar News. Retrieved from <https://www.almasdarnews.com>.

⁶ Ali and Clark (31 July 2017). Turkish-backed forces encroach on Kurdish-held northern Syria amid rising tensions. Syria Direct. Retrieved from <http://syriadirect.org>.

⁷ Aljazeera (21 January 2018). Turkey's troops cross over into Syria's Afrin. Retrieved from <https://www.aljazeera.com>.

⁸ UNHCR (24 January 2018). Syria: Flash update on recent events - 24 January 2018. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

⁹ UNICEF (31 January 2018). UNICEF Syria Crisis Situation Report - January 2018 Humanitarian Results. Retrieved from <https://reliefweb.int>.

About REACH

REACH is a joint initiative of two international non-governmental organisations - ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives - and the UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT). REACH aims to strengthen evidence-based decision making by aid actors through efficient data collection, management and analysis before, during and after an emergency. By doing so, REACH contributes to ensuring that communities affected by emergencies receive the support they need. All REACH activities are conducted in support to, and within the framework of, inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. 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.